



Your Generosity at Work

*in providing land, hope, life to the 24 families
in the village of El Milagro, El Salvador*

PRESENTED TO

El Milagro supporters

PRESENTED BY

Agros International
2225 4th Ave. 2nd Floor,
Seattle, WA 98121

**“We were motivated
working with the macro-
tunnels. We had never built
them before or worked with
jalapeño chilies.”**

—Patricia

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of El Milagro and the hope and opportunity it brings to the families who live there.

As we begin a new year, we're happy to present our update in a new format, which integrates feedback we've received over the years about our village updates. Some of the changes we've made include providing an overall country update from Country Manager Oscar López as well as including more photos of the families you've come to know through your support of El Milagro.

We hope you like this new update, and would welcome any feedback you may have. Thank you for your commitment to El Milagro!

El Milagro, El Salvador

Village Update, Autumn 2011



Twice a week, members of the youth committee provide activities for the children that are both fun and educational.

From the Country Manager . . .

This quarter was the first in the new Agros fiscal year, and I am pleased to say that in El Salvador, the new year has gotten off to a great start!

Countrywide, during the quarter, 80% of the planned economic development activities were accomplished. These activities are focused on empowering Agros families to provide for their own nutrition needs and generate an income.

In the area of human development, actual activities exceeded the quarterly plan. Human development activities are designed to improve our families' lives in such areas as formal education, life-skills training and spiritual growth.

Overall, in the four El Salvador villages more than 93% of the planned activities for the quarter were implemented.

We are also excited to be launching "field schools" in the villages. For these schools, parcels of land are set aside to provide hands-on training to the families in new agricultural techniques and best practices. This method of training has worked well in other Agros countries, and we anticipate that it will greatly increase our families' skills and success.

For all you do on behalf of the 89 Agros families in El Salvador, thank you! You are making a real and lasting difference in their lives.

—Oscar López

El Milagro Facts at a Glance

- ◆ Founded in 1999, El Milagro is in its seventh stage of development (of 10 stages).
- ◆ Families grow three different crops to sell for income, and 100% own livestock.
- ◆ All of the families successfully market their products.
- ◆ 21 families are up-to-date on repayment of enterprise loans.
- ◆ All of the families have ready access to clean water for home use.
- ◆ 81% of the school-aged children are attending school.
- ◆ 74% of the community's leadership positions are held by women.



A group of women in El Milagro operate a successful business making and selling candy.

Autumn 2011 Village Highlights

Community Organization

The women’s committee planned activities for the next six months. The youth committee also reviewed and updated their activities plan.

Land Ownership

The families’ land parcels were re-measured to verify the boundaries. The parcels will be legalized by registering the verified information with the appropriate government institutions.

Housing and Infrastructure

The improvement of the community’s roads continued. During the quarter, almost 1,000 feet was worked on.

The families completed about 50% of the community warehouse, currently under construction.

Sustainable Economic Growth

In the community’s new field school, 2,500 sweet chili plants and 2,500

jalapeño chili plants are being cultivated. Participants are learning how to grow these new crops using the macro-tunnel technique.

Five families with pig raising projects were trained in the making of less expensive feed for their pigs. Another nine families attended three training sessions on the cultivation of vegetables and fruit trees.

During the quarter, 10 families were able to sell agricultural products including papaya, tomatoes, sweet chili peppers, corn and beans. Another five sold six pigs.

The families are grateful for the training they have received in working with cooperatives. Now they are able to negotiate confidently with buyers to obtain the best prices for their products.

Community Education & Training

The youth committee has launched a program to help develop the community’s children. Twice a week for two hours, the youth lead children in fun activities that develop their minds, bodies and creativity. The children enjoy games, drawing, painting, singing and other activities. The youth also pick the children up at their homes and escort them back at the end of the sessions.

Additionally, 20 women participated in three workshops to build their self-esteem. Already, the Agros team has noticed positive changes as a result. The way the women speak, dress and relate to each other has improved. And those who were timid before are now more open and eager to learn new things and interact with others.

Making a Difference...

Nineteen-year-old Susana is currently leading El Milagro’s youth committee. A high school graduate, she is studying computer science with the help of an organization that provides for her tuition and other expenses.

A natural leader, Susana directs the afternoon sessions for the community’s children. She also participates in a municipal organization that works to strengthen the 120 communities in the region.

Despite a background of poverty, Susana has risen above her circumstances and is working to make her dreams a reality. She is also committed in her faith and a leader in her church’s youth group.

Susana has a bright and promising future, and she is a great inspiration to the other youth and children of El Milagro.

