



Your Generosity at Work

*in providing land, hope, life to the 36 families
in the village of Nueva Palestina, Mexico*

PRESENTED TO

Nueva Palestina supporters

PRESENTED BY

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

**“I give thanks to God for
the people who provide
us support. I bless their
lives for their efforts and
resources!”**

—Margarita

Nueva Palestina, Mexico

Village Update, Autumn 2011

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of Nueva Palestina 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 Director Sergio Sánchez as well as including more photos of the families you've come to know through your support of Nueva Palestina.

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



Several women of Nueva Palestina market their handmade and embroidered items to earn extra income for their families.

From the Country Director . . .

Agros in Mexico was launched in Chiapas state in 2004. We started by assisting four communities that already had land given to them by the government. Although they already had land, they needed assistance in making that land productive and with other areas of development, such as community organization, health and education.

Later, we brought families together to form two new communities under the typical Agros model. Today, since two of our communities have graduated, we are serving four communities in Chiapas.

During this past quarter, Agros Mexico has tackled several challenges in each community. The recent heavy rains have been beneficial, except in a few places where they caused landslides and smaller crop production. Overall, crop yields have been high and market prices good.

In addition, community banks are flourishing in our villages, strengthening their economies. Families are enjoying enough to eat, as well as good surpluses for marketing.

I want to express my personal appreciation, which is shared by all of us who work with Agros. Thank you for your partnership in bringing hope and a brighter future to the rural poor in Chiapas, Mexico!

—**Sergio Sánchez**

Nueva Palestina Facts at a Glance

- ◆ Founded in 2005, Nueva Palestina is in its fifth stage of development (of 10 stages).
- ◆ Families grow eight different crops to sell for income, and 31 of the 36 families own livestock.
- ◆ 29 of the families successfully market their products.
- ◆ All 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.
- ◆ 54% of the community's leadership positions are held by women.

Autumn 2011 Village Highlights

Community Organization

Community leadership were trained in basic management and administration skills.

Sustainable Economic Growth

An analysis of the regional market for agricultural products and livestock was conducted. Findings of this study included...

- The need to increase the production of beans, poultry and pelibueys (animals that are a cross between sheep and goats)
- The need to improve cooperation within the community and the region for better leverage in the marketing of beans
- The need to design and implement a plan for targeted training in the how-tos of running a small business.

The community bank is currently in its second lending cycle. This quarter, great advancement was made in the repayment of loans, as 10 of the participants made payments.

Community Education & Training

Links were maintained and partnerships advanced with the local offices of health and education. Plans are being made with these government entities to serve the needs of Nueva Palestina families.



Families with poultry-raising projects learn how to hatch eggs using a simple incubator.

Making a Difference...

María Elena and Salvador are a young but ambitious married couple in Nueva Palestina. In addition to farming their land parcel, they both have thriving small businesses. Salvador makes bracelets and necklaces with seeds from wild flowers and plants. These unique, artisanal items sell well in San Cristóbal, a popular tourist destination. María Elena helps Salvador craft jewelry items. She also embroiders blouses to sell.

The couple's enterprises have been advanced with loans from the community bank, called "Artesans of the Flower." The loans have helped them to build a build their businesses and earn a regular income from them.

María Elena and Salvador have three young daughters. Though they are little, the effort of their parents is a great example to them. They are being inspired to always seek ways to better their living conditions and quality of life.