

Bakery Project for the Special Education School of Sonsonate, El Salvador

The Special Education School of Sonsonate in El Salvador educates and trains children with developmental disabilities, about half with Down's syndrome. The School serves approximately 150 children, roughly split between the mornings and afternoons. They live within a 20 mile radius of Sonsonate.

Training the students to become bakers has become an important part of the School's curriculum. Baking is one of the few job opportunities available in El Salvador for developmentally disabled people. One of the School's goals is to train the children as bakers so that they can contribute meaningfully to society and earn income.

At present, baking classes are conducted in a classroom where other subjects are also taught. The room is not adequately ventilated for baking, and lacks sufficient space and facilities for baking equipment, supplies and storage. A suitable bakery is desperately needed to serve the School's baking curriculum. Although the School is government-owned, it has very limited government funding. There are no funds or resources available to build a bakery.

The purpose of the project is to fund and build a bakery next to the School's existing kitchen. The bakery would replicate, although on a smaller scale, the typical bakery that the students would eventually be working in. The School also envisions that baked goods produced by the students could be sold, generating income to subsidize the baking curriculum.

The estimated total cost for the project is \$30,000. The project would proceed similarly to the construction of the school in Colonia Buenos Aires in El Salvador sponsored by New Horizons El Salvador and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, although the bakery project would be on a much smaller scale. Pre-work would be performed by contractors or laborers to build a foundation before our team arrived. Materials would also be ordered and delivered to the site before we arrived. Our team would show up and complete the erection of the bakery building itself, install the electrical and equipment, and the project would be complete by the time we left. We estimate 10 days or less (the team would be gone two weekends and the week in between). We envision 9 to 12 people in work groups of 3 each.

Asociación Agape de El Salvador, one of our partners in the country, is a strong supporter of the project and would provide lodging, transportation and support as it has in connection with past projects. The School is close to Agape, in a safe residential neighborhood.