

Additional Documentation

About the Latin American Relief Network, Inc. (LARN):

LARN was established to provide Latin Americans opportunities and resources to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life. Our focus is currently in Panama and our activities include both distribution of donated goods and projects to help individuals and communities break the poverty cycle. You can learn more about us at www.larnhope.org.

Detailed Project Overview:

Our project for the Global Giving 2013 Winter Challenge is: Distribute Donated Clothes & Goods in Rural Panama.

Building on the success of our first trip to distribute donated goods in 2010, this project will help LARN distribute needed clothing, shoes, tools, household items (ie: pots, plates, silverware, cups, blankets, towels, etc.) and toys to hundreds of individuals in poor, remote rural communities in Panama. The organization has already gathered, sorted, and boxed the donations that will be shipped and distributed via the funding of this project; there are over 570 boxes awaiting transport.



Specifically, the shipping portion of the project involves loading a shipping container in the port of Baltimore; shipping the container to Panama; transporting the contents from the port in Panama City to El Naranjal (in the Province of Coclé) by truck; and unloading the donations from the truck for storage in El Naranjal. After goods are shipped and situated in Panama, five volunteers from the USA will fly to Panama to join Panamanian volunteers for approximately one week to distribute the donations to at least six remote communities. The distribution portion of the project includes arrival of the US volunteers in Panama City; renting three four-wheel drive trucks; transporting the volunteers from Panama

City to El Naranjal (a 3-4 hour drive); the volunteers sorting the boxes of donations by their labeled content into six groups (so we ensure each community receives a variety of donations); and a week spent on day trips to distribute goods in remote communities. The community visits involve loading the rental trucks with the sorted boxes destined for one community; travel to a remote community; setting up an organized method of distribution in a common area in the community; and distribution of the donations to the community members.

Once funding has been secured, Board members and advisors will set travel dates for the distribution trip, preferably in the Spring of 2014 before the rainy season begins (typically in May). They will also communicate with Panamanian community leaders in El Naranjal to identify communities with the greatest current need that are both accessible at that time of year* and within driving distance of El Naranjal. These may or may not include some of the communities that benefited from our 2010 donation trip (Las Huacas, La Chumicosa, La



Sabana, El Higo, El Naranjal, Loma Colorada, La Laguna, San Roquito and La Soledad). Volunteers will travel to approximately one community per day where donated goods will be distributed to individuals. Any donations not distributed after the community visits will be donated to local charitable organizations at the Board's discretion. For example, a Panamanian organization that helps re-nourish young children suffering from malnutrition was the beneficiary of children's clothing, toys, and baby supplies that remained after community visits during the 2010 donation trip.



Travel expenses for American volunteers will be covered by a combination of the volunteers and LARN. The cost of transporting and feeding the volunteers in Panama is factored into the project budget. To reduce costs, American volunteers will likely lodge with local Panamanian volunteers again.

Budget items such as shipping and customs fees, airfare, diesel, etc. are highly variable and may affect the total actual cost of this project, but the project cost of \$14,000 reflects the best estimates available at the time the project was submitted to Global Giving.

This project is one of several that LARN is conducting in 2013-2014. Our mission is to provide Panamanians opportunities and resources to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.

**The communities served by this project are rural and remote. Forging rivers and tackling unpaved mountain roads are often required to access some of the most remote communities. Thus, access to the most remote communities is limited, if not impossible, during the rainy season.*

Project Budget: (Values based upon the 2010 trip and recent quotes/research into costs of the project components)

Shipping/Transportation

- \$50 Refreshments for volunteers loading the shipping container in the US
- \$60 replacement straps to secure shipping container contents (to replace damaged ones from 2010 shipment)
- \$5,000 Estimated shipping and customs costs for shipment in January or February 2014
- \$50 Refreshments for volunteers unloading the container in Panama and again at the storage location in El Naranjal.
- \$250 Diesel for truck to transport donations from port to El Naranjal

Donation Distribution Trip

- \$3,500 Partial or full airfare for five volunteers (dependent upon what portion of the cost the volunteers can cover and the cost of airfare at that time)
- \$2,250 Rental car fees (rental fees and rental insurance for three 4WD Extended Cab Pickups to transport the goods and volunteers to communities)
- \$900 Diesel
- \$750 Food for Panamanian and US volunteers for the week
- \$1,190 Contingency to cover high variability in airfare, shipping and customs fees, diesel, etc.

Project Status:

On October 5, 2013, LARN held the last major sort-n-box event for this project before the container is shipped. Thirteen volunteers put in a total of approximately 124 combined volunteer hours to sort and box 119 boxes of donations. Combined with the 453 boxes packed up at previous sort-n-box events over the past two years, we now have 572 boxes full of donations ready to ship—enough to fill a 20-ft container, if not a 40-ft one. The focus of the project is shifting to fundraising for the shipping and distribution phases of the project. Additionally, because nearly all of LARN's available storage spaces are full, the organization is not accepting many new donations of goods until the donations already collected have been shipped.



Estimated Completion:

Based upon our current fundraising status, we plan to ship the container in early 2014 after the Global Giving Winter Challenge funds are disbursed and to complete the donation trip in Spring 2014, preferably before May.