Medical & Orthopedic Care

With the help of CURE, Pazapa’s PT Specialist now holds regular followup clinics and counseling for the 32 patients currently receiving clubfoot care. 5 children got life-changing orthopedic surgeries through our partner, CCH. Visiting and local doctors evaluated 53 children with physical disabilities. 4 neurology clinics were held, and 110 children with epilepsy now receive anti-seizure medications.

Education

117 students attended Pazapa’s Special Education School. Our Deaf Education School welcomed 44 children. 36 children are receiving Speech Therapy. 17 students in rural outreach areas gained admission to their local schools thanks to staff efforts promoting inclusive education, and Pazapa continued to support this mainstreaming with tuition and books. Visiting specialists spent hundreds of hours on speech therapy, early intervention and motor skill development. A Media Center opened!

Economic Opportunity

The culinary program continued training 36 senior students, and this summer’s graduates are producing a Pazapa line of peanut butter and preserves being sold locally. 20 participants continued in Pazapa’s sewing classes, with seamstresses who are deaf producing popular handbags to sell at a local hotel. Pazapa’s Ti Commerce program distributed microloans in January and July to 78 mothers of children with disabilities, adjusting the disbursements in response to cost of living increases.
Rural Outreach

Community-based outreach workers continued to support the medical, educational, economic and social welfare of 160 children and their families in five remote villages. Pazapa’s Outreach Coordinator personally visited 71 homes this year. 10 community meetings were held to address issues like inclusion and accessibility. Neurological and orthopedic clinics provided triage and treatment to children with epilepsy, clubfoot and other disabilities who are unable to reach Pazapa.

PazapArts

The inaugural art program is going strong, with new creative and vocational opportunities now available. Children with severe disabilities light up in expressive art class. The new dance program continues to build students’ confidence and motor skills. 2 teachers from Michigan volunteered to help launch an art entrepreneurship camp training students to produce jewelry and crafts for sale.

Advocacy

In partnership with a local nonprofit and funding from the UN, Pazapa is working to prevent violence against girls with disabilities. The advocacy theme for this year’s Carnival was “Inclusive Education: Key to Real Change,” and thousands experienced Pazapa’s message in the streets of Jacmel. Mr Forgeas continues to host “Ti Koze Pazapa” (A Little Chat About Pazapa) on the radio to increase awareness and respect for disability rights. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was again commemorated by a community symposium with our friends at Plan.