

## Fact Sheet, PAVA

PAVA stands for Programa de Ayuda a los Vecinos del Altiplano (Aid Program for Highland Communities). It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) whose staff works with villages in the Department of Chimaltenango, Guatemala, to achieve long-term, sustainable development.

PAVA's activities are supported by the US-based PAVA Foundation.

### History

In 1982, a group of friends who lived in Guatemala partnered with Tulane University public health student to make one of the first needs-assessments of the highland villages that had been hard hit by the on-going civil violence.

Based on this assessment, they created PAVA to provide emergency supplies—food, seeds, building materials—that would help returning villagers get back on the agricultural cycle so they wouldn't have to rely on charity.

### Current Programs

Since then, as villagers' needs and priorities have changed, so have PAVA's activities. Today, PAVA focuses on infrastructure and environmental projects, plus education.

Infrastructure projects such as schools, bridges, water systems—and environmental projects such as reforestation and recycling—are typically initiated by village committees, and are always collaborations. Villagers contribute labor and available materials. After Hurricane Stan (October 2005), PAVA helped rebuilt villages where homes and crops were demolished.

PAVA also provides scholarships for secondary students and works with the Ministry of Education to support rural teachers.

### Relationship to *¡Viva Colores!*

PAVA board members accompanied and introduced the authors to the people who are profiled in the book. The organization will receive the authors' royalties from *¡Viva Colores!*

### For More Information

Contact: The US PAVA Foundation, 123 W. Berger, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.  
Email: [paraamigos@aol.com](mailto:paraamigos@aol.com). Website: <http://www.pavafoundation.org>