

A Community We Support: Nuevo Pantoja

Location Statistics

Nuevo Pantoja is a very poor colonia in the urban area. Many of the working adults make bricks to sell.

The most recent INEGI census reported a Zona Ecológica Nuevo Pantoja population of 204 men, women, and children, residing in 47 households. Only ONE of the homes had all of the basic services: electricity, piped water, and sewage.

More than half of the residents were under the age of 12.

Only 33% of the inhabitants (older than 12 years) were economically active.

The average level of schooling completed was less than five years.

The Weekly Support and Supply Cycle

Our 36 school kitchens are visited each week by kitchen supervisors who use an inventory par stock system to prepare the “shopping list” for the following week. This list is divided into dry goods and supplies, and perishables.

On **Saturdays**, volunteers sort and pack the individual dry goods and supplies from bulk purchase that are stored in our center.

On **Mondays**, our vendors deliver fresh produce and perishables which are then cleaned, weighed, and packed to order by another group of volunteers.

On **Tuesdays**, a third group of volunteers pick up the “shopping list” order for “their school” and delivers it using their own vehicles.

Our volunteer driver for Nuevo Pantoja is **Surrendra Kumar**.

Population statistics source: 2010 INEGI Census (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática)



Nuevo Pantoja is a very poor community in the San Miguel de Allende urban area. Most of the working adults are in construction or make bricks to sell. Feed the Hungry operates school kitchens in both the kinder (preschool) and primaria (elementary) schools, which are separated by a major highway.

Malnutrition in this community is due to the limited capacity of families to obtain affordable healthy food. Even though the community is very close to the downtown area of the city, there are serious economic and nutritional deficiencies.

Nuevo Pantoja Primaria

Feed the Hungry San Miguel began operating a kitchen in elementary (primaria) school in the urban community of Zona Ecológica Nuevo Pantoja in February, 2019. We are now serving 150 nutritious lunches there every school day. For many of the children, this is their only healthy meal of the day.

Nutrition Report

Upon opening this new school kitchen, Feed the Hungry nutritionists conducted a baseline assessment of the health of 140 of the children attending the primaria. Height, weight, and body fat were measured.

Condition	Percentage
Obese	10%
Overweight	18%
Normal	44%
Light underweight	22%
Moderate underweight	4%
Severe underweight	2%

Even though this school is located in an urban neighborhood, most of the children—even those who are at normal weight or overweight—have nutritional deficiencies related to low consumption of fruits and vegetables and lack of vitamins and minerals. Clinical signs of malnutrition could be easily seen, including poor muscular development, dry hair, spots on face and arms, and scaly skin.

Only 44% of the children were at normal weight. Now, with the hot meals and nutrition education program in operation, we expect to see improvements in a very short time.

In this community, the cases of obesity and overweight are largely due to the excessive consumption of tortillas to compensate for the lack of other important foods in the diet, and to the consumption of soft drinks and junk food.

This is a very big problem in most of the communities, where they consume sodas instead of water. The high sugar content of sodas causes not only an irregular increase in weight, but also the risk of diabetes, which is an epidemic in Mexico.

The small store that sold junk food on the school grounds was closed, as a condition of Feed the Hungry’s opening of a kitchen there.

Feed the Hungry has been very well received in the community. The mothers show a great motivation to participate in program. The children have satisfactorily accepted the food offered to them in the dining room and have not rejected the vegetables that are included in the menu.