



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 27, 2015

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**StoveTeam International Reaches Goal of 50,000 Stoves for Central America and Mexico:
Addressing the Leading Cause of Death of Children Under Age Five**

Since 2008 the Eugene-based non-profit has worked with entrepreneurs in five countries to start small factories to produce low-emission, high efficiency cookstoves. In 2014, StoveTeam factories exceeded the milestone of 50,000 stoves sold in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Eugene, OR and San Antonio Aguas Calientes, Guatemala— Until this spring, Liwni Senovia Gómez López, a 28 year old pregnant mother, cooked on a smoky open fire outside her one bedroom cinderblock house. Liwni lives only a half-hour from Antigua, Guatemala in an indigenous Kaquichel-speaking community, where nearly all her neighbors use wood fuel for cooking.

In February, a partnership between StoveTeam International and local cookstove factory EcoComal helped Liwni and her family buy a clean-burning Ecocina cookstove. The Ecocina stove—a product developed and promoted by StoveTeam for Latin America—is sturdy, portable, safe, and made of locally sourced materials. It has been both laboratory and field-tested by an Environmental Protection Agency sponsored testing facility for efficiency in reducing both wood usage (50%), and particulate (86%) and carbon emissions (68%).

“The amount I save on firewood is a great help,” Liwni told StoveTeam volunteers during a follow-up visit in March, one month after receiving her Ecocina stove. “I save around fifty Quetzales a week because the stove uses less wood.” Fifty Quetzales is equivalent to four US dollars. (In 2011, the World Bank estimated sixty percent (60%) of all Guatemalans were living on the equivalent of \$4 a day.)



Liwni and her second child, Liwni Jimena, born March 2015

Liwni’s plight of cooking over an expensive, unsafe, smoky fire is not uncommon; nine out of ten rural women in Guatemala cook over an open fire that exposes them and their children to the equivalent of three packs of cigarettes a day. The deep lung tissue damage caused by smoke inhalation leads to pneumonia, lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke. Smoke inhalation related illnesses are one of the leading causes of death of children under the age of five.



Marco Tulio Guerra Buezo, owner of EcoComal

Globally, the use of open fires is one of the world’s most pressing public health and environmental crises. Three billion people cook or heat their homes using open fires and solid fuels. Every year, open fires are responsible for more than four million premature deaths; the emissions of more than one billion tons of greenhouse gases; and the deforestation and destruction of the world’s forests.

Liwni’s stove was built by the EcoComal Factory—a project funded by a partnership among StoveTeam International and the Irvine Spectrum and Guatemala Sur Rotary Clubs to provide stoves to marginalized families

throughout Guatemala. EcoComal stoves account for 18,362 of the total stoves sold by seven factories started with StoveTeam International's support. They produce and sell about 250 stoves per month.

“We are thrilled to have reached 50,000 stoves, and we are looking forward to all the work still to be done to address the global threat of open cooking fires,” said Nancy Hughes, founder of StoveTeam International. Three new factories are currently under development and planned for Mexico and Nicaragua.

StoveTeam started as a 501(c)(3) in 2008 following Nancy's sponsorship of a number of successful Rotary International Matching Grants completed in partnership with various Rotary clubs in California, Oregon and Washington and Latin America. The 50,000 stoves sold have impacted the lives of more than 375,000 people in Mexico and Central America. Apart from the factory in Guatemala, stove factories have been built in Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Learn more about StoveTeam International on our website at www.stoveteam.org.

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