Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another. It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

With ample inspiration and assistance from leaders in the well-established, Outreach-affiliated Nicaraguan community of El Lanito, the neighboring community of El Abra has mobilized into a formidable team of motivated virus-fighters to combat the spread of COVID-19. El Lanito’s experienced leaders have been working alongside El Abra’s team (from a safe distance) to help facilitate their community’s immediate plans, as well as establish a framework in which residents there can continue to develop and enhance their ability to address the issues they face, well beyond COVID-related concerns. Essentially, El Lanito’s community-led teams are functioning as ambassadors of Outreach’s approach to issue resolution for their grateful, determined neighbors.

While still very new to the Outreach Process, a little has gone a long way for El Abra’s team. After observing the mechanics of community-led actions in person during a visit to El Lanito, local leaders from El Abra returned to their village to meetings with three groups of residents to hear concerns and collaborate on prioritizing needs. A whirlwind of productivity followed. Along with some less-immediate needs like addressing the issue of smoke in homes from cooking stoves, El Abra’s teams were able to access water filters for 20 households, materials to construct hand-washing stations at schools and families in rural areas, and first aid kits, as well as the aforementioned successful proposal to build 15 “eco-stoves” for families, which drastically reduce the amount of smoke produced during cooking.

It’s important to emphasize again that El Abra is not an official Outreach-affiliated community — they were inspired by the methods and success achieved by El Lanito’s teams over the years, and independently mobilized to emulate their neighbors’ work.

It’s incredible to consider how far inspiration can travel — first from Outreach’s facilitators to the El Lanito community years ago, then from one person to another over the years throughout El Lanito, then to El Abra, and now to you, reading this. We’re so proud to be a part of such incredible work.