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I was a volunteer in the 1972 Walther League group that spent the summer in Chimaltenango. I was there with 11 other volunteers. John Puelle and Jean Kothe were "adult" leaders.

So many things stand out vividly about my stay in Chimaltenango but probably one thing more than all others: I learned that while I had thought I was going to the Behrhorst clinic to help, I realized that I was gaining at least as much as I was giving, if not more. And in helping, I needed to be sensitive to helping in ways that were welcomed as opposed to helping in ways that I thought were necessary. It is a lesson that has served me well in life.

For me, the entire experience was formative. A few months shy of my 17th birthday, the Behrhorst experience opened my eyes to other realities. More than anything, talking with Carroll Behrhorst, reading Physician to the Mayas, and the seminars with Ivan Illich at CIDOC, I gained a perspective on change that has endured to this day: change may be suggested from the outside, but it's evolution and adoption must come from within. Programmed, thoughtful, respectful change/development is possible!

I took some picture during my trip to Behrhorst Clinic on a small 126 camera. I had the files converted to digital recently and put them up on the Web at: picasaweb.google.com/bhemmer2