



Heidy Quex
Chimaltenango, Guatemala

I started working for BPD in October of 2006, about 10 months ago. I always wanted to be a nurse because my mother was a nurse. My dream was to work in the campo (countryside), and I studied Home Economics and started my career by working as a teacher. Then I heard about an opportunity to work for BPD as an educator. I didn't know it had the historical connection with the hospitalito. I was hired to provide education about birth spacing, family planning and nutrition.

Since working at BPD my mother and I have had lots of opportunities to talk about the BPD work. I can see that I am able to continue the idea from one generation to another. I know the hospitalito, but didn't know Dr. Behrhorst personally although I have seen photographs of him. He was a very good person.

My work at BPD is to facilitate, motivate, and empower community members. It is transforming work. (And Magdalena, Heidy's mother proudly added, "She is the future of Behrhorst!")

What was the secret of Behrhorst's work? Having programs that integrated work in the campo and the clinic. Integrated health. Preventive health/health promotion approaches and medical services. It was great idea. If people can't come to Chimaltenango, then we'll go to them. And it is a process in which people see our work as supporting their ideas. We work as a team. We work together.