Today marks the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States. As a Guatemalan-American, this is a special time for me and my family to celebrate the traditions of my home country.

That’s why I wanted to share with you some incredible stories that highlight the longstanding commitment of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) to solving hunger in Central and South America.

The stories below represent some of the most creative, enduring and significant aspects of the agency’s recent work in Latin America — all carried out with the goal of creating sustainable solutions to chronic hunger and poverty. For example, in El Salvador, WFP’s school meals program was successfully handed over to the national government in 2013 (more information here en Español).

As a Latino American, I’m especially proud of WFP’s work in countries like El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Honduras — and these stories help illustrate why:

**El Salvador**

In the capital city of El Salvador, WFP is working to empower at-risk youth through street art in the city’s poorest neighborhoods. By creating pathways of opportunity through art and skills development, this innovative approach to food security is giving vulnerable teenagers a way out of the gang lifestyle that entices so many.

*Pupusas and Paint: A Creative Path to Food Security in El Salvador>*

**Nicaragua**
Amid a lush, green landscape where coffee farmers struggle to provide for their families, a freelance photographer with *National Geographic* discovers how WFP’s school meals program is serving up good nutrition for preschool and elementary students to Nicaragua — along with a burst of energy to learn, play, and thrive.

**How Lunch and Life Intersect in Rural Nicaragua >**

**Bolivia**

When sweetener brand Truvia teamed up with WFP in 2012, the goal was simple: To improve the lives of communities in Chuquisaca, one of the poorest regions in Bolivia. Three years later, the initiative has provided school meals to more than 67,000 hungry boys and girls, improved school cooking facilities and enhanced access to fresh food by engaging local farmers.

**Fighting Childhood Hunger and Transforming Communities >**

**Honduras**

Each year, WFP invites students in classrooms across the globe to participate in its annual Children’s Design Competition by drawing their vision of a future without hunger. In Honduras, three winning students share their dreams of a world where food is plentiful and every child has the nutrition needed to survive and thrive.

**Children Painting A Brighter Future For Honduras >**

I hope you enjoy reading about the progress your support makes possible.

Muchas gracias,

Rafael Ugarte
Our future begins with food.  
With the support of people like you, we can do good better.

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