

## Pachay Las Lomas: A Community Moving Forward

Mayra, Epifanio, María and Jorge are four youths from Pachay Las Lomas, a rural village in Guatemala. The community is well-known for its successful strategies in surviving during the past war in Guatemala.

The four youths are applying the same enduring principles to overcome the digital divide. Although the only existing telephone in the village is a “community telephone,” one that does not support Internet service, the youths moved ahead and asked the YMCA in Guatemala to aid them in developing a computer school.

Even though electricity was installed in the village only two years ago, the youths were able to establish a Communication Computer School with help from the YMCA in Guatemala. In addition, the school receives World Service support.

The YMCA in Guatemala helps train teachers, obtain equipment and raise awareness about the school in the community. Participants in the school learn computer skills along with civic-education basics like the history of the country and the community.

Meanwhile, villagers visit the school because learning computer skills offers new employment opportunities.

“Things are not always easy, so we value the YMCA’s support in helping us put our dreams into action,” said Epifanio.



*A volunteer teacher at the “Center for the Democratization of Information Technology” – YMCA of Guatemala*