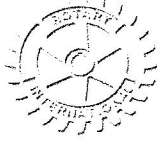


May 4, 2017



## Rotary Club of Anchorage East

**JOEL UBALDO GOMEZ SAY**, is a 25-year old “dwarf” with multiple disabilities. He lives in Barrio 2, Sector SIC, of the Municipality of San Antonio, Department of Suchitepequez.

According to his mother, Joel has been disabled since birth.

There are 10 people of three generations living in the house, the grandparents, their children and their grandchildren. The grandparents are 65 and 62, their children are 18, 23, 24, 25 and 29, and the grandchildren are 3, 5 and 6. Joel is the 25-year old in the “middle” generation. His mother, a sister and several grandchildren came with him to the PET distribution.

They paid the driver of a pickup truck to bring them the 1.5 hours from where they live.

Joel’s mother did not go to school, and her husband completed only the first year of *primaria*”. Unfortunately, I did not get schooling or work information on the other people in the family.

The thing that impressed me about Joel was that he was pretty quickly able to drive his PET, and I could see that he was processing how to drive and how to avoid obstacles. He seemed to understand when told to drive forward or backward, but did not appear to talk.

