

Below is an excerpt from an email sent to Doug Lapp, Ten Thousand Villages buyer for the Central America region reporting on the damage sustained by artisans in Guatemala as a result of tropical storm Stan.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for thinking of us. I can tell you that in Santiago Atitlan, one part of the Panabaj and the Tzanchaj Cantons disappeared because of the volcano. There are at least 1000 families without homes and many orphaned children. At Creaciones Chonitas, we grieve the loss of several members and for other artisans that have had their homes destroyed.

For the moment, we are not working. I had been preparing the samples to send but wasn't lucky enough to send them in time. For now, we have no electricity and there's no way to get to the capital as many bridges were destroyed. It wasn't until yesterday that governmental help arrived. There is no food and no water, we are going through the worst crisis of our lives and the people covet your prayers for all of Guatemala. Right now I am taking advantage of the opportunity to write to you because we are in a hostel where they are treating people medically. I am the interpreter because the majority does not speak Spanish, only the local language, Suthuil.

Blessings,
Domingo Reanda
Creaciones Chonita
Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala