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Hope & Sacrifice Much of this newsletter focuses on the power of education to change lives and brighten futures. The personal stories told here shine like bright candles. For these students tomorrow is a new dawn, a new day, where new opportunities await. But the future these students hope for cannot be found in Plan Grande (PG) or San José (SJ). They have very little infrastructure, basic substance economies, and no job opportunities beyond agriculture.

Good paying jobs, careers in nursing, engineering, business and other professions don't exist in rural Honduras. Even vocational training offers little opportunity. So good students leave to go where opportunities call. But as one mother said, "A successful child raises up the family and the entire community, because they support us financially and create a pathway to success for others to follow." They are the embodiment of hope for everyone. For those that stay, Honduras Hope (HH) works to develop opportunities for progress within the community.

We celebrate the success of our students. But we also recognize the great sacrifice the families of PG and SJ have made to send them on their way. *~Bill Briggs, Honduras Hope Coordinator*



Fall Trip A group of 8 Board members and friends of HH recently returned from a 9-day trip to Honduras. They painted the community center, poured concrete floors in a house, met with the Patronatos and committees with whom we partner, purchased baskets to sell in the US, celebrated the students who graduated in November, strengthened relationships, and planned for the future. As the Rev. Peter Lovett said in an email to his congregation, "It's good to be back in Honduras, though each trip serves to remind us what grinding poverty looks and feels like. It has taken us no time to begin some projects that will help a lot! The welcome, and impact of our efforts is heartwarming."

In this newsletter, we share personal stories and photos of just some of the people who have benefitted from our programs. They tell of hopes and dreams realized, goals attained, challenges overcome, and lives transformed for the better.

We hope their stories will help you understand why we are so passionate about what we do in Honduras, and inspire you to support our work, so that even more people will be able to tell their own stories of how Honduras Hope changed their lives.

“Education is often referred to as the great equalizer: It can open the door to jobs, resources, and skills that help a person not only survive, but thrive. This is why access to quality education is a globally-recognized solution to poverty. Education helps to remedy many of the other issues that can keep people, families, and even whole communities vulnerable to the cycle of poverty.”
 ~April 17, 2022 Olivia Giovetti

Celebrating High School Graduates!

Just over 55% of the HH operating budget is allocated for education. This includes our Boarding House in Yoro (for students from San José), tuition and fees, tutors and buying uniforms & school supplies. Children attend primary school in PG or SJ, but must attend secondary school in Yoro. The transition from the local school to school in Yoro presents many challenges for them to overcome. Graduating is a great achievement. Students who graduate and get good paying jobs, or go to university, are powerful role models for the other children in their communities. This year we celebrate four graduates from PG, (all of whom participated in the Girl’s Empowerment Program) and one graduate from SJ.



Luz Scarleth Riccy Marisol Sandra Elizabeth Ana Maria

Luz Scarleth: “I am very grateful for the unconditional support HH has given me. I’ve completed my goal to graduate from HS, just one of many goals I hope to achieve. I’m hoping to study business administration at university.”

Ana Maria: “I am grateful for all the help I have received from HH. I would like to go to university. My sister is studying psychology at university.”

Riccy Marisol: “I am thankful for all the help I received from HH. It allowed me to fulfill my first dream, which was to graduate from HS. It made such a difference. I don’t know how to say thank you. I want to go to university to study business administration. I hope HH will continue to support me, so my dream becomes a reality.”



Sandra & Sandra Elizabeth

Sandra (mom of graduate): “I am grateful for the support HH has given us. We are poor people. Without your support we couldn’t move forward. I hope you can continue to support the people of PG. May God bless you and give you abundant life.”

“Investing in girls’ education transforms communities, countries and the entire world. Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy, productive lives. They earn higher incomes, participate in the decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves and their families.” ~unicef



Iris Jamileth is from San José and lived in the Boarding House while attending secondary school. She graduated in November. Tonita is the Boarding House mother.

Iris: “I am 21 years old, and thanks to support from HH and Tonita, I’m graduating this year. I did not waste the opportunity

HH offered me. My first year in the Boarding House was difficult. When you are separated from your family, you miss them. But I adjusted. If I had stayed in San José, I wouldn’t have the opportunities I had to advance. Of course, I still miss my family but also, when I’m in San José, I miss being in Yoro.

Being at the Boarding House provided a step forward toward my future. Once I graduate, I hope to find a good job and, depending on how things go, to study to be a beautician. I could not have done all of this without the support from Honduras Hope.”

Tonita has been the Boarding House mother for 22 years and has lovingly watched over and supported many San José students while they study in Yoro.

Tonita: “Iris has been very nice and well behaved. I love her as if she were my own daughter. For her to graduate is an achievement in her life, a change, a transformation. She is not the little girl she was when she first came here. Now she’s a young woman, a professional. She was able to achieve all this with the support from Honduras Hope.”

Starting the Journey



“My name is Alison Abigail. I’m in the 9th grade. I’m so grateful for all the help you have given me for my studies. You give me strength to keep working to achieve my goals. My dream is to be a medical doctor.”

“My name is Belkin Guadalupe. I’m in the 9th grade. Next year I want to study humanities. My dream is to attend university.”





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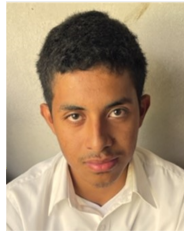
University Students



Candida Maribel

"I'm studying nursing. As students we are faced with many challenges. But we can't let the obstacles stop us. We must keep moving forward. Support from HH has been very important. They have helped me in the moments of my greatest need, and now I'm going to finish my degree. Thank you!"

"I want to thank HH for helping me achieve my first life goal to attend university. I'm in the nursing program and have one more year to go. This year I'm doing my practical and so far, it's going well. I'm learning a lot."



Jerson Roberto



Jeni Alejandra

"I just finished my first year studying psychology. I want to help people who have emotional problems. I wouldn't have graduated from HS or gone on to study at university without support from HH. I know I will graduate!"

"I'm studying civil engineering. My aunt says, 'Education opens many doors.' There are always financial struggles, but it's important to keep trying, to keep moving forward. I have many more opportunities to be successful in my country, and to contribute to the development of my community, because of my education and support from HH."



Angel Geovany



Samantha Ninoska

"HH has supported my educational goals since the middle school. I'm in my first year at university. My dream is to graduate with a computer engineer degree."

"I'm in medical school. I want to specialize in surgery. I'm just finishing my 5th year. HH supported me through 6 years of secondary school, and now supports me at university. I have 2 ½ more years to go to graduate. But HH doesn't just support us financially, they also motivate us to work hard and to keep moving forward."



Laura Rosibel

Pandemic Help



Anita is a member of the PG Patronato.

"I want to thank Honduras Hope and its in-country coordinator Cesar, who have been an important stronghold for us during the pandemic. During the 2 years we were isolated, the government only helped us twice. But HH provided food twice a month; enough to feed our whole community. When we could not leave our homes, when we could not work, when we were isolated, Honduras Hope fed us and took care of us. We are very grateful to HH for all their help and support, especially during the pandemic."

Pine Needle Baskets



Rosibel leads the group of women who make pine needle baskets. At Basket Day, HH hope buys baskets from each woman at a fair market value to sell in the US, and also donates \$1 for each basket to the group fund. The women also sell their baskets at stores in Copan.

"We learned how to make the baskets from 2 women from Luquique. It was difficult to learn and hurt our fingers. But we learned how to make them, and then taught the rest of the women in our group. It has helped us a lot. Some of the women have children in school, and what they earn from selling their baskets helps them support their families. It has been such an achievement for us."

"When women gain control over spending, less family money is devoted to instant gratification and more for education and starting small businesses."

Sheryl WuDunn, Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

Fun & Games

Celebrating Children's Day with sack races and pole climbing.



Honduras Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization working to create stronger, more resilient, and self-sufficient communities in rural Honduras.



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



The Benefits of Helping Others

“Volunteering your time, money, or energy to help others doesn’t just make the world better—it also makes *you* better. Studies indicate that the very act of giving back to the community boosts your happiness, health, and sense of well-being.”

~www.technoserve.org/our-work/entrepreneurship

Honduras Hope depends on the financial support from our readers for us to continue our transformative work, that truly makes a difference in so many lives.

We hope that the stories and pictures shared in this newsletter will inspire you to support Honduras Hope.

We wish you many blessings in the new year! Les deseamos muchas bendiciones en el año nuevo!

YOU CAN HELP!

Please make your tax-deductible donation securely on line at www.hondurashope.org or mail your check to:

Honduras Hope
PO Box 60
Franconia, NH 03580

THANK YOU!

