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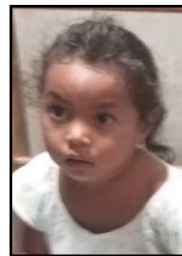


Working for Change

In the 60s, we called overcrowded, under resourced black and brown communities in our cities ghettos. For years, I chose to live in a ghetto. My neighbors had no choice. Merriam Webster defines a ghetto as “a quarter of a city in which members of a minority group live especially because of social, legal, or economic pressure.” In Honduras, Plan Grande and San José are ghettos because the residents lack the resources and opportunities to move. Grinding poverty, overcrowded living, and a lack of education and resources, consign them to a ghetto life.

For a better life, some folks escape to the US border and some to San Pedro Sula. Honduras Hope (HH) seeks to resource opportunities at home. No matter how hopeless it may seem, our belief is that resistance, empowerment, love, kindness and overcoming adversity are possible in every human condition we are given to live. Change is possible if we work together!

~Bill Briggs, Honduras Hope Coordinator



Working Together

Since March 2020, HH Board members have been unable to travel to Honduras due to COVID-19. During this time, we have monitored our programs via email and Zoom. Our In-country Coordinator, Cesar Rivas, has managed our programs and reported on progress, problems and needs. His hard work, supported by financial donations from our many supporters (individuals and churches) has made it possible for us to provide a crucial safety net for our communities during these challenging times. Even in the face of a pandemic and two hurricanes, life goes on.

Honduras Hope has always worked collaboratively with the communities of San José (SJ) and Plan Grande (PG) to plan and implement programs. During the past 18 months we have seen the communities come together in new ways to work for continued progress, even when we could not be there with them. As Cesar reported, “I am very happy when I see the progress of my people because of the work that is being done here in Honduras. Truly I am very proud when I see them working hard on the projects and doing things in the best way. Thanks to Honduras Hope we are moving forward.”

In this newsletter we are pleased to share information and photos taken from the regular reports Cesar submits to the Honduras Hope Board of Directors. As you will read and see, life goes on and progress continues...even during a pandemic. We are grateful for your support which has made all of this possible!

San José Clinic & Nutrition Center Renovation & Repairs



Porch ready to rebuild

In late 2020, Cesar met with the members of the San José Patronato to discuss new projects. Everyone agreed that the Clinic needed a total renovation including reconstruction of the floors and walls (exterior and interior). In addition, the floors in the Nutrition Center needed to be repaired and the zinc roof replaced.

Honduras Hope provided the funds for the project and the community provided the labor. Nineteen men volunteered their time to complete this project. As Cesar reported, "I believe that we all benefit when a project is done well."



New Clinic porch

Along with the repairs, a new solar panel was installed at the Clinic in January 2021, providing light and power and enabling the storage of medicines that need refrigeration, as well as charging for cell phones and computers.



Skim coating the walls

The Clinic and Nutrition Center are key to our ability to provide health and wellness services to the people of San José and the surrounding communities.



Installing solar panels

Public Health

In addition to treating sick and injured people, Mirtha, our nurse at the San José Clinic, fulfills an important public health role. She teaches people how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. She checks family water tanks (pilas) for mosquitos that spread Dengue Fever, and arranges for medical brigades to come and vaccinate children and adults. We just got the good news that students 12 yrs. and older are getting their COVID-19 vaccinations.



Brigade nurse vaccination clinic (not for COVID)

Supporting Remote Learning

The school year in Honduras runs from February to November. In February 2021, public schools were still operating remotely. Our Boarding House, which provides housing and supervision so students from San José can attend school in Yoro, is still closed. But learning continues for the students in San José and Plan Grande, although not without challenges.

Remote learning requires access to the Internet and smart phones, computers, or tablets. To give the students the best chance for success, HH purchased 7 tablets for the students in PG to share and 4 tablets for the students in SJ.



New tablets



Homework session

Students in San José use the Internet at the Clinic. Internet access in Plan Grande is more of a challenge. HH is exploring possible solutions. For now, cell phones purchased by HH provide hot spots for students to use at the Community Center. HH also pays for the student workbooks and other school supplies.

In addition to providing tablets and Internet access, Honduras Hope arranged for tutors to work with students from both communities to help them with their school assignments.



Tutor Carmen & her students



Tutoring session in a home

The tutors report, "These sessions are extremely important considering the new way of learning where students have to self-learn. Their parents are very appreciative of the support HH is providing, especially since many of them are unable to help due to their work schedule or level of education."



Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/HondurasHopeOrg

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

Rebuilding after Two Hurricanes



Reconstruction still in process

In November 2020, two Category 4 hurricanes hit Honduras two weeks apart. In Plan Grande and San José, the damage was extensive. Many homes were damaged, crops were lost and the water system for Plan Grande was destroyed.

To help the communities rebuild, Honduras Hope allocated \$9000 for repairs. These funds enabled families to purchase building supplies to repair or rebuild their homes.



A new roof and skim coat



A new zinc laminate roof

Repairs are ongoing, and as you can see from these photos, the recovery process is well underway. Without your financial support none of this would be possible.

Food for the Hungry

COVID-19 and two hurricanes revealed that pandemics and natural disasters disproportionately affect those who are already marginalized.

Prior to COVID-19, HH's Nutrition Program provided 3 hot meals a week to preschoolers in Plan Grande and San José. When this program was suspended in March 2020 due to safety concerns, hunger became an urgent problem. HH began distributing food to every family in both communities (100 families in PG and 45 families in SJ) twice a month at a monthly cost of \$1300. This crucial safety net is made possible by your financial support. Thank you!



Food distribution in San José. Note the condition of the Clinic porch floor before it was rebuilt.

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Honduras Hope is happy to announce the birth of Aisha Sherazade Rivas Torres who was born on 3/20/2021. She is the daughter of Cesar Rivas, our In-country Coordinator, and Fatima Wualdina Torres Galindo. We wish them many happy moments with their daughter Aisha.

Rebuilding the Water System



New cistern

Plan Grande gets its water from a spring high in the mountains, a two mile walk from the community. A cistern and the pipes that bring the water to Plan Grande were destroyed by the hurricanes. With a generous donation from Old Ship Church in Hingham, MA, the community purchased building materials and formed work groups to build a new cistern and run new pipes to the community reserve tank.

They are also building several water holding tanks. Over 25 men are working together to repair the water system for their community.



Running the water pipe down the mountain



Working on a holding tank



Water!

It is gratifying when people come together to build something for their community. While they lack resources, with financial support they are ready and able to work for a better future.



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



San José Road Improvements

Until recently, when a dirt road was built, the only way to get to San José was a 3-hour trek on foot or horseback up a mountain. While the new road provides improved access, when it rains it washes away or turns slick with mud, making it impassable and unsafe for vehicular travel much of the time. Repairs to this road were entirely funded by South Church in Andover, MA, with the hope that it would provide easier access to what these communities need to achieve their dreams. Their generous donation will pay for culverts, drainage, and safety improvements.

The communities of San José, Aguas Buenas and San Antonio are all working together to complete this project entirely by hand. Victor, a member of the San José Patronato sends his thanks on behalf of himself and the Patronatos of the three communities to Honduras Hope and South Church for their support, noting that, “We are so grateful for your support, which benefits not just us, but also the other communities. We are very happy because the road will be so much better.”

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!

