

Hope for a Better Future in Honduras!

News of Hondurans making their way north to seek asylum has dominated the news. Pictures show men, women and children; families hoping to escape extreme poverty, violence, drug cartels and gangs. Lacking police and government protection at home they are walking 2,200 miles to find peace and safety. Nobody wants to turn their back on their homeland and leave families and friends behind unless the situation is desperate. Those of us who travel to Honduras know that many people feel they have no choice except to leave their homeland in search of a better future.

In the midst of this reality Honduras Hope is working to bring hope and opportunity to the people of San José and Plan Grande. This is exactly our mission - empowerment and possibility through education, healthcare, a feeding program, organic gardens, clean drinking water, vocational training, economic opportunities, improvements to housing, and building self-sufficiency.

In this newsletter, we let the Honduran people speak for themselves about what Honduras Hope has meant to them. Unless otherwise noted, their comments have been translated from Spanish and excerpted as necessary. Decide for yourselves if the work of Honduras Hope is making a difference, one person at a time. And if you agree, please consider making a donation so our work can continue. Supporting Honduras Hope helps Hondurans lead productive lives right at home.



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Cecilia Lobo, a Tolupan Indian, is finishing her medical degree. She wrote her comments in English.

I met Honduras Hope 13 years ago. They already had a lot of time supporting Plan Grande with education projects, feeding the children, improving the living conditions with roofs and floors for the houses. This is the community where my mother was

born and grew up, where my grandparents lived and I continue to live with part of my family. I have humble roots and I am happy to have gotten to where I am, because I did not do it alone. I thank God in the first place, and my parents who have always been there and continue to support me and advise me and HH who believed in me, who supported my student dreams and encouraged me to move forward always.

Today I'm starting the last 3 months of my medicine internship...It has been a difficult path but I have had the support of many people. At the beginning my classes were simply theoretical but at 3 years they started to be more practical. I must admit that certain things or situations scared me because it was something unknown...I have seen situations that I will never forget either because it shocked me because I saw people very happy to see their relatives recovering or [very sad] losing their most loved person.

I have seen how life starts when helping a mother to give birth, as I have seen a life go extinct. I have seen a mother losing her child, a newborn losing his mother to his birth, a son losing his parents. And that's why every day I try harder, because I want to be that difference in that moment.

I would like to continue writing but this letter would become a book, so I say goodbye but not without saying thank you very much for all that you have supported me throughout my career.

“Why is hope important? Well, life is difficult. There are many obstacles. Having goals is not enough. One has to keep getting closer to those goals, amidst all the inevitable twists and turns of life. Hope allows people to approach problems with a mindset and strategy-set suitable to success, thereby increasing the chances they will actually accomplish their goals.”
—Scott Barry Kaufman *“The Will and Ways of Hope”*



Laura Rosibel Martinez is a 3rd year medical student from Plan Grande. She is a Tolupan Indian.

First, I am writing to thank you for the unconditional help you have given me to fulfill my greatest dream at the University.

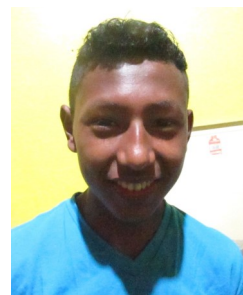
Second, I want to tell you some of the thousands of experiences I have had at the University. My first year was not easy, because I had to adapt to a totally different world, knowing that this would be an opportunity to help me get ahead.

My second year at the University I already felt a little more adapted. I had friends with whom we discussed topics in groups. And this year was very exciting because I started using my first medical uniform.

Now that I am in the third year of medicine, I feel very motivated because I know that each year I go up a step to meet my goals. With each step I have more responsibilities, but at the same time it is more interesting. There are days that I only have enough time to sleep 4 hours because I have to study a lot every day. But I do not mind that because I know that the effort I put in every day will be reflected in a better future.

My motivation for studying medicine is to be able to help people who are in need of healthcare, because there is no greater satisfaction than being able to help others. I hope I can continue counting on the help of Honduras Hope. Thanks to you, many young people have the opportunity to build a better future.

“Show me a successful individual and I’ll show you someone who had real positive influences in his or her life. I don’t care what you do for a living — if you do it well I’m sure there was someone cheering you on or showing the way. A mentor.”
— Denzel Washington



Saul Antonio Cruz is from the remote village of San José. He lives at the HH Boarding House during the school year so he can attend school in Yoro.

I'm in eighth grade. For two years I have achieved academic excellence. I try very hard to study because I want to be a good professional. My experience in the Boarding House has been very nice. I thank Honduras Hope for giving me this opportunity. My life has changed a lot and I can visualize a better future.



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For more information, contact Bill Briggs

at 603-616-2133 or wbriggs507@aol.com



Cristian Ortega studied English and Information Technology in High School in Yoro. He works for KM² Solutions in San Pedro Sula. He wrote his comments in English.

When I was eleven years old I met an English teacher and I spoke with him about my interest of learning it and he told me, "I am going to teach you." I was so happy about that! So I started [studying] with him. Everything was fine until I needed to enter an English academy. I won a scholarship...Well, I needed to pay only 150 lempiras per month. (\$4.12). My mom worked so hard to support me until the end.

Then I got the best and unforgettable experience of my entire life. I met Honduras Hope representatives and they were my salvation. Why? My mom did not have money to enroll me into my 11th year. I was so sad. I met Mr. William Briggs and I found hope to make my dreams reality.

Finally I graduated. I found many obstacles on my hard way, but they taught (sic) us something important.

TOGETHER EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

At the end of the story I am working for a better life. Many people from San José, Plan Grande and I are very deeply thankful to Honduras Hope. They have been a part of our success.

"Hope gives you the motivation. Hope is the voice inside that says, "Yes, you can." And it's the voice that makes you work hard, that makes you learn new things, that gives you the impetus to actually try."

—www.quora.com/What-is-the-importance-of-hope-in-life



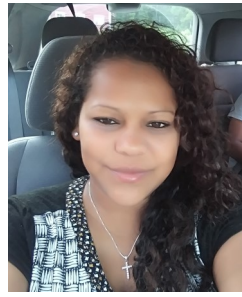
Jaremy Nicolle Rodriguez Zunig is a nursing student. She is a Tolupan Indian from Plan Grande.

Honduras Hope means a lot to me because it supports me economically and morally, giving me advice to move forward and to never give up. They want me to achieve my goals.

Honduras Hope helps young people who want to improve themselves for the good of society, since an educated society is not easily deceived.

I am currently studying for a degree in nursing at the National Autonomous University of Honduras, and the scholarship I receive from Honduras Hope is very helpful. I want to graduate so that Honduras Hope knows I took full advantage of their help.

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



Francis Gusman and her family, fearing for their lives, fled Honduras and came to the US in June seeking asylum.

My name is Francis Gusman. I'm from Honduras. When I was 15 years old I was shot in my spinal column. I am very poor and needed many operations. 15 years ago I met Bill Briggs, the founder of Honduras Hope, and he and Honduras Hope have helped me since then. They paid for my operations and for my son Fernando to attend school.

Two years ago a great tragedy occurred. My sister was murdered, leaving her daughter Nathalia alone. So she came to live with me. Honduras Hope helped pay for her to go to school too. I was afraid that the murderers would come after us too. So I decided to leave Honduras with my family. I can not walk. My husband carried me on his back.

Finally we managed to arrive in the United States where I asked Honduras Hope to help and with big hearts they have helped me a lot. My children are in school. They are working to get my husband released from detention in Georgia, and they have helped with housing, food and doctors. Honduras Hope has given its all to save my family. For this I am very thankful.



Francis and Fernando welcoming Nathalia to NH after 3 months in detention.

From left to right: Senator Shaheen staffer, Fernando, Nathalia, HH Board member Marianne, Francis, Senator Shaheen staffer

The steady flow of immigrants leaving Northern Central America reflects the grim realities of life for millions of children and their families from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Crushing poverty. Endemic crime. Gang-related violence, extortion and forced recruitment. High rates of domestic violence and sexual abuse of girls. Scarce social services. Limited opportunities to learn, or to earn a living. The desire of children to be with their parents, who are already working in the U.S.

These are the conditions that prompt men, women and children to abandon their homes and embark on dangerous journeys to destinations to the north and south.

—Marianne Buechner and Sarah Ferguson
UNICEF October 16, 2018



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Alba Luz Navarro Hernandez is the Principal of CEVER, a non-profit vocational school in Yoro.

CEVER is a non-profit institution with several areas of study: Auto Mechanics, Industrial Mechanics, Welding, Cabinet Making, Hospitality/Culinary, Beauty/Hairdressing and 7th-9th grades. In order to survive, it needs the support of organizations and people with good hearts. Here technical training is given to Yoro youth, especially young people with very limited economic resources, since the students almost never pay to attend CEVER.



Honduras Hope Board Member Alex Ray (The Common Man Restaurants in NH) funded 100% of the cost of building and equipping the Hospitality/Culinary School. The program teaches cooking and all aspects of working in the hospitality industry. Banquets are currently scheduled for several community organizations, generating income to support CEVER's budget and the

other areas of technical formation. In addition to paying the salary of the instructor until the program became self-supporting, Honduras Hope provided tools and computers for the other program areas.

The support of Honduras Hope was also decisive in starting the Beauty/Hairdressing School. They donated equipment, most of the teaching materials and the instructor's salary. After only two years the program is very successful. It is fully enrolled and self-supporting.



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