

YOU CAN HELP...

Please make your tax-deductible donation securely on-line at

www.HondurasHope.org

or by mailing a check to:

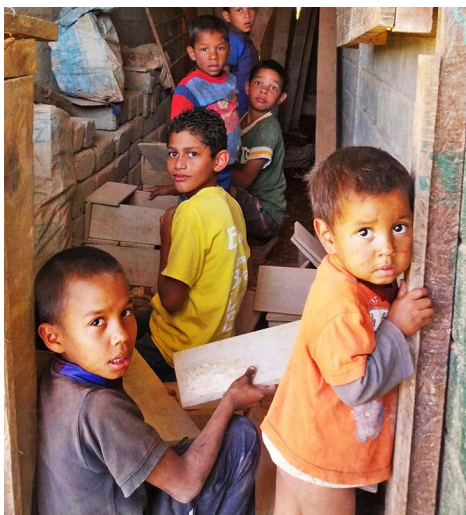
Honduras Hope

PO Box 60 • Franconia, NH 03580

'Tis the Season...



**CLICK TO CONTRIBUTE TO
HONDURAS HOPE**



A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die
Life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams for if dreams go
Life is a barren field frozen with snow.

—Langston Hughes

Greetings Friends,

The holiday season is a time to reflect on many things, including our impact in the world around us. We who participate in and support Honduras Hope are keepers of dreams. That is our impact. This year, twelve students from rural communities will graduate December 2 from high school, most if not all will be the first in their families to do so, and we helped make it possible by providing school-year housing, tuition support, and strong elementary school feeder programs. Even more young people will celebrate dreams realized the next day at the Honduras Hope Culinary School. The sewing project and Girls Empowerment also had graduations this season, keeping “hope” alive. In all, this year over 100 students are realizing dreams completing schooling and other programming that would not be possible without Honduras Hope.

In the coming year, hope abounds. We are supporting projects for clean drinking water, seeds and compost for expanded organic gardening, a grand opening for a Beauty School, and improved living conditions at the Boarding House. These are just a few of the dreams we share with the children and families in the communities we support in rural Honduras. With the support of many, including our tireless volunteers, we touch the lives of hundreds of people in one of the poorest parts of the world. We hope you consider a contribution that will continue our collective work to build strong, sustainable families and communities.

Blessings this holiday season,

Bill Briggs

Coordinator, Honduras Hope



HH's Peter Swanson with his eco-gardening students working on the compost and gardens at the CEVER culinary school and the boarding house.

Su Escuela becomes a “Sister School”

In September the directors of Su Escuela, a pre-kindergarten to 5th grade bilingual school in Hingham, MA, invited Peter and Kathy Swanson to give a presentation about Honduras Hope. The students listened intently to the presentation and later decided that they wanted to establish a relationship with the primary school students of Plan Grande. They sent letters written in Spanish and drawings of their families and school. They also decided to do a children’s clothing drive, collecting roughly 1,000 pounds of baby, toddler, and children’s clothing. When our group arrived at Plan Grande, Walter, the director of the primary school there, assembled all the children and read the greetings from their Hingham peers. It was a special day to get letters from kids from another part of the world. Within the next few days, they wrote their own letters and drawings to send back with us to Hingham. Those letters were delivered to Su Escuela upon our return. Su Escuela students sent baseball caps from their school to 40 “Kompost Kids” who help with composting and sustainable gardening in and around Yoro, Honduras. The Honduras children were happy to receive the hats in recognition for their work maintaining composts in their communities, wearing them proudly with the added benefit of eye protection.

Children at Su Escuela, a bilingual school in Hingham, MA “meet” students from their new “sister” school in Plan Grande, Honduras.



Bike Raffles

HH volunteers suggested students consider a bike raffle to raise funds for improvements to their boarding house and the local school kitchen in Plan Grande. HH purchased the bikes that students used to raise over \$400. This was a great example of entrepreneurship, fun-raising, fund-raising, and a community’s sense of giving.

Water Filters

On November 11 a group called Ecofiltros Honduras came to make a presentation at the Plan Grande Community Center to inform the parents and children of the community why filtering water is important and how to maintain the filters. HH has helped place large filters in the nutrition centers, the San Jose Clinic, and the Plan Grande Elementary School. We feel that it is important that community leaders impress, especially on the children, that clean water is a way to improved health and nutrition. Ecofiltros is sponsored by World Vision, Save the Children, Pearson, Siemens and other philanthropic organizations. Because of these sponsorships, the filters being used as teaching tools in the community center, the elementary school and the clinic were donated. Members of the community that were at the training session were able to purchase the filters for family use at a reduced cost. We distributed twenty filters at the conclusion of the information session.



Girls Empowerment Program



Girls Empowerment graduates in Yoro, November 2016

HH began supporting a local Girls Empowerment program in collaboration with COMVIDA, an in-country organization. The program is held during out-of-school hours at a small community center space in the center of Yoro. Activities include a wide range from discussions on sexually transmitted diseases, women's and girls' rights, hygiene and health to fun activities such as jewelry making, crafts, and photography. The girls work to maintain the center, recently painting it and creating a recreation area for younger member, making a swing set out of used tires. In November, the program held a celebration for the girls and their families to celebrate the end of the school year that included a photography contest, craft exhibition, and punta dance.

Women's Cooperative

HH supports a group of entrepreneurial women who do a variety of projects that involve retail sales to raise funds for community projects. Recently the women have been sewing school uniforms for the children, making jewelry bags to sell in New Hampshire, and are learning the traditional craft of making pine-needle basket which will be available in stores in Massachusetts. The women use revenues to support new roofs and "pilas" or water basins in the community.

The Women's Cooperative in Plan Grande were happy to receive a new sewing machine and iron from the Mission Committee of the Community Church in Jackson, NH. A donated generator provides the electricity for the sewing group. Thank you one and all!!!



Patronato Meetings

Patronatos are the community councils in the villages we work with who meet with Honduras Hope volunteers every three months to share successes, troubleshoot challenges, and set upcoming priorities. On our November 2016 trip our meeting with the Patronatos of San Jose de Machigua and Plan Grande shared the following updates:

The San Jose water project is moving forward again. The community's well became contaminated over a year ago, and they are awaiting news from the Honduran government about funds to finish construction of the pipeline from the new source above the village. In light of the delay, HH purchased water filters for the HH-sponsored health clinic, school and nutrition center.

Honduras Hope has provided tons (literally!) of clothing for the initiation of a sustainable thrift store for the village of Plan Grande. San Jose is interested in starting a similar venture that will be overseen by the Patronato and whose profits will be used for communal needs such as repairs to the school building and water filters. Clothing collected by Su Escuela will give them an excellent head start, and the community has opened a shared bank account with Honduras Hope to manage finances. .

Members of the tribal community in Plan Grande attend a meeting with Honduras Hope volunteers.



Travel with Us

Experience our unique community development approach. Trips in 2017 are January, March, August and November. Trip cost starting at \$800 for 10 days. Info on web or at (603) 616-2133



PO Box 60 • Franconia NH 03580



Just a Year Ago...

In November of 2015, a team of 16 dentists and hygienists from Aspen Dental offices across the U.S. joined HH for their fall trip last year. They brought medication and equipment and HH borrowed generators to serve an average of 400 people per day for a week! In gratitude, the culinary students in Yoro prepared and served them a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. It was an exceptional collaboration... Thank you again Aspen Dental!



LEFT: Peter and Kathy Swanson of Honduras Hope spend a day with the students in Plan Grande during the November 2016 trip.

Thank you for considering a gift this season.
www.HondurasHope.org/donate