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## Keeping Dreams Alive

What do you hope and dream for? Think about this for a moment and then consider, What do the people of Plan Grande and San José hope and dream for? Are their hopes and dreams for themselves and their families the same as yours?

Despite enormous differences between daily life in the U.S. and Honduras, we have found that the people of San José and Plan Grande hope and dream for basically the same things we do: enough food and clean drinking water, clothes to wear, a safe place to live and raise their families, access to healthcare, educational opportunities, a fulfilling job that allows them to support themselves and their families, to live without fear, and to love and be loved.

Unfortunately, except for love, these things are not easily achievable in Honduras. With rampant violence, limited opportunities to learn or earn a living, and extreme poverty (especially in rural areas), is it really any surprise that so many Hondurans choose to leave their homeland behind and make the long and dangerous journey to the U.S. where they hope to find a better life?



The good news is that the programs of Honduras Hope address all of these needs, helping the people of Plan Grande and San José realize their hopes and dreams right at home. In the process, individuals and entire communities in rural Honduras are transformed. Hundreds of people have been touched by the work of Honduras Hope. They would echo the words of Saul Cruz, a Boarding House student who said, "My life has changed, and I can visualize a better future."

This is transformational work! Won't you join us as we work together with the people of Plan Grande and San José as they pursue their hopes and dreams for a better future in Honduras?

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

— Langston Hughes

"The richer we have become materially, the poorer we become morally and spiritually. We have learned to fly in the air like birds and swim in the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers." — Martin Luther King Jr.

# UCC Genesis Fund Grant Brings New Initiatives and Staff

In the summer of 2018 Honduras Hope (HH) was awarded a \$17,700 grant from the UCC Genesis Fund. This money enabled us to fund new initiatives and hire new staff who have improved the overall quality and oversight of our programs and communication with the Honduras Hope Board of Directors in the U.S.

**Solar Power for lights and cellular communication:** Soluz, a Honduran company, is installing solar systems in Plan Grande at the primary school and Community Center and at the Health Clinic and Nutrition Center in San José. Neither community has electricity. Providing lights and cell



Plan Grande school with solar powered lights

phone charging stations, these solar power systems will help the communities conduct business, communicate with HH programs in the area and the U.S., and increase learning opportunities through evening events and reading/study hours. Using micro-loans from KIVA, individuals have had Soluz install solar power systems in their homes, improving their living conditions through their own financial investment. This is how an idea takes hold and transforms an entire community.

**In-country Coordinator:** Cesar Rivas Quezada is our in-country coordinator, providing program support and oversight. He meets weekly with each program to empower and support them to ensure positive outcomes, and prepares



Cesar (in white behind the table) helps a woman from San José cast her vote about clinic services in her community.

monthly program reports for the HH Board. He has already proven instrumental in providing consistent oversight, identifying areas for improvement and alerting us to potential problems before they develop. Cesar reports that, "The communities are so grateful for Honduras Hope programs, and I'm happy to be involved and supporting such positive benefits for families."

With financial assistance from HH Cesar is studying to be a lawyer. He also teaches English for Acts Honduras.

**Computer Specialist:** Mariela Cabrera Murillo began working with the students in the Boarding House (BH) in January 2019 as the computer specialist. The schools require students to have computer skills which our students were lacking. Computers were donated for the BH but we needed someone to teach the students the skills needed to use them. Mariela now gives computer lessons and homework assistance to the 15 students who live at the BH.

Yet her presence is more powerful and influential. As a trained social worker, she understands the importance of building self-esteem, forming supportive bonds and creating a healthy environment for social and personal



Mariela with BH students in computer lab

interconnections. With her guidance, support, and creative energy, the students of San José have another caring adult who is providing the framework for them to achieve their academic and personal potential.

Mariela was one of the original co-directors of the Girls Empowerment Program when she worked for Casa de Mujeres. She first met Bill Briggs years ago when he was working in El Rosario with ACTS Honduras.

Honduras Hope is very grateful for the UCC Genesis Fund award and is happy to report the many successes achieved with this grant. Thank you, Genesis Fund!

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## SERVICE TRIPS

Travel with us to Honduras!

Experience our unique community development approach.

We travel to Honduras four times a year.

For more information, contact Bill Briggs  
at 603-616-2133 or [wbriggs507@aol.com](mailto:wbriggs507@aol.com)



## Learning to Help Others

**“We give love, but we receive love.”**

“We go to San Yves because the children there need affection and love. They need someone to hold them and to play with them. They need people to laugh with them.”

This is a statement from Tatiana, a 13 year old participant in the Girls Empowerment Program. Tatiana comes from Plan Grande, a marginalized community outside of Yoro. She is one of 17 middle school girls who receive scholarships to study at the secondary school and who attend the Girls Empowerment Program every Thursday during the school year.



On this particular afternoon there are 10 girls volunteering at San Yves, a nutritional center for undernourished children. The center is run by Patrick Mulligan, a young American from Missouri who manages the care of the 15-20 children who reside there until they are healthy enough to return home to their families.



When the girls arrive at 2:00, the children are just waking up from their naps. The girls quickly cut up the fruit they brought for the afternoon snack. After snack it is playtime! Some of the kids go outside to play on the swings,

others stay inside to color and the babies are rocked and hugged. Karen Murillo, the director of the Girls Empowerment Program commented that there is nothing more empowering than helping and giving to others. Developing strong young women as undernourished children are being loved and cared for...this is the power of Honduras Hope.



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

## Solar Lanterns Bring Light!

Imagine living without electricity, not just during a power outage, but all day, every day, year after year. This is the reality in Plan Grande and San José. But thanks to a generous donation of solar lanterns by luminAID, families in both of these communities now have solar-powered lanterns for their homes.



Rosa holds a box of packaged solar lanterns. Board member Alex Ray holds an uninflated solar lantern

LuminAID, whose mission is to “Share light around the world” manufactures and sells unique, inflatable solar lanterns. The appeal

of these lanterns for Honduras Hope is their easy transport to Honduras in suitcases and their ease of use.



Munchomurio and Nicolas see the luminAID lantern for the first time in the hallway of the Health Clinic in San José. They are members of the Patronato (San José’s governing body), and are committed to creating a program to lend out the lanterns to families for chores or study in the evenings.



Anita (left) the President of the Patronato in Plan Grande and Rosa (right) the President of the Patronato in San José were both very excited to accept the donated solar lanterns on behalf of their communities. “Muchas gracias a Honduras Hope!”



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



### I support Honduras Hope!

“I first heard about Honduras Hope when Bill Briggs (founder and coordinator) preached at my home church. His stories made Honduras Hope come alive for me and I knew that I wanted to be a part of it.

My first trip to Honduras in 2016 gave me a personal connection to the board members and the Honduras Hope volunteers and staff. I met the Boarding House staff, the secondary school students living there and their parents. I listened to personal testimonials from the college students and their families. I got to see firsthand the impact Honduras Hope has on people’s lives.

Having a firsthand knowledge of the many Honduras Hope programs helps me bring to life the people and needs of Plan Grande, San José and the Boarding House. Through the sharing of my experiences from two trips (2016 & 2019) I have been able to promote the work of Honduras Hope and create a deep connection to Honduras Hope for my church and community. Members and friends of the Jackson Church have helped to purchase school uniforms and have volunteered for Honduras Hope fundraisers.



Meg Phillips (right) with pine needle baskets

While in Honduras, Kathy Swanson (Honduras Hope Board Member) and I met the Plan Grande weavers at the community center. They make pine needle baskets to sell to help support their families. I saw pine needles drying on the roof of a house nearby. Kathy and I chose over 100 pine needle baskets to bring back to the U.S. to sell. I sell these handmade baskets at events in my community. Selling these baskets gives me the opportunity not only to support Honduras Hope, but also to spread its vision to a wider audience. I encourage every buyer to smell the pine in the baskets. With every basket I sell I feel connected to the women who made them and hope to connect my buyers too.”

Meg Phillips traveled to Honduras with Honduras Hope in 2016 & 2019. Since her first trip she has become an enthusiastic supporter of their work. She is from Jackson, NH.

**YOU CAN HELP!**

Please make your tax-deductible donation securely on line at [www.hondurashope.org](http://www.hondurashope.org) or mail your check to:

**Honduras Hope**  
**PO Box 60**  
**Franconia, NH 03580**

**THANK YOU!**