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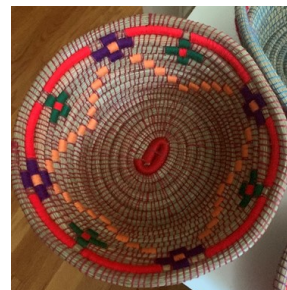
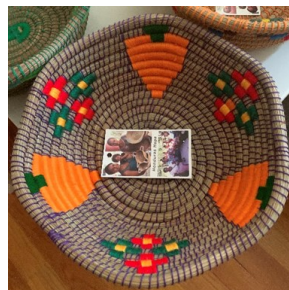


Pine Needle Baskets

“Entrepreneurship provides women...with opportunities to earn their own incomes. This helps women achieve greater financial independence, often improving their decision-making power within families and increasing household spending on needs like education and health.” www.technoserve.org › our-work › entrepreneurship

This Plan Grande small business continues to thrive and provide important income for the women who make the baskets. Typically, HH purchases the baskets from the women at a fair market value and brings them back to the U.S to sell at churches, craft fairs, and stores. Money from the sales is used to reimburse the purchase price, while the profits are used to strengthen our programs, including the Girls Empowerment Program and the After-School Tutoring Sessions.

During the two years HH did not travel to Honduras, the women continued making baskets which they sold to a boutique in Copan. Under the capable leadership of Rosibel, the quality of the baskets continues to improve with more skilled artistry, and colorful, fanciful designs. Rosibel is working to find additional local vendors in tourist areas. This will expand their small business, making it more sustainable and less reliant on sales in the U.S. If you are interested in purchasing a basket, contact Kathy Swanson at kraswanson@yahoo.com



YOU CAN HELP!

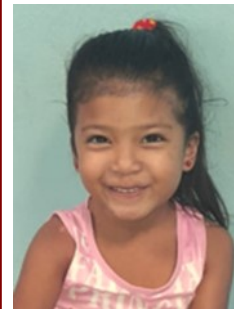
Please make your tax-deductible donation securely on line at www.hondurashope.org or mail your check to:
Honduras Hope
PO Box 60
Franconia, NH 03580
THANK YOU!



www.hondurashope.org

JUNTOS together

Fall Newsletter 2021



VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Founder and Coordinator
Franconia, NH
603-616-2133

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Our Work Continues

A great gospel song by Jessy Dixon goes, "...the wicked shall cease their troubling." May it be so. Much is troubling in the world these days: gun violence, the war in Ukraine, a global economic crisis, inflation, food insecurity, COVID. These challenge our resources, our mental health, but not our resolve to continue to work for change. "I'm troubled, I'm troubled, I'm troubled in mind." *Negro Spiritual*

The families Honduras Hope (HH) works with live on the margins. With no savings and no work, it is impossible to pay for fuel, food, medicine, and education. Parents are pulling their children out of school due to lack of funds, despite financial support from HH. We are doing everything possible to ensure that our nutrition program, boarding house, school scholarships and health clinic keep functioning. We all have troubles big & small, but Honduran families worry about sheer survival. Now, more than ever, we need to assure our Honduran friends that help is on the way.
~Bill Briggs, Honduras Hope Coordinator



View of Yoro from San José

Back to Honduras

Since 2001 Honduras Hope has been working through collaborative partnerships with the communities of Plan Grande (PG) and San José (SJ) to break the cycle of poverty and create a better future. Sustainability is an important goal of our programs. Feeding hungry people is a temporary fix. Working to change the systems that cause hunger leads to lasting change.

During the two years we were unable to travel to Honduras due to COVID, our important work did not pause. Emails and Zoom kept us in touch with our In-country Coordinator, Cesar Rivas, who capably managed our programs and kept us informed. In March 2022, a small group traveled to Honduras for the first time since January 2020. It was wonderful to be back after such a long absence, to reconnect with the people, and breathe a new wave of energy into all our programs.

In this newsletter we provide brief updates on our programs which address basic needs while working together to provide a pathway out of poverty and toward a better future. We also introduce new Board Member Dr. Cecile Lobo who, with financial support from HH, recently graduated from Medical School. We are grateful for your support which makes all of this possible!

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”
~Vincent van Gogh

“Corruption, poverty, war, hunger, healthcare, education, safety. These are only a few of the problems faced by people in developing countries. Many of these problems are caused by exclusion, fear, intimidation, broken infrastructure, and lack of money, resources, access to information, and tools.”
The 3rd World Problems Project opensource.com

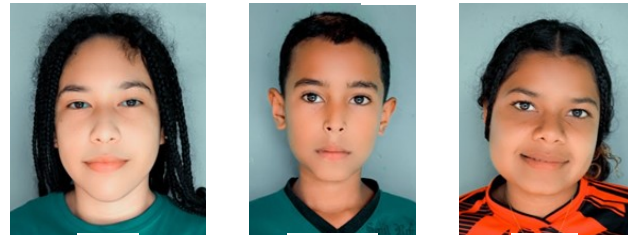
Education

The Boarding House for San José Students

After 18 months of closure due to COVID, the HH Boarding House reopened in February for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. HH provides scholarships and free room and board for the students so they can attend secondary school in Yoro. Seven students are living in the boarding house under the supervision of housemother Tonita. Mariela provides 6 hours of tutoring per week for the students, covering academics and computer skills. All students and staff are vaccinated. The Boarding House roof needs repairs.



Eduar Luz Wilder Ashley



Rina Osman Iris

Boarding House students who are dreaming big dreams!

Secondary School for Plan Grande Students

HH is providing scholarships to 43 middle & high school students and 22 university students from Plan Grande. Uniforms and school supplies were purchased for all the students. Carmen is tutoring students twice a week for 2 hours each session at the Community Center.

Ensuring the success of our students is a priority. We recognize that students from Plan Grande & San José face many social & academic challenges when they begin secondary school in Yoro. We added tutoring sessions to provide academic support and homework assistance. Even with this support, our students struggle academically and socially at the highly competitive Santa Cruz del Oro, and only a few of those who start in 7th grade graduate. Over the next several months HH, along with the Education Committees, will research and evaluate several schools in the area to determine which ones offer a course of study that better reflects our students' needs and ambitions.

“If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.”
 ~UNESCO

Girls Empowerment

During the pandemic, the Plan Grande Girls Empowerment Program (Niñas con Esperanza) did not meet in person, but the Directors, Carmen and Mariela, continued to support and encourage the girls. They kept in touch with them and helped them with their studies. During this challenging time many of the girls shared needs or concerns, and Carmen and Mariela were there to offer encouragement, advice, and direction.



HH board member K. Swanson with the girls and Directors.

Niñas con Esperanza has returned to weekly meetings and pursuing its goals of uplifting self-esteem, recognizing the value and dignity of each girl, and supporting their educational goals. The girls have attended meetings on health and personal hygiene, building self-confidence and self-expression, and the importance of contributing to their community. They recently worked to improve the grounds of their Community Center.



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Cecile Lobo to our Honduras Hope Board. Ceci began her relationship with HH while in high school. Today she is a medical doctor. Her advice and counsel through the years has been invaluable to our work. As a board member she will continue to offer insight and wisdom as we meet the challenges of the future. We celebrate her achievements!

Our hope is that there are other young people in San José & Plan Grande who, like Ceci, will dream big dreams, and through their own hard work and desire, and with support from Honduras Hope, will also achieve a brighter future for themselves, their families, and communities.

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Health Care

During the pandemic the Health Clinic continued to care for the people of San José and 7 surrounding communities. The sick and injured were treated, and nurse Mirtha shared important information about how to prevent the spread of COVID and other communicable diseases.

We are happy to report that we recently received a donation of medicine valued at more than \$2000 from the Secretary of Health for the Department of Yoro. Many thanks to Mirtha and Cesar who applied for this donation! HH regularly funds the medicines for the Clinic, and this donation will be a great help.



Medicine donation ready for transport from Yoro to San José



Mirtha in the SJ Clinic

Nutrition Program

“It’s a simple fact: A child’s chance for a bright tomorrow starts with getting enough food to eat today.” *Feeding America*

In March 2020 as the pandemic surged throughout the world, Honduras Hope suspended the nutrition programs in San José and Plan Grande due to safety concerns. This program provided a hot meal three times a week for preschoolers and was an important stopgap for childhood hunger. Instead, HH began distributing food to every family in SJ and PG twice a month. This continued until recently when the Patronatos felt it was safe to restart the nutrition programs. Starting with one day a week, the program serves 38 preschoolers in San José and 58 in Plan Grande. In April, the HH Board voted to return to 3 days a week. While we feed children today, we explore more sustainable solutions for reducing childhood hunger. The nutrition Center in San José needs a new roof and floor.



Plan Grande Nutrition Program



San José Nutrition Program

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

Challenged, But Not Deterred

The two projects described below present unique challenges. Although the funding and plans are in place, the Electricity Project needs the cooperation of the Mayor of Yoro. The Water Project presents complicated technical challenges that have required outside consultants, and the scope of the project requires assistance with funding. Navigating these challenges takes time and persistence. But they are important, not just for what they provide, but for their potential to reduce poverty.

Plan Grande Electricity Project

Life without electricity “represents a fundamental barrier to progress...and has impacts on a wide range of developmental indicators, including health, education, food security, gender equality, livelihoods, and poverty reduction.”
 ~The World Bank 4/18/2018 *Access to Energy is at the Heart of Development*

Bringing electricity to PG has been a challenge despite concerted efforts over many years. On the March trip, HH Board members and the PG Patronato met with Mayor Martha Fuentes, who said that the ‘project was a go’, and agreed to send a team to PG to assess the need for additional supplies and install the utility poles. We are still waiting for this to happen, and will continue to work to move this project forward.

San José Water Project

“Safe and readily available water is important for public health...Improved water supply and sanitation, and better management of water resources, can boost countries’ economic growth and can contribute greatly to poverty reduction.”
 WHO 3/21/2022 *Drinking-water*

San José needs a new, reliable source of clean water. The estimated cost for this project is \$50,000. HH has been talking with various NGOs about partnering with us on this project. During the March trip, we met with the Director of World Vision, Ilario Cruz. We submitted a revised project report, but are still waiting to hear back from him. This project requires the cooperation of the Mayor of Yoro.



Deteriorating water tank



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