



VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Education Open Doors to a Better Future

Education unlocks the door of the house of poverty, transforming darkness into light. Behind the door of the house of poverty lives hopelessness, despair, and depression. Hunger and sickness visit often. Sorrow comes calling as well.

Education is the key that opens doors of poverty to sunshine and a bright future full of possibilities and dreams fulfilled. Our university and high school grants, the Boarding House, the elementary school programs, and the Girl's Empowerment program are featured in this newsletter. They all open the house of poverty to new opportunities and dreams fulfilled.

This season we celebrate the light that darkness could not overcome. When you donate to Honduras Hope you brighten the future, bringing hope for a new tomorrow to children locked behind the door of poverty. Together we can open the door and let the sunshine of hope and opportunity defeat poverty in Yoro, Honduras. — *Bill Briggs, Founder of Honduras Hope*

Education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Consequently, a large portion of our annual budget supports educational initiatives. But to be successful most students need more than just the opportunity to attend school. They need mentors, guidance, and encouragement to dream big and then work hard to achieve their goals. They need support systems and safety nets they can rely on when the going gets tough. They need good nutrition and access to healthcare. Honduras Hope funds programs that create opportunity, while our in-country staff, board members, and volunteers all work to provide the support and guidance necessary for the students to have the best chance of success.

Dreaming Big!



Nursing students Zeomarra & Luc with Tonita

Celebrating Success!



In 2014 Ilkia, Junior, and Sonia came from their village of San José to live in Yoro and attend school. After spending six years living in the Honduras Hope Boarding House under the loving care of Tonita Flores, they graduated from Santa Cruz del Oro High School in December. All the Boarding House students were invited to a restaurant to celebrate their achievement.

Congratulations to our grads!
Their future awaits!

Volunteers Renovate the Boarding House

Peter Lovett, a UCC minister, serves on the Honduras Hope Board of Directors. This is his account of his trip to Honduras in April 2019 with three volunteers, Christian, Dave & Tyler. He would be glad to answer any questions you have about the work of Honduras Hope, or participating on a work trip. Contact him at Peteralovett@gmail.com

I've been to Honduras many times, though my trip in April 2019 was the first in which I was leading a group of volunteers on their first work trip. After renting a pick-up truck at the airport our Honduras adventure began. We enjoyed the two hour trip over the mountains to Yoro.



Peter, Tyler, Christian, Dave

In Yoro, we checked into Hotel Marquez, the nicest hotel in the city! We left our bags in the air conditioned rooms and drove a short distance, on dusty roads, to the Boarding House. We were warmly welcomed by the students, who put up with our "Spanglish" and were quick to help with the 'extreme home makeover' of the cinder block structure.



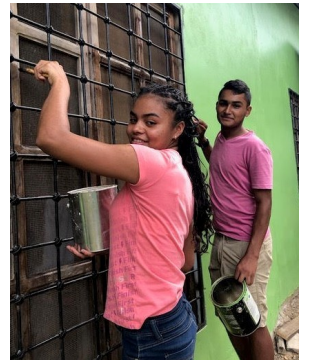
In five short days we re-wired several sections of the house, added outlets (for phone chargers), installed a new stove pipe for the wood burning kitchen stove, painted five rooms and the entire exterior of the house, repaired toilets, re-installed a fallen gutter, and installed rebar to strengthen a load-bearing wall that was cracked in an earthquake. We worked hard, laughed a lot, and left the Boarding House in much better shape.



Each day we visited other nearby Honduras Hope projects. In Plan Grande, a reservation for the indigenous Tolupan people, we saw the Community Center which houses our Nutrition Program, and the new solar installation on the school. In San José, a mountain-top village of squatters reached by driving up an extremely steep and

rugged dirt road (a trip previous volunteers made on muleback or foot), we visited the Health Clinic and the Nutrition Center, both of which were built with the help of Honduras Hope volunteers.

We spent our last two nights at the Coral Caribe, a quaint B&B on the Atlantic Ocean. We relaxed in hammocks, listening to the crashing waves, debriefing the events of the past week, and deepening friendships. At night, candles ablaze, we discussed the history of U.S. 'involvement' in Honduras, including the current U.S. immigration policy. In general, the legacy of U.S. government and business practices has not been kind to the Honduran people.



We were deeply affected by our time together. A work trip with Honduras Hope introduces U.S. travelers to a proud and generous people, affording countless insights into our 'first world' lives. We were inspired to plan a fundraiser at Walter's

Basin Restaurant in Holderness, NH where Christian tends bar (see back page).

I look forward to taking another work trip to Honduras with other talented and fun-loving friends.



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

Educating Global Citizens Green Week in Plan Grande



Green week at the Plan Grande Elementary School was an opportunity to celebrate the installation of solar energy at the school (funded by a UCC Genesis Fund grant) and to share information and teach about sustainable living and climate change. The educational goals were to develop math, science and technology skills through green living. Children worked on projects during the week to build awareness of climate change and to understand sustainable practices.



Students work on posters for Green Week

At the end of the five days, there was a Green Week evening open house where parents and students felt the impact of solar on their school culture. In addition to lights, the school now has a good used computer, a 12-volt television and a color printer.

A raffle was held, and nine students won small solar lamps. Soluz, the solar installer, gave away a solar lamp powerful enough to light an entire

room. Students' artwork was displayed and children filled the school grounds with song. This was certainly a special event! Many thanks to Peter and Kathy Swanson, Honduras Hope board members who organized the week, and to Soluz who partnered with them to sponsor this event.

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

Setting Goals for a Better Future

The Girls Empowerment Program finished the end of the school year with a gala celebration featuring food, music and a unique fashion show showcasing self-designed fashions made with recycled materials. At a roof-top setting, the girls dressed in the clothing of their hoped-for future occupations, explaining why they aspire to work in each of these fields. The director of the program, Karen Urbina, explained that by envisioning productive lives, the girls are setting goals for themselves that break with the gender restricted norms of their community. As you can see, there will be many doctors, nurses, nutritionists and teachers ready to serve their community. Honduras Hope, with your help, will continue to support them on their journey.



Future Graduates

The Honduras Hope Nutrition Program provides a hot meal three times a week to 100 preschoolers in Plan Grande and San José. To learn well children need to eat well. Honduras Hope is working to build strong bodies and minds!



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Successful Fundraiser at Walter's Basin

After a very productive work trip to Honduras in April 2019 a group of Honduras Hope board members and volunteers from central New Hampshire decided to organize a fundraiser at Walter's Basin in Holderness, NH where Christian Mosquera (who went on the work trip) is a bartender. With the owner's blessing, help, donated space, food and staff time, board members set to work to collect donated raffle items, line up musicians, and invite friends, family, and the local community. The response was AMAZING! Businesses were extremely generous with auction item donations, guests enjoyed the donated food and beer, and Honduras Hope board members Alex Ray and Peter Lovett led a lively live auction. Guests also purchased playing cards for a chance to win their choice of an array of items from overnight stays to locally made arts and crafts. Many in attendance also ordered pine needle baskets from the Plan Grande women's La Canasta group. The fundraiser exceeded expectations, raising over \$8000 for Honduras Hope programs. Many thanks to Christian, Gary, Liz and staff at Walter's Basin, and to the many businesses and artists who made the event such a resounding success.

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!



An enthusiastic crowd enjoys the music & food

**Muchas Gracias
a Todos!**



Auctioneers Peter Lovett, Alex Ray & Lisa Mure