



PO Box 60 • Franconia NH 03580

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



A Day of Celebration

On the November trip the Girls Empowerment Program celebrated the end of the academic year with a visit to the Honduras Hope sponsored Beauty School (Escuela de Belleza). Nine girls spent the morning having their hair shampooed and cut. The student-stylists and Suyapa, their teacher, graciously welcomed the girls and spent hours combing, drying and styling their hair. For these lucky teens, their first visit to a hair salon was a joyous adventure!

Your donation of \$100 will help provide supplies and equipment for the Beauty School.



Girls Empowerment end-of-year celebration at the HH Beauty School

Honduras Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization working to create stronger, more resilient, and self-sufficient communities in rural Honduras. We work with the very poor through long-term partnerships that empower and enable possibility and self-sufficiency. Currently our focus is on Plan Grande, a Tolupan Indian reservation, and San José, a remote mountain community.

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

Fall / Winter Newsletter 2017



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HOPE FOR A NEW TOMORROW

Honduras Hope brings HOPE through providing Healthcare and creating the Opportunity for Progress through Education.

EACH YEAR WE PROVIDE:

- ♦ funds for full-time nurse who serves seven remote villages in the HH Health Clinic in San José
♦ medicine and other supplies for the Health Clinic in San José
♦ 13,000 nutritious meals to needy preschool children in Plan Grande and San José
♦ funds for a full-time kindergarten teacher for Plan Grande
♦ 100 scholarships for students to attend high school and university
♦ school uniforms, shoes, backpacks, books and school supplies for over 50 students from Plan Grande
♦ free room and board at the HH Boarding House for 24 teens from San José so they can attend high school in Yoro
♦ access to clean drinking water in Plan Grande & San José through our EcoFiltros and rain barrel programs
♦ funds for the leaders and program costs for our Girls Empowerment Program in Plan Grande
♦ support for the Women's Cooperative in Plan Grande
♦ funds for the teacher and supplies for the Beauty School at the CEVER Vocational School



For seventeen years Honduras Hope has nurtured countless youths as their childhood dreams of becoming teachers, nurses, bank tellers and even doctors become a reality.

Thank you for your faithful financial support which allows Honduras Hope to continue the important work of supporting and empowering rural Hondurans so their HOPE FOR A NEW TOMORROW can become a reality.

San José de Machigua ~ A Village in the Clouds



The view toward Yoro from San Jose

San José is an isolated mountain village reached by a 3 1/2 hour hike uphill from the city of Yoro. This community of 650 people is extremely poor. There is no electricity, water comes from a spring which is drying up, and schooling is available only through the 6th grade in the two room school building. Honduras Hope built a health clinic and funds a full-time nurse who serves San José and seven surrounding villages. For the last several years, an average of 24 teens from San José live

at the Honduras Hope Boarding House in Yoro so they can attend High School. Water projects plus an extensive nutritional program that provides meals to 30+ preschool children three times a week round out our programs in San José.

Tonita Flores ~ Segunda Mamá

Honduras Hope is blessed to have Tonita Flores as the Boarding House (BH) mom for our students from San José. 24 young teens live at the HH Boarding House in the city of Yoro so that they can attend secondary school. In their mountainous village, a 3½ hour hike from Yoro, there is only a primary school. Without HH these motivated students would not have the opportunity to continue their education beyond the 6th grade.



As a young woman, Tonita worked at a missionary orphanage in San Lorenzo, a province in southern Honduras. For several years she taught and cared for the children, and when the American founder of the missionary left the country for security reasons, she was named director.

Tonita believes that in life we are each given opportunities and challenges that we need to accept as best we can according to our own strengths. Her challenges are the 24 students that she has cared for each year for the last 17 years. She has been their “segunda mamá” (second mom), caring for them, helping them succeed in school and teaching them how to survive outside of their remote village. Each year, when the new students arrive, the first lesson is how to use a flush toilet.

She maintains a strict schedule, with each child responsible for daily tasks that rotate weekly. The students are taught how to cook, use the washing machine, iron clothes, clean house, maintain the gardens, and cut firewood for the stove.

What is her motivation for staying for 17 years? She readily admits that it has provided her a good life. But it is her love of humanity, her desire to serve others and the bonds she forms with the students that fill her life with happiness. She looks forward every year to her birthday when ‘her’ kids greet her with a chorus of “Las Mañanitas”, the Spanish equivalent of Happy Birthday. And she looks forward to the many former students who come back to visit her “casa de amor” (home of love).

Your donation of \$675 will provide room and board for one student for a full school year.



Tonita (2nd from right) with BH students

Square-Foot Gardening

Students at the Boarding House have accomplished so much as they continue to learn about, build, develop and maintain the organic gardens. They are hard workers, cooperative, and very enthusiastic about their square-foot gardens (SFG). On the November trip HH Board member Peter Swanson assisted the students as they prepared the gardens for a January planting.

They have made a huge pile of compost. Each SFG has been reconfigured to withstand the harsh dry heat of summer in Yoro. Charcoal has been worked in to the soil. The charcoal will help the soil absorb water, make it softer for better root development and provide a carbon source. Suyapa, our BH assistant, has already started saving additional pieces of charcoal from the wood fired stove.



Preparing the SFGs for planting

Wood rots so fast here that using it for the raised beds doesn't work well, so the students recently replaced the wood with cement blocks. The SFGs have been reconfigured into three by three foot squares. (Believe it or not, in this metric country, construction is measured in feet.) A new watering system will be installed to get the water deeper in the ground and reduce the evaporation that takes place in the summer.

As the students continue to work with their HH mentors they understand that they will be expected to teach others these organic techniques. During the upcoming two month vacation period, five San José students will use photo journalism to document the process of building SFGs in their mountain village. In January each of these students will present their work to HH members and local educators.

Your donation of \$25 will fund the building of one square-foot garden at the BH or in San José.



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Building Strength & Resiliency

When HH Board members travel to Honduras they have such a busy agenda that it is a rare opportunity to be able to sit and relax with the Boarding House students. On their November trip Kathy and Peter Swanson along with Jane O'Brien found the time to do just that. As they sat on the Boarding House porch the students reminisced about their first experiences in the city and their transition from their rural village of San José to city life in Yoro.



Boarding House dorm room

Their hearts went out to Anibal when he told them that on his first day of school he didn't see one person that he knew the entire day and he lacked the confidence to interact with any of the other students. Rosita recalled that she didn't know anybody, and was so scared that she cried. She couldn't find her classroom until Daisy, an older girl from the BH, came to her rescue and led her to class. Ilkia talked about the variety of things to do, which was so different from what she was used to in San José. She learned quickly how to use the computer. Suyapa cried a lot when she left her family but was excited to be able to realize her dream of continuing her studies. One student had never seen a car or tasted ice cream before she arrived at the Boarding House!

Their isolated village of San José is high in the mountains. Their primary school is a two-room building with no electricity and an outhouse. They cook on wood stoves and get their water from a spring. Their transition to a 1,000 student high school frightened, thrilled, and challenged them. They were glad to come home to the BH every evening where they found love and support.

Change can be hard, and transitions difficult, but these resilient students are finding success and building a brighter future for themselves. To know that it is through the efforts of Honduras Hope that all of this is possible made for a very meaningful evening on the porch.

Your donation of \$250 will cover annual maintenance and upgrades for the Boarding House.



BH students enjoying the evening on the porch

In My Own Words...



Samantha Chon-Briggs

“This past week I was privileged with the opportunity to travel to Yoro, Honduras with my grandfather William Briggs to see the wonderful impact that Honduras Hope has on the community. It was extremely evident what a difference the programs are making in the lives of many children and families.

“I got to have my hair and make-up done at the HH Salon de Belleza at CEVER and it was heartwarming to see how passionate not only Suyapa was but her students as well.

“On the topic of education, the number of scholarships that were being awarded was impressive. The students' lives that are being changed because of Honduras Hope made me so proud of my grandpa and all the work the organization is doing.

“One of the students who is studying journalism invited HH participants on the local TV channel for a segment to share how they have personally been affected by Honduras Hope. As each one of the testimonies were shared it continued to overwhelm me how life changing many of these programs have been for these people.

“There were many times throughout the week I wish I could've given the clothes off of my own back to some of the kids or money for their homes, yet their smiles and continued happiness never ceased to amaze me. To think that an organization based out of New Hampshire is reaching the lives of this many is definitely something to be proud of. I will forever be thankful for this opportunity to meet these people. I express my sincerest gratitude to you all as an organization for the hard work you have put forth, you all should be extremely proud of the difference you are making. Keep up the good work!”

Excerpts taken from a longer piece written by Samantha Chon-Briggs following her August 2017 trip to Honduras.

SERVICE TRIPS

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We travel to Honduras four times a year.

For more information, contact Bill Briggs

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