

CASA DE ESPERANZA MINISTRIES



September 2022 Newsletter

NEW BEGINNINGS | NUEVOS COMIENZOS

As summer draws to a close here in Michigan, we recognize that the start of autumn symbolizes both endings and new beginnings! As students return to school both in Honduras and the US, and the temperatures begin to cool off here, we reflect on the gift of seasons.

When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit, our board of directors was unsure of what the future of Casa de Esperanza would hold. **Isaiah 43:19 says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."**

We trusted God to make a way in the wilderness, even when it felt that we might never be able to travel internationally with a group or continue with our ministry as we had been.

In this newsletter, we will share several stories of new beginnings, and some that are still ready to begin. We thank you for your support and we hope that you'll join us in prayer that God will do a new thing and spring forth blessings through Casa de Esperanza!



Kyle's first day in kindergarten at the bilingual school Los Pinares



Checking in patients at one of our final dental clinics in 2020.

ENDINGS & NEW BEGINNINGS

By Bill De Witt

As our group packed up the Dental Equipment on our last day in March 2020 in the remote village of Loma Larga, Honduras, I had no idea that this was the last time I would be doing this. For me, this was the 105th time I had done this. It was another great week of providing health care (Dental, Optical, and Medical) to the Honduran people. On our way home in the Atlanta airport, more than half of the passengers were wearing masks. The World changed and we realized that the way that we ran our dental clinics in Honduras could not... *(continued on the next page)*

...be done again. There is just no way that we could screen everyone, make sure they were vaccinated, maintain distance, etc. For those of you who have been a part of the clinics, you will easily understand.

After meeting with several dentists who had traveled with us, we all came to the same conclusion. It was time to quit while we were ahead. We had treated over 9,000 patients and had no complications. That in itself is a miracle!

The mobile dental equipment that we purchased in 2003 was donated to a clinic in La Ceiba, Honduras. The clinic is run by a family of dentists (husband, wife, and two children) who regularly train dental students. They were overjoyed to have another complete setup of mobile equipment for their ministry!

A special thank you to the dentists who worked with us in the clinics over the years: Dr. Rob Kamminga, Dr. Randy Moeller, Dr. Matthew Moeller, Dr. Dan Bowen, Dr. David Curtis and Honduran dentist Dr Zoraida Ramos Campos. And thanks to our optical team Corbin Kingsbury and Case Vanderleest, who helped many in Honduras see things more clearly!

We are extremely proud of the work our dentists and volunteers have completed over the years, and more than anything we pray that the people we encountered in the clinics were able to experience God's love in a very tangible way as we gladly handed out over 8,800 New Testaments in Spanish to patients as they left the clinic.



Thank you to all of our faithful dental clinic volunteers!



The familiar sight of a truck all packed up to go to a mobile dental clinic.



ABUELO DAVE'S TALLER: GRANDPA DAVE'S WORKSHOP

Casa de Esperanza officially dedicated its wood and metal workshop to the memory of long-time supporter, David Geerligns. Affectionately known as "Abuelo Dave" to all of Casa's kids in Honduras, Dave loved woodworking and traveled to Honduras six times, each time spending the week using his carpentry skills. His last trip was in October 2012, after which he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Our new instructor in the carpentry shop is Luis Castillo, who brings many years of experience in wood and metal work. Along with having his own fabrication shop, he has been an instructor for INFOP in Honduras. He started out by making an inventory of our tools and organizing them. *(continued on the next page)*

He then assessed each boy's skill levels and started classes with fundamental skills acquisition such as tool identification and safety, measurement methods, and beginning soldering.

Grandpa Dave was a safety engineer and he would be happy to know safety is number one in the workshop. The boys were given safety goggles, work boots, and long-sleeved work shirts before classes began. The boys sign in to each class and are expected to be ready 10 minutes before classes begin. They are divided into 2 groups and are often in competition with each other in the quality and completion of the project,

The first big project planned is the construction of a tool storage shed using metal and wood construction.

Please keep the boys and our instructor, Luis, in your prayers as they work in the shop.



OUR LATEST INVESTMENT: A NEW VEHICLE

As a result of our Coast Guard Food Sales, we were able to secure the purchase of a 2004 Toyota Tundra for our boy's home. They were in desperate need of a new mode of transportation and buying a reliable vehicle in Honduras is no easy task. But with the help of our Honduran lawyer, we were able to determine that this was the best option. We got new ball joints, tires, and safety bars for the back. Thanks to our special donors who made this happen!



Amy and her sister Eliana

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Please pray for all of Casa de Esperanza's students as they return to classes!

"I am very happy about going back to school and I am a little nervous at the same time. I will no longer have technological problems because I will be in face-to-face classes and I will meet the new teachers who I hope will not be very strict. I am also very happy because I will be able to see my friends again. I really enjoyed buying the uniforms this time because before, it was virtual." -Amy Mathus, Grade 7



CASA'S NEW LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IN HONDURAS

Casa is pleased to announce we have appointed Guadalupe Silohé Amaya Puerto as our co-legal representative in Honduras. We have known Guadalupe since 1999, when Dr. Bill and Lori DeWitt became her sponsors at a children's home in Comayagua. She has been employed by Casa in this position since January of 2022.

Guadalupe graduated from UNITEC University in Honduras, majoring in educational psychology. She also has grown up assisting Casa's dental brigades and helping Lori cook for volunteer teams.

She has been doing an incredible job so far—organizing all our papers, making sure all our boys are on the right academic track, and so much more. We are thrilled she is on our team!

Guadalupe Silohé Amaya Puerto



COAST GUARD FUNDRAISING

A big thank you all of our amazing volunteers and customers during the Coast Guard events!

During our Friday and Saturday food sales this year, the tent was worked primarily by Honduran students. We welcomed Eduardo from Calvin University, Allan who recently graduated from Cornerstone University, Jey who is a high school student at Calvary Christian, and Rolando and Jennifer who will be attending Grace University in Indiana.

It was great to see these students working alongside our other volunteers and board members. We are always very thankful to have hard-working helpers and generous supporters. Your actions have a great impact in Honduras!



PRAYER REQUEST CORNER

- The three boys in our Comayagua education project; Abner, Eduardo, and Hector, are in the process of taking entrance exams to the universities.
- Nahomy Gomez, who is a student at El Alba Bilingual School in Siguatepeque. She is in her senior year and is in the decision-making process of what career and university is right for her.
- That funds become available to purchase a home in Tegucigalpa for our university students. This would pay for itself in a period of 5-7 years and be a way for Casa to continue to exist in Honduras for years to come.
- Our new co-legal representative, Guadalupe Silohe Amaya Puerto, as she learns about non-profit leadership in Honduras. Pray for her safety as she does a lot of traveling.
- Our fundraising efforts this autumn. We are planning a Honduran food celebration dinner for our supporters and Honduran students who are studying at local midwest universities.
- Prayers for all the students from Honduras who are enrolled at Calvin University, Hope College, Cornerstone University and Grace College, as they resume classes this fall.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Ana Canales is in her third year of medical school in Tegucigalpa, at UNAH (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras). She has started clinical practice, at the local health centers and is learning to take vital signs, give injections, start IVs, and suture. In her limited free time, Ana enjoys reading and trying new recipes.



Uziel Melendez is studying marketing at UTH (Universidad Tecnológica de Honduras) in Siguatepeque. Uziel is finishing up his first year. In his free time, he enjoys playing the drums with the musical group from his church and playing soccer with his friends.



Jonathan Gomez is in his fourth year at UNICAH (Universidad Católica de Honduras) in Siguatepeque. He is studying systems engineering. In his free time, he enjoys playing the bass guitar in the church's musical group.



Joel David Moreno is from La Union, Lempira, Honduras and is the younger brother of Yessi Moreno, who attends Hope College. Joel is very intelligent and loves math. He is intensely studying for the entrance exam to UNAH (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras) where he hopes to study finance in Tegucigalpa.



Cristian Barrientos is in his third year of medical school in Tegucigalpa, at UNICAH (Universidad Católica de Honduras). He has started clinical practice in local health centers, learning about vital signs, common diseases found in Honduras, suturing and starting IVs.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND DREAMS...

With the discontinuation of our dental clinics and the outstanding success of our educational programs, the board of directors of Casa de Esperanza has been discussing the purchase of a home for students in Honduras' capital city, Tegucigalpa. Many of our students' monthly budgets consist largely of rental costs, and if we were able to provide a space for them to live while attending classes, we would be able to help more students achieve the goal of continuing their education.

Our hope is that this will provide a sustainable plan and a firm foundation for Casa de Esperanza to thrive in the future. We realize it will take a little time to get enough money but we are starting the fund for it now.

In working with Guadalupe as our legal representative, our communication with students has improved, and we see this as an opportunity to grow those relationships and meet an essential need for our students.



NEW SHOES: THANK YOU, FIT BODY BOOT CAMPS!

A special thank you to Fit Body Boot Camps- Grand Haven and Grand Rapids branches, under the leadership of Matt Wilber. They held an athletic shoe drive for our boys in Comayagua. The boys loved them and were very appreciative! ¡Muchas Gracias!

Sustain Our Mission: our needs are ongoing in Honduras. We have the opportunity to support even more students and our board has developed a scholarship application system to ensure that the students selected understand the privilege of continuing their education. We also require regular communication from our students in order to make sure that they are receiving the physical, emotional, and spiritual support they need.

If you'd like to make financial gift to Casa de Esperanza, please complete the form below or give online at casaofohope.com/donate. Thank you!



Make a Gift to Casa de Esperanza!

STEP ONE:

Choose your Gift

One Time Gift
\$ _____

OR

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Charged to my credit card via
paypal each month.
\$ _____

STEP TWO:

Choose your Fund

I'd like to support...
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Choose your Payment Method

Check/Cash Enclosed
 I pledge to give online at casaofohope.com/donate

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