

CASA DE ESPERANZA MINISTRIES

Summer 2024 Newsletter



MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH | AVANZANDO EN LA FE

Psalm 143:8

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you, I entrust my life."

Dear Friends and Supporters of Casa de Esperanza,

Lori and I have had many people approach us recently regarding the continuing involvement of Casa de Esperanza in Honduras, basically in relation to our age and energy levels. As we have talked about it, both personally and as a Board of Directors, it is a very complicated topic.

Casa de Esperanza has a history of leading many successful programs and we currently have multiple students working hard and ready for the next step in their lives. However, we recognize that planning for the future is certainly a wise venture at this time.



I recently had some time by myself in Honduras to assess each program that we support, with the goal of defining what role we are playing and if the programs we are supporting are currently successful and cost-effective. I was able to have many discussions (with the help of interpreters!) with the key people in our ministries. This was a trip that we owed to you, our supporters, as you have trusted us in the wise use of your gifts. Since the onset of our ministry, transparency and stewardship have been very important to us.

Proving this trust has been easy for us, as many of you have traveled with us on a group trip to Honduras and witnessed first hand our involvement in people's lives. Many of you have:

- Experienced a winding drive up a rutted mountain road and rapidly staffed a dental clinic (and packed up quickly if we found out that rain was coming)!
- Worked as a team to quickly learn your tasks in serving people with different dental and medical needs.
- Worked at an energy level that you didn't think you had, on a construction project that you knew would make a difference in people's lives - a school, church, house, etc.
- Made new friends and worshipped with them in a different style than you were used to.
- Loved and supported people of a culture different than your own.



(Continued on the next page)

"FORWARD IN FAITH" CONTINUED...

Our group trips connect closely with the Honduran culture and have proven to be invaluable to both group members from the United States and also the people that we came to serve.

I asked our ministry leaders in Honduras a lot of questions:

- What are your success stories?
- What is not working so well?
- What action steps would we need to take to improve this program?
- Can I still present the scenario that the money entrusted to you from our donors is being spent wisely?

Once I had the answers to these questions, I could easily make an assessment for the Board of Casa de Esperanza. As a result of these conversations, some of the programs we support are being altered. Still, I can report with much surety that wonderful things are happening in Honduras because of your support.

I hope that you enjoy reading our success stories in this newsletter. We know that our ministry does not prosper without many hands and feet involved. We have truly enjoyed working with you, our donors, in holding hands and walking with you along the way. Your prayers, with God's guidance, have moved our hands and feet to where we are at today.

If you have a huge heart for any of our programs, or wish to talk to us about leaving a legacy donation to sustain a project for a specific time frame, please contact us to see how that can easily be done.

We are asking God to show us the way to go, and we're moving forward in faith.

Dr. Bill DeWitt DDS



CASA DE ESPERANZA FAQ

Q: What are your monthly expenditures?

A: We have a set monthly budget that covers our basic expenditures. The breakdown is:

\$2500/month Comayagua Boy's Project

\$1000/month University Students

\$1600/month Honduran Employee Salaries

\$350/month Bilingual School Tuition

Total: **\$5450/month**

Every month we are presented with requests for funds. If it is determined to be a valid and urgent request, Lori often sends out emails for pop-up fundraisers to cover these expenses. These requests could vary from the need for a laptop computer, a medical bill, car repair, etc. They are unbudgeted needs that often we do not have funds for. Thank you for your purchases in this area, as not only did you get some good food, but you also helped out with an urgent situation. We also have several large expenditures each year, such as school start-up costs, vehicle insurance and registration, professional fees, etc. There is rarely a month where we have extra money that we do not know what to do with!

“CASA FAQ” CONTINUED...

Q: How are your funds generated?

A: By a LOT of hard work! Many of you have helped with catering events, the Coast Guard Festival, etc. We also send out newsletters and have some awesome churches that have placed us on their mission budget. If you have a suggestion for a fundraiser for us, or a church, person, or organization that like to see their donations make a huge difference, please let us know.

Q: How much of my donation actually ends up in Honduras?

A: We have calculated this number multiple times and we can proudly say that 97% of donated funds always end up in Honduras. The remaining 3% are for expenditures like office supplies, accounting fees, etc. Our Board Members serve on a volunteer basis.

Q: After Casa de Esperanza has supported a student, what professions are they in?

A: Electricians, Social Workers, Psychologists, Sales, Airplane Mechanic, Welders, Carpenters, Computer Systems Engineers, and Nurses – a wide variety of respected professions!

Q: What is the success rate for your programs?

A: Our success rate is based on the graduation percentage of our students, which is 83%. This is an outstanding number, as many students come to us with poor schooling backgrounds and family situations. Once a student graduates and gets a job, they can assist their family, and the family income can triple. For example, when one of our students started our program, his family home had branches for the walls and ceiling with blue plastic between them. Now, the walls are concrete and the roof is corrugated metal.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: NANCY NAGTZAAM

Casa de Esperanza would like to publicly acknowledge Nancy Nagtzaam's volunteer efforts. Nancy has been active with Casa for over 18 years, serving as a founding Board Member and Dental Clinic Organizer and Lead Hygienist. She has been active in fundraising, with avid encouragement for the projects that we support. When the Comayagua Boys Project was under consideration, our accounts were at a minimum.

Nancy was behind this project 100%, and both pledged the start-up costs for this program and offered to help with fundraising activities to raise the monthly payment that was needed. Over the years, Nancy traveled over 20 times to Honduras. Because of Nancy's encouragement, many lives have been changed!!! **Nancy—we salute you!!!**



Q AND A WITH ADA AND CHEMA ALCERRO (DIRECTORS OF THE BOYS HOME) AND LUIS CASTILLO (WOOD AND METAL SHOP DIRECTOR)

Q: What do you like about your job?

A: Luis Castillo—the eagerness shown by the boys to learn. It's like a math problem where steps are planned out to get to the correct solution. What we do in the shop is even better as the boys are producing good results that they are proud of. I am also encouraged by the boys when I witness the teamwork and fun that they have when we work on a project.

A: Ada and Chema Alcerro—we enjoy motivating the boys in schoolwork, broadening their faith, and having them feel loved in a family situation. We like to treat the boys as equals to us. We are always proud of their accomplishments, especially when, after they graduate, they start to support their families.

Q: What are your dislikes? What challenges do you face?

A: Luis Castillo—cell phones and television get in the way of learning. Sometimes the boys need help planning their schedules as they are so busy.

A: Ada and Chema Alcerro—It is difficult to acclimate a new boy to our program. Once they are adapted to the routine, things go very well.

Q: What are your goals for the upcoming year?

A: Luis Castillo—we strive to produce professional-looking and functional items that can be sold. The boys can be proud of their accomplishments and also receive money from the sale. Safety with the power tools is always a must and the boys wear appropriate goggles and use the tools wisely.

A: Ada and Chema Alcerro—we would like to see the boys take more leadership roles in their groups at the church. We continue to work with them on life principles and we encourage the older boys to be good mentors for the younger ones.



RECENT FUNDRAISERS

Casa de Esperanza works hard to provide excellent products to sell at below-regular market prices. Many of you have helped us by purchasing these products and have also entrusted us with further donations. The many who have traveled with us to Honduras can vouch that your money has been used wisely!



CONGRATULATIONS, JONATHON!

Congratulations are in order for Ken Jonathon Gomez Barrientos!

Jonathon is the son of Julio and Ingrid Gomez, who have worked with Casa de Esperanza for many years. Jonathon just successfully presented his thesis to his professors, at UNICAH, a University in Siguatepeque. His degree is in Computer Systems Engineering and he plans on pursuing a job in this field, with a possible Master's Program in his future.

Jonathon is a wonderful bass guitar player and plays in the Praise Band of his church, along with being supportive of other church activities.

We are excited about Jonathon's future and look forward to ways that he can now help the people of Honduras.



PRAYER REQUEST CORNER

- Pray for our university & high school students
- Pray for graduate Nahomy Gomez as she pursues the possibility of higher education at Hope College.
- Pray for high school students Amy and Jey, that God would guide their steps.
- Pray for our co-legal representative, Guadalupe Silohe Amaya Puerto.
- Pray for the boys in our boys' home, for Ada and Chema as they lead them in devotions, and for Luis as he teaches them welding and woodworking skills.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING CASA DE ESPERANZA EVENTS!

COAST GUARD BBQ STREET DANCE DINNER: **TUESDAY, JULY 30**

COAST GUARD FOOD BOOTH FUNDRAISER: **FRIDAY-SATURDAY, AUGUST 2-3**

Sustain Our Mission: as mentioned, 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.



Legacy Giving: A legacy gift to Casa de Esperanza provides enduring support for our mission, helping disadvantaged youth in Honduras through education, healthcare, and community services. By including Casa de Esperanza in your estate planning, you ensure that future generations will benefit from vital scholarship programs. Legacy gifts create lasting change, enabling us to nurture and empower more young people who can then give back to their communities. Your gift leaves a meaningful, lasting impact, fostering hope and opportunities for countless lives.



Make a Gift to Casa de Esperanza!

STEP ONE:

Choose your Gift

One Time Gift ☐

\$ _____

OR

Monthly Gift ☐

Charged to my credit card via
paypal each month.

\$ _____

STEP TWO:

Choose your Fund

I'd like to support...

- ☐ Educational Programs
- ☐ Casa General Fund

STEP THREE:

Choose your Payment Method

- ☐ Check/Cash Enclosed
- ☐ I pledge to give online at casaofhope.com/donate
- ☐ **Please contact me about a legacy donation**

STEP FOUR:

Contact Info

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____