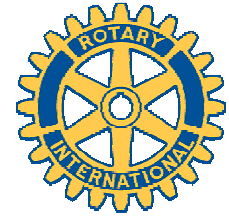




H.E.L.P. HONDURAS
Health, Education & Literacy Program, Honduras



School is free in the public school system in Honduras, but you can't attend if you don't have a uniform and shoes. You also have to supply your own books, book bag, pencils workbooks, paper and school supplies. If you were a single mom eking out a bare living selling vegetables in the public markets, you couldn't afford to send your 3 to 8 children to school, so they didn't go. They wound up selling in the markets, or worse yet, selling drugs, joining gangs or engaging in prostitution. After a 3H Grant which funded a study of the problem, Tegucigalpa Rotarian Dr. Don Kaminsky, started the Tegucigalpa Market Children Program, which now has about 2,000 children in school.

HELP Honduras, which is a program that attempts to improve Literacy and Education in Honduras, raises funds by obtaining sponsors for the children, \$100 for Primary and \$250 for Secondary Students, as well as obtaining Grants from The Rotary Foundation and CRCID.

The primary focus in the next 3 years, will be to enable children of the working poor to attend primary and secondary school. HELP Honduras is an expansion of the successful Tegucigalpa Market Children Program, which has been increased in scope in the original community, the Public Markets of Tegucigalpa, and extended to three other communities, the area around the Tegucigalpa Municipal Dump, plus the cities of Danli and Santa Barbara. With increased funding, the program could be extended to other locations.

HELP HONDURAS provides funds to buy uniforms, shoes, books and school supplies, but in addition also provides funds to pay for counseling, monitoring, and tutoring, to increase the success rate of the students. A health component rounds out the program. In Tegucigalpa, the operating Rotary NGO, Alternativas Y Oportunidades, (AYO), also provides primary health care, utilizing a daily clinic at the office of AYO where a doctor and nurse are available 5 days a week, every morning. The clinic looks after immunizations, PAP Tests, and other services that are not easily available to the children and parents.



These Children were sponsored by The Rotary Club of Lindsay Ontario, as part of a Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation. Every year, Rotarians go to Honduras to take pictures of the sponsored children, and then send certificates to the sponsors, with the photos of “their kids”.

The Educators employed by AYO to monitor, counsel and arrange tutoring of the students, also put on preventive health programs, covering subjects such as hygiene, dental care, proper diet, anti substance abuse, AIDES and STD awareness. Parents attend parenting classes, as part of their commitment to the program.

Most of the children are from Single Parent Families, and 90% of those single parents are mothers. The literacy rate among those parents is very low and basic literacy and numeracy classes are provided as well.

The Tegucigalpa Market Children and Dump Children programs have been providing the health component for some time, but Danli and Santa Barbara, as new programs, have not. Availability of funding will determine the addition of this component, in those locations.

A secondary focus is to provide School Desks. These are built by local shops in Tegucigalpa, providing badly needed employment, and distributed in accordance with the schedule and priorities set by The Ministry of Education. Only about 65% of children in the public school system have desks. The Ministry of Education concentrates their inadequate funding on building schools and paying teacher’s salaries.



These girls will learn more efficiently working at a desk.

Funding for the complete three year program, in \$US from both the US (17.3%) and Canada (83.7%) is expected to come from a variety of sources. This includes:

1) Rotary Clubs	\$358,622
2) District DDF	\$255,642
3) The Rotary Foundation	\$343,581
4) Individual Sponsorships of Students	\$321,000
5) CRCID	\$276,000
 TOTAL	 \$1,554,935

Not all of this funding is committed yet, but the Rotarians working on this program are committed to raising it.

The individual sponsorship of students is the most reliable source of funds. Rotarians are very dependable and the rules are simple. Some sponsors have been supporting “their children” for 9 years.

Canadians can donate to the Tegucigalpa Market Children on line. Go to www.canadahelps.org. Where it says “I want to Give” type in Rotary Club of Squamish Foundation, click “GO”, then under “Donate Now” fill in the amount and under Fund Designation, select #8, Tegucigalpa Market Children. Under Message instructions fill in the name of your child, or what kind you would like to sponsor, male, female, age grade etc. A tax receipt will be sent, by email, within 24 hours.

Primary Children K-6 are \$100CAN, Secondary 7-12 are \$250CAN.

OR contact Elaine Ross at ross@telus.net for instructions, and send a cheque.

US Rotarians should contact DGE Sandra Wade dutchtreat1@comcast.net

Other questions contact PDG Ron Ross ross@empac.ca

