

## Donors Stay Committed to Children Child Sponsorship Program Flourishes



By David Cain

Despite a difficult economic situation, both in Canada and Honduras, children supported through the FoHC Child Sponsorship Program are thriving. This is thanks to unwavering support from generous donors here in Canada.

For example, Honduran food costs have risen 31% in the past year. Honduran minimum wage requirements, which are an important right

for the poor, have doubled, causing an unplanned stress on funds. The current Canadian dollar exchange also means less buying power.

Despite the challenges, with your support we have managed to make great strides in the last year. We now have a full time nurse and a psychologist working with the children. Two new orphanages provide homes for 24 new children, putting us on track to house 125 children at Nuevo Paraiso village by December 2009. And new facilities (some built with the help of Brigade volunteers) include a community centre, a computer lab, and a library.



*The Children of Agape House, our newest home.*

“One of our focuses in 2009 is to build a program to prepare the children for life after Sociedad,” says David Cain. “This will help the children transition to the working world, and living on their own.” Our Child Sponsorship donors are making an enormous difference every day in the lives of their sponsored children.

### Six Families to Receive new Homes after Tropical Depression

*Generous Donors Contribute More Than \$25 000*

This past October a tropical depression in Honduras resulted in many families losing what little they had. Thanks to your help six families will now have a safe place to live.

Landslides and flooding affected an estimated 320, 000 people. Houses collapsed with people getting out with nothing more than their children. There was also a tremendous amount of damage done to crops, causing food and financial hardships to the country.

Your response to the emergency appeal will let us build prefabricated homes, which will house

the six families. Gregg Gordon Architect has been working with Sociedad Amigos de los Niños in Honduras on the designs for these new homes.

With our team of Hondurans and one Canadian builder, these homes will be assembled this spring, and the families will move in shortly after. Thanks to our donors these families will have a safe place to live, and will be able to rebuild their lives after this tragedy last October.

Stay tuned for information on the families and how they are adapting to their new homes in our next newsletter.



Many Homes were destroyed as a result of the heavy rains



This is what the finished duplexes will look like

# Fair Trade Coffee Supports Education

By Bonnie Roe

A new partnership has been percolating behind the scenes in Peterborough, allowing coffee hounds to support students in Honduras. Thanks to the efforts of the Education Committee and Johanna Sinclair, the owner of Dreams of Beans, more than 850 lbs of fair trade coffee – Café los Amigos – has been roasted specifically for the Scholarship Fund!

Launched last November at Dreams of Beans, during a Volunteer Appreciation Coffee Tasting, the coffee has been remarkably successful. Johanna states that “our café has been buzzing with the many sales of your Honduran coffee since last November. I am amazed at the total sales since we began this venture.”

This high quality, fair trade coffee

has opened opportunities for other partnerships, too. Common Grounds of Lindsay is carrying the dark roast blend of Café los Amigos. The company Mod Space has committed to purchasing Café los Amigos as its staff coffee, so far providing five students with scholarships!

Thank you to all who have bought Café los Amigos so far, and to the dedicated volunteers who have made it possible.

*“I am amazed at the total sales since we began this venture”*

*- Johanna Sinclair, owner of Dreams of Beans.*



Thanks to Dreams of Beans for providing this high quality, fair trade coffee, Café los Amigos. Supporters such as Common Grounds in Lindsay and Mod Space have helped raise the number of scholarships to 15. You can support education for needy students just by buying our coffee!



## Building Brigades

Chicken and rice! This special dinner was the food of choice at the children’s home this past fall, when the workers from Grace Partnership In Faith (Peterborough) had the opportunity to dine in small groups with the children in their homes. Being in the smaller groups gave the Canadians a chance to see life for the children as they had not had a chance before. For example, Debbie March noted, “there are so many boys that they can’t eat at the same time; they have to eat in shifts.”

## Chicken and Rice Dinners for Grace Workers and Children

The dedicated Grace workers were in Honduras to finish up their second children’s home. Once the building was done, they painted it, fully furnished it and helped to bring in the children who were on the social workers’ waiting list. Debbie spoke about the special moment when Pedro arrived, a boy whose brother was already at the project in a home. Like many children who live in the homes, Pedro is not fully orphaned, but his mother is unable to currently look after him and his brother. Knowing that her children are being well cared for the home, she can focus on working and increasing her

education to provide a better future for her children. She lives nearby, and visits the boys often, and one day will take the boys home with her again.

When Pedro arrived, the Grace workers gave him a new toy and jacket to welcome him to his new home. “He gave all his new presents to his brother immediately.” Debbie says. “All I could think was ‘Wow.’”

*“He gave all his new presents to his brother immediately. Wow!”*

# FoHC Medical Brigade from Lindsay Oct 2008

## *From Emergency to New Initiative in one trip*



By Mary Jaynes

We arrived in Tegucigalpa the day the government declared a state of emergency from the damage of the tropical storm

This was my fourth medical brigade in Honduras. It was truly awesome for me to see first hand how much has been accomplished in only four years. The work of Friends of Honduran Children is really making a difference in so many different ways!

The storm forced us to change our normal planned medical trips, and

so we visited Reyes Irene school for girls for the first time. This school teaches girls who would not have other options for education. They learn many practical skills and can earn their high school diplomas, and they learn their rights as women in the workplace and in society. I truly believe that this project will make the most significant chink in the chain of poverty for the people of Honduras. As these women move on in their lives, they will be able to pass along what they have learned to their children. The women will have a voice and the power of abuse will lose its hold.

Our team was so moved by the girls' motivation and determination, that with the FoHC Board approval, we have started a Reyes Irene committee which will fall under the

Education pillar. Right now there are 400+ girls registered for this school year. Our motto is to keep a girl in every seat. To donate towards this school please contact the office at 749-1900.

*"I truly believe that this will make the most significant chink in the chain of poverty"*

### **What your fundraising dollars purchased through the Lindsay Medical Brigade**

- complete range of medicines
- complete uniforms for seven children from a rural school (who could not attend before since they could not afford uniform)
- rubber boots for all 68 children at Nuevo Paraiso
- paid for all the windows at Nuevo Paraiso to be rescreened in order to prevent malaria.
- surgeries for three children met on Brigade
- a cell phone for the Principal of the school to make it easier to coordinate and plan next brigade visits to schools
- first aid kits and "Where There is No Doctor" to each area visited plus Nuevo Paraiso and Flor Azul.

### **FOHC Medical Brigade: Caldwell/Tracey Team:**

**Jan 23 - Feb 3, 2009**

**19 Team Members:** Physicians, Nurses, Medical Students, Nursing Students, Dentist, Pharmacist, and Support Staff

**Plus:** Choluteca's Regional Health Coordinator, Honduran Interpreters/Logistics Coordinator and police guard

**Where:** Choluteca Region in the southern part of Honduras. Visited remote villages where no medical brigades had been organized before!

Brigade sites were located in community schools, and even one day in a local home

#### **Top Illnesses/Cases**

Teeth Extractions	261
Parasites	74
Pain	58
Respiratory	56
Skin Issues	78
GERD	30
Pregnancy	12

Mass in Abdomen

Epilepsy

Histoplasmosis

Breach Pregnancy

#### **Other Facts**

Longest walk to Brigade site: 5 hours

Oldest Patient: 91

Youngest Patient: 4 weeks

Total Number of Patients seen:

621 Medical Patients

121 Dental Patients

#### **Interesting Cases**

Downs Syndrome

Tibial Torsion

Bladder Prolapse

Mass in Breast



*Our Honduran Interpreters do amazing work. We could not do all that we do without them. Churry, Cato, Tango and Mirelle*

Thank you Child Sponsors for helping to save the life of a child! Due to the challenges outlined on the front page of this newsletter in the child sponsorship article, we have decided to increase our monthly child sponsorship rate to \$35 a month, for new child sponsors. For existing sponsors, you can choose to stay at the original rate, but we would appreciate if you can adopt our new rate of \$35 per month, to allow us to maintain our programs.



### **Thank you!**

We continue to be able to help the children of Honduras thanks to all of your support. A few special mentions:

- Dreams of Beans (for creating and roasting our own special coffee, Café los Amigos)
- Mod Space (for making Café los Amigos its company coffee)
- Catherine Durst (for creating the beautiful mural for FoHC)
- Anonymous Donor (for funding increased hours for the Office Coordinator)
- St. Alphonsus parish in Peterborough and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Chateaugay Quebec (for supporting the Tree of Dreams)
- Brigade members who raised capital funds for our various building and medical brigades
- Special thanks to Dan Durst and Sarah Mack for formatting the newsletter, and to Bruce Stewart of Package Plus for his help with printing the newsletter
- We are grateful to the Peterborough K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation and the Luke Four Foundation for their continued support of our work

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