

Los Techos

SHELTER UPDATES

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Fifty-one children and counting to eighty! With the expansion of the San Pedro shelter, we now have the capacity to handle up to 80 children. The Board of Osman Hope has challenged itself to find twenty more child sponsorships in 2006 to get our shelter population to over seventy.

In San Pedro, we added a classroom which enabled the shelter to convert the dormitory to a dining room. The existing classroom has been transformed into the new dormitory. The staff of San Pedro include an administrator, a teacher, a cook, a teacher's assistant and a cooks assistant. As we add more children we will add additional aides to help with the children.

In Santa Cruz, we have added a teacher to help with the twenty-eight children there. Santa Cruz' shelter has an administrator, a teacher, a cook, a cook's assistant and a night watchman.



Some of the children at the San Pedro shelter enjoy playing with an Aide from the shelter.

Both shelters are doing excellent work with the children. We wish all of you could experience the outpouring of joy that comes from the children.

In January we hope to make a decision on our third shelter. Our two options are a location in El Progreso, which is about forty-five minutes east of San Pedro Sula and Dos Caminos, which is thirty minutes south of San Pedro Sula. With the additional shelter we will have the capacity to handle up to 130 children.

We thank you for all of your support!

Special points of interest:

- **Habitat for Honduras Build Trip—March 2006**
- **Annual Golf Outing—May 2006**
- **Summer or Fall Habitat Build Trip. Check out our website at www.osmanhope.org**



The children from Santa Cruz enjoyed a field trip to a children's museum.

HABITAT BUILD TRIP—SEPTEMBER 2005 BY CYN DY

On September 10, 2005, six people from Michigan, Tennessee and Maryland met in Houston to continue their Global Village Journey as a Team to Honduras. There were 3 first timers and three veterans. Upon arriving in San Pedro Sula, we drove the 2 hours to a village along the Pam Am Highway called Seguatepeque, where we met our future homeowner, Dunia and her 3 sons. (Her husband is working in the US). We then went to our rooms for the week and began our unpacking. Orientation that evening was at a local restaurant called Bongo's.

We started Monday morning bright and early at 7:00 am with a big breakfast and we were off to the build site. Here we met our mason for the week and began building a home and friendships with each other and the local Hondurans. We had many highlights throughout the week. Our mason was so impressed with our skills and knowledge of building block houses that he let Brent lay a line. That trust kept Brent beaming all week. The skies were bright blue and the sun shone every day. We prayed for clouds and rain. But, our prayers went unanswered.

Honduras celebrated their Independence while we were there. The celebration lasted 4 days with parades everyday; talk about traffic jams! On the last day of Independence there was yet another Parade. This was the biggest and best of all. We ended up walking the last mile and a half to our work site.

We also had an opportunity to visit our Shelter in Santa Cruz. We had lunch with the children, took pictures, and we played with them. Our Team Leader read a story to the children. The visit was a great way to show our new team members just what Osman Hope is all about.

Our future homeowner met us each day at the site. She worked between her job and caring for her children. By the end of the week we had finished as much as we could before the roof can go on. We all celebrated with a dedication with much tears and laughter. Dunia was so excited she started planning her flower gardens and couldn't wait until we returned in March to show it off.



Members of the work team are all smiles after a week of hard work and friendship.

MEET MANUEL AND MARIA REDOU DO

Manuel and Maria joined the Santa Cruz shelter in the spring of this year. They come from a family of four children as you can see by the picture. They are the two children on the left. Their father is a day worker, picking up odd jobs to support his family. Their mother left home after the birth of the fourth child, never to be seen again by the family.

As the shelters continue to add more children, the children come from farther and farther away from the shelter. In their case, they walk about one hour each way to attend the shelter. But once there, they are assured two full meals, medical care and educational opportunities. As a part of Osman Hope's growth, we will need to develop funding to purchase and operate two busitos (small buses), one at each shelter, so we can reach out to all of the needy children in the area.





FROM BALDEMAR, SANTA CRUZ

We cannot eradicate hunger, malnutrition or the lack of moral values around the world, but if we can be part of a link of the great worldwide chain, we can make great changes in these areas. All of the institutions of philanthropic character form this great chain and Osman Hope is a link in this chain.

Behind Osman Hope exists a whole team of women and men (Sponsors, Donors, Directors, Administrators, Cooks, Helpers, Guards and Teachers), making this foundation a tool of change that will benefit many poor children that have no hope and an uncertain future.

Osman Hope has impacted our community in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras. To be able to speak of substantial changes in our children, it is necessary to speak about our reality in a concrete form. Poverty in Honduras, like in all the other countries in Central America, have historical roots and structures that affect our economic, political, social, and cultural characteristics that have not benefited the development of the greatest sector, our children. Santa Cruz is not excluded from this context. Therefore our children are immersed in that pit where our offspring languish in an overwhelming misery, drowning their prized right as the people in this world.

A reported statistic from the Social Forum of the External Debt and Development of Honduras, "Save the Children", United Kingdom, 2004, in an exclusive study of Sula Valley and how it pertained to Santa Cruz says Santa Cruz de Yojoa is located in third place for child poverty with 87% of this poverty in the city. 12.1% of our children have to work in order to bring food back to their homes.

In Santa Cruz de Yojoa, there exists 11 schools, two private and 9 public. Of the public schools, 2 are located in the urban area, the rest are in a rural area and neighborhoods of Santa Cruz. To be certain about the amount of child poverty of these public schools, we have the following data. Of the public schools in the urban area, 78.9% of the children are poor, of the rural area there are 90.7% of poor children. It is because of this that Osman Hope is focusing its help in the area that needs the most help and this help will be increased for the year 2006 if God permits, with the help of the sponsors that sustain Osman Hope.

The following are testimonies from teachers, parents and neighbors:

From the children's Grade School Teachers: The children are thankful for the changes that have been made during the last two years. There are much more responsible for their own homework, they are much more social with their peers and there is an environment of camaraderie. They all pay more attention during school hours which is bettering their school work.

From the parents: Substantial changes have been made in the life of the children. They are more conscious of their participation in their chores at home, they have more respect of the members of the house. Senora Marilu Guzman, mother of Carolina Janelly Herrera Guzman of 11 years says, "Carolina does not pick on her younger brothers any more, she is more attentive to what needs to be done in the house and she chats more with me. She washes her clothes more and the one day that she could not go to the shelter because she was sick, she started to cry, not because she was sick, but because she could not go".

From the neighbors of the children: They say that they have noted positive changes in the children. They are better friends with them, and they treated them with respect. Their facial expressions are much different now as well, they are much more spirited and fresh. Various neighbors of the children have visited the shelter to pick up the children because they want to see what is causing the changes.

Baldemar's testimony: I have seen an integral transformation in the children (spiritual, physical and intellectual) even though I deal with them daily and I am very close to them so sometimes the change is not tangible. This is the same with our own children, the changes are noticed more from the neighbors, family and their teachers.

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Homelessness in Honduras

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BALDEMAR (CONT')

I affirm and I am certain that the shelter in Santa Cruz is a space for life for our children that allows them to have a daily routine, to discover and realize their identity and how it is to be a human being. They have a complete vision of the opportunities that they can achieve thanks to the generosity of Osman Hope. Osman Hope has built a place where the children can have an imagination, can develop intellectually, have a balanced nutrition and more than anything they can learn about what is in their hearts and how to be moral, how an action causes a reaction and they can learn to teach the future generation of children.

And as I finalize the criterion on the work of Osman Hope in Santa Cruz, it is that Osman Hope is changing the plans that were once thought for our children. They look for places where there is poverty in order to change integral parts (the family, the community, the school, the work, the insecurity, ownership and esteem). The change causes people to be stable, intellectual, physically healthy, spiritual, confident; in other words, an integral self-fulfillment. Osman Hope is building lives and helping in the development of our nation.

Thanks to the donors, Osman Hope is a tool in its hands that gives opportunities to our children for an existence. Osman Hope is a link of the great chain that generates the changes in the children of our planet.



Baldemar, working with the children in the Santa Cruz shelter.