

## Honduras Educational Facts

- Population of 7.8 million
- 50% of Hondurans are less than 15 years old, 25% are less than 5
- 27% of the population is illiterate
- School year normally begins in February and runs through November
- Primary schooling normally begins at age 7 and ideally finish the sixth grade at age 12 or 13
- Primary schooling is obligatory and government supported
- Families bear the cost for continuing education
- 34 percent of 14 year olds do not attend school
- Only 43 percent of children enrolled in public schools complete the primary level
- Of all children entering the first grade, only 30 percent go on to secondary school, and only 8 percent continue to the university

"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day.  
Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime." Confucius



Students Studying in the Popol Vuh School in Sta Cruz

"...and whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me." – Matthew 18:5

## Brenda's Story

When Brenda entered the shelter in 2004, she was seven, but looked more like a five-year-old due to malnutrition. Her home environment was one of alcoholism, drug addiction, and family violence with her parents, uncles, and brothers. She was passive and timid, in her face you could see the insecurity that she felt; education was beyond her reach, as it is for most of the country.

As she started to relate to others in the shelter, participate in bible classes, arts and crafts and eat well, her appearance began to improve as well as her grades in school, her face radiated happiness and a growing confidence in herself. She enjoyed the appreciation of her playmates as much as the shelter and school. However, her home life was still not very supportive.

Recently, Brenda came home and told her father that she didn't like the fact that he drank. At first, the father reacted angrily, not at Brenda, but at the folks in the Santa Cruz shelter, and went to talk to Baldemar, the Director of the shelter. He felt that she was being disrespectful to her parents, and that she had learned this behavior at the shelter. He threatened to take her out of the shelter. With patience and understanding, Baldemar and the father were able to discuss the influences that parents' actions at home have on their children's future, and the risk that she may follow the same path he was following. Guess what? The message stuck! Since the meeting, both parents have stopped drinking. The family started going to church. Their home life has improved.

We now host Brenda, age 12, and her sister Nelly, age 9, in the Santa Cruz shelter. We have not only affected these 2 lives, we have also affected the lives of their parents and their 2 older brothers. Life at home has improved significantly, all due to the courage and confidence that this 12 year old girl was able to show. Brenda is now in her 5th year in the shelter, is in 5th grade. With your support, in 2 years she will have the opportunity to continue her schooling through the Osman Hope Scholarship Program.



Brenda along with her parents

\_\_\_Yes! I am interested in being involved with the Osman Hope Scholarships Program. Please contact me with more information.

\_\_\_Yes, I want to help! Enclosed is my gift for:

\_\_\_\$50

\_\_\_\$100

\_\_\_Other

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
Winston Churchill

\_\_\_ Yes I want to sponsor a child for one year

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$42 which I will send every month.

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$500 for a one year sponsorship.

Please make checks payable to:

Osman Hope Scholarships Program

Contact Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form to:  
Osman Hope Inc.  
PO Box 1327  
Brighton, MI 48116



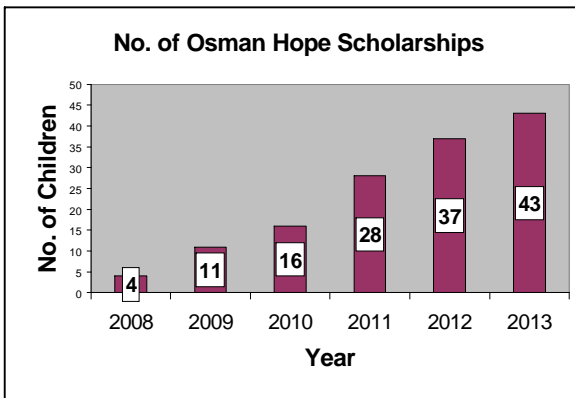
September 2009 Picture of Osman Hope Scholarships Program Students and their Parents from Sta Cruz Shelter

## Scholarships Program

The scholarships program was started in 2006 as an extension of Osman Hope's proposition of breaking the cycle of poverty, by providing the children the tools to help themselves improve their lives. We started with 4 children in 2008, and now the program supports 16 children in 2 shelters and 3 schools across Honduras.

Your contribution of \$500 per year per student goes towards covering books and tuition, uniforms, school supplies, field trips and other fees as well as transportation, and daily snack for the students who need it.

When you join as a patron, you will receive regular updates of the status of the student you are sponsoring, as well as means to communicate with the child directly.



## The Story of Osman Hope

In 2000, a group of volunteers with Habitat for Humanity International from the United States made their first trip to build houses with the Santa Cruz affiliate of Honduras. After the initial trip, the group committed to taking annual trips to build homes. From this work, the group developed an awareness of the need for children shelters in Honduras.

On their first trip to the town of San Isidro, this group of volunteers built a home with the DePalma family. Six months later on their second trip to another town, Santa Cruz, they were surprised to find Osman DePalma, the eldest son in the DePalma family. He was living thirty miles away from his home and family. At the age of fourteen we found him lonely, living on his own for the first time and working selling beans, rice, and sugar to help support his family. Public education where Osman lives ends in the sixth grade and subsequently Osman was required to gain employment to support his family, as he could not afford to continue his education.

He worked ten hours per day, six days per week for what amounted to less than one U.S. Dollar per day. Every Sunday he traveled to his home in San Isidro to give his wages to his parents and twelve siblings. Needless to say, Osman inspired this group, who realized that steps needed to be taken in order to assist children with similar situations. Thus, Osman Hope was born early 2001.

## Osman Hope's Mission

Osman Hope is committed to helping the elimination of homelessness among the children of Honduras. By working with both U.S. and Honduran agencies we will establish shelters that provide protection from the elements, nourishment for the body, enrichment for the spirit and educational opportunities for the mind.

The Scholarships Program is an extension of our proposition of breaking the cycle of poverty, by providing the children the tools to help themselves improve their lives.

Please contact us and visit our website:

[www.osmanhope.org](http://www.osmanhope.org)

Ron Tamunday

Osman Hope Inc.

216-509-6234

[rtamunday@osmanhope.org](mailto:rtamunday@osmanhope.org)



Osman Hope  
Building Hope for Children of Poverty in Honduras



## Osman Hope Scholarships Program

*Furthering Hope through Education*

Did you know that in Honduras **43% of children finish primary school?** And that for every child who enters primary school, **only 30% go on to secondary school?**

*HOWEVER*, did you know that, in the shelters of Osman Hope, *100% of all the children* who have stayed with the shelter program *have graduated primary school?*

*And ALL of them have been given the opportunity to go on to secondary school, through the Osman Hope Scholarships Program?*

[www.osmanhope.org](http://www.osmanhope.org)