



Osman Hope, Inc.

P.O. Box 1327  
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Dedicated to the Elimination of  
Homelessness in Honduras

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## Having Fun While Helping the Children

There are many ways to help the Children of Osman Hope besides donating money. We have various activities throughout the year where you can have some fun while helping the children.

Our annual **Golf Outing** tees off on May 10<sup>th</sup> at The Jackal Golf Course in Brighton, MI. The fees are \$125 per golfer. Expect a great time, with lots of fun, games and prizes for all. Plus there are incentives for those that bring more than their foursome! For more information, please visit our website at [www.osmanhope.org](http://www.osmanhope.org)

**Coffee** anyone? Osman Hope is bringing you the opportunity to have Central American coffee shipped directly to your homes! And for every bag you buy, Osman Hope gets a part of the purchase price. You can order whole bean or ground. For more info, please visit our website at [www.osmanhope.org](http://www.osmanhope.org) and click on Store. We will also have this great coffee at all of our events for purchase.

Do you use Amazon.com? If you knew that Osman Hope had a partnership with **Barnes & Noble** that gives us a percentage of your purchase and they are very close, if not identical, in pricing with Amazon.com, would you change? If so, please visit our website before shopping and click on the Barnes & Noble banner.

For those of you in East Tennessee, St Dominic's parish sponsors a **Spaghetti Dinner** every winter. This is a great opportunity for a inexpensive, effort free meal.

We also have two to three Mission Trips to Honduras each year. This trip either build homes with Habitat for Humanity of work with the children in the shelters. Please see our website, [www.osmanhope.org](http://www.osmanhope.org) for more information.

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# Los Techos

## Shelter Updates

In the last Newsletter, we discussed the possibility of adding a third shelter. It has now become a reality. In August we opened the shelter with ten children. The shelter also employs an Administrator, a teacher, a cook and two watchmen. This shelter, located in Villanueva, about thirty minutes from San Pedro Sula, has the capacity to hold eighty children. Our partner in the operation of this shelter is the Episcopal Diocese of Central America. We plan to add five more children in January.

Our first shelter, in San Pedro Sula, has added three children and is now up to twenty-eight. This shelter also employs an Administrator, a cook, a teacher, an aide and a director. There is room for two more children before it reaches capacity. The shelter is doing very well and recently took the children to the local children's museum for a day.

Our second shelter, in Santa Cruz, now has forty-five children with enough space to add five more. The shelter has an Administrator (who also helps oversee the other two shelters), three teachers, a cook and two aides. Like the other two shelters, it is always an amazing sight to see the growth and development of the children after they have spent time in the shelter. For this shelter and the San Pedro shelter, we have plans to expand both of the bathrooms in 2008, so the boys and girls have their own separate facility.

We started the year with sixty children and have grown to eighty-three. We thank all of those who have supported Osman Hope over the years in either prayers, acts or donations to make this possible. You have made an amazing difference in the lives of these children.



The boys and girls of the San Pedro Sula Shelter

## Osman Hope Misión 2007

By Gordon Brewer



Some of the children from San Pedro are playing on their new swing set.

The country of Honduras in Central America is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Well over half of the people in the country live below the poverty level; many, if not most of those people live on less than \$1 a day. In 1998, hurricane Mitch devastated the country with thousands of lives lost and the country's infrastructure completely disabled. The children were especially affected. Today, the country is still recovering but there have been some great strides made. Extreme poverty, however, and all that goes with it, is still very much present.

This past June, 17 people from across the USA visited the country of Honduras for "Osman Hope Misión 2007". The team worked for a week (June 18-22) in the Osman Hope Children's Shelters in San Pedro Sula and Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras interacting and ministering to the children of these shelters.

The group spent two days in each of the shelters providing crafts, games and interaction for the children. One of the greatest needs of these children, besides the obvious physical needs, is to simply experience love and interaction from others that they lack in their regular environments. It would be fair to say though, that for us that participated in the trip, the children and people of Honduras gave to us more than we could have ever given to them. The main objectives of the trip were to share the love of Christ through our presence and at the same time help to raise our own awareness of the poor and neglected in the world. Needless to say, we accomplished both of these things.

Another exciting highlight of the trip was that the team was able to visit the site of the third Osman Hope shelter located in Villanueva. This shelter is unique because it is being opened through a partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras and will be the largest of the Osman Hope shelters. This shelter was opened the first week of July and will have the capacity eventually to serve up to 80 children. The facility is owned by the diocese and will be operated through funds provided by Osman Hope and the diocese.

We plan to continue our trips to the shelters this next year. Our hope is that we can become increasingly involved in raising people's awareness to the plight of children in Honduras. We also hope to become more involved in each of the communities where the shelters are located to provide some improvements to the homes of the children and their families. Our plans are that our future trips address these issues.

If you are interested in becoming involved in our next trip to Honduras; please contact Gordon Brewer [lgordondnb@charter.net](mailto:lgordondnb@charter.net);



These children from Santa Cruz are doing arts and crafts with volunteer, Diane Whiton

## Osman Hope's Commitment

As of January of 2008 we will have 88 children in the three shelters. The annual cost for one child averages approximately \$1000. This pays for food, medical care, supplies and the salaries of the shelter workers. Further, with our scholarship program, we potentially are committing \$500 per year per child for middle school and eventually high school. In total, for each child that enters the shelter at the age of six, we are committing \$10,000 to their care and education.

If you look at this from the outside, the thought of committing close to \$1 million for the current population of children can be overwhelming. But to look at it from the inside, to see the impact on the children; to watch them develop from malnourished states and grow physically; to see their growth in the classroom; to watch them gain confidence in social situations; and to have the knowledge that because of your support and the work of Osman Hope they truly do have the opportunity to break the circle of poverty, you know that this is absolutely the correct mission that we should be undertaking.

## Does Osman Hope Really Make a Difference?

Each of the shelters has an advisory board that selects which children from the community can attend the shelter. This insures that the most needy children are given help. And in turn, the families for those children benefit also. All of the shelters now track the children's height and weight so we can monitor their physical improvement.

When the Third Shelter opened in August of this year, this was done for the initial ten children. The average weight of the children was 44.3 pounds. After ten weeks, their average weight was 51.2 pounds. One child, who is five years old, went from 26 to 36 pounds. The least a child gained was four pounds, with most of them gaining between 6 to 8 pounds. Upon visiting the shelter last month, it was a pleasure to see happy, healthy children who just a few months before had been malnourished.

One child who entered this shelter was very despondent. Twelve year old Blanca's mother has brain cancer. Blanca was also doing poorly in school. While at the shelter, she was given a book to read. The Administrator realized that she had very poor eyesight and could not read. A local doctor was able to get her a pair of donated glasses and now she is doing remarkably well. The sad face is gone. It has now been replaced with big smiles and youthful energy.

We could go on and on with different child stories and the work that is being done because of your support. Osman Hope HAS made a difference in the lives of these children.



These are the children from the Villanueva Shelter with their teacher. Blanca is the young lady in the back right