

Los Techos

SHELTER UPDATE

Fifty children! When we started with five children three years ago we thought we had our hands full. Now there are fifty children between the two shelters and they are all over the place! Happy, healthy faces abound everywhere. It is an amazing sight which we wish all of you could experience.



Children at the San Pedro Shelter enjoy a healthy lunch.

The San Pedro Shelter is preparing for an expansion that will allow it to grow from twenty-two to fifty children. We will be enclosing the classroom (it is open air now), converting it to a dormitory, converting the dormitory into the dining area and adding a new, larger classroom. We hope to start this project in July. The Santa Cruz Shelter, thanks to some North American volunteers, will soon be enjoying an enlarged green space once the grass grows in. This shelter now has twenty-eight children and just added a teacher. We have some minor construction to do at the shelter, but it is capable

of handling fifty children as soon as we have funding for them.

We are also waiting for a proposal from a church in El Progreso for our third shelter. El Progreso is a city about 30 minutes from San Pedro Sula on the way to Santa Cruz, so it is in a good location. However, once in El Progreso, it is another fifteen minute trip through the Barrios, constantly going uphill towards the local mountain. It is an area where the shelter will serve the local people very well.

From the Board of Directors at Osman Hope, we extend our heart felt thanks to all of you for your support. You are making a difference. You are changing the lives of these children and their families in a very positive way.



This is the potential site for the third shelter in El Progreso.

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Special points of interest:

- **Habitat for Honduras Build Trip—Sept. 10—18.**
- **November 3—Wine Tasting Benefit for Osman Hope**

HABITAT BUILD TRIP—MARCH 2005 BY JEAN CHESNEY

Did you ever get the feeling that you've known someone forever, even if you've only just met? As I reflect back on my 1st experience in Honduras, I'm struck. I can't believe I've only been there once and I can't believe I was only there for a week.

My time in Honduras filled me. It filled my eyes with the faces of the people. It filled my heart with the love of the children. It filled my mind with questions and realizations. It filled my hands with the work of Habitat for Humanity. I had had a few reservations about traveling so far from home. However, around midweek, I realized that I WAS home. The people, both Honduran and American, whom I worked with, laughed with, prayed with are my brothers and sisters.

On our first day at the worksite, a Honduran minister prayed with our group. I got a little sense of what the early Christians must have felt like on the day of Pentecost when the Apostles were speaking in tongues. Though my Spanish is limited, I seemed to understand every word. The Holy Spirit was most definitely present and working among us.

Lunch with the children at Osman Hope was a highlight of the week. The glee in their voices when Anna walked through the shelter door still rings in my ears. The children couldn't give enough hugs. I couldn't get enough.

Each of us experienced Honduras differently. Words really don't do justice to what I saw and felt there. When people ask me about it, all I can say is, "Go." Though I have not known the people of Honduras or from my work team forever, they touched me in such a way that my heart has carved out a permanent place for them. I don't know when I will go back, but I will go back. A little part of me remains there and will forever. So, I guess maybe I HAVE been there for more than a week!

Peace.



Members of the Habitat build team work through some damp weather while working on three houses.

GOLF OUTING

What a beautiful day we were blessed with on May 9th. All 43 golfers teed off at the picturesque Whispering Pines Golf Course in Pinckney. Our golfers were greeted at each hole by a large picture of a child from the Osman Hope shelters.

As the golfers stepped up to selected holes, they were able to participate in side games for prizes. Beat the Pro was such a success that we had to have a sudden death "putt off" to settle the winner. The Hole in One Contest was almost won, or at least those were the stories I heard of the ball that rolled to the cup but refused to drop in. The prizes that were awarded during dinner were all Honduran made and brought directly from Honduras this past March.

The success of this outing depended greatly on our volunteers. What a fabulous effort! Thank you all for supporting our outing this year. Without the support of those who believe in Osman Hope, we would not have been able to raise over \$6700 this year! We hope that next year many more of you will be able to join us for a day of fun on the golf course while helping the children at the shelters

ESDRAS BY ANNE KNAUF

Esdras came to the Osman Hope shelter in October of 2004. Like all of the children when they first arrive to the shelter, he was a bit shy, but eager to participate in the all of the activities available to him. But, he had a very obvious disadvantage when trying to read storybooks, play with puzzles, participate in English classes, or play soccer; his vision was seriously impaired. It was difficult for me to know what the problem was, and he couldn't articulate it—as it was the only reality he had ever known—but it appeared that his eye wandered, he had trouble focusing, and light seemed to bother him.

Apparently Esdras' parents had never investigated the matter. The public health center in town is staffed by one doctor, a medical student in his final year of studies. The private clinics in Santa Cruz, and certainly the eye specialists in San Pedro, are beyond the means of Esdras' parents who are supporting five children on the father's factory work salary. They seemed resigned to the fact that their son had a disability, and would have to live with it.

Baldemar and I wondered about the possibility of seeking the help of a medical brigade from the States. With the help of Anna Beningo back in Michigan, we were put in touch with Friends of Barnabas, which organizes brigades that visit the Santa Cruz area on the regular basis. We were delighted to hear that they were going to be sending an Ophthalmologist on their next visit. Doctor Robert Maugher examined Esdras and saw something he had never seen in his career as an eye specialist in



North America; pediatric cataracts. He had been told he would possibly see it in Central America and wasn't aware of an explanation for it, but as with cataracts in adults, it can be treated with a relatively simple surgical procedure. Friends of Barnabas arranged for Esdras to be treated at a clinic in El Progreso that specializes in eye care, and they committed to pay for the expenses associated with the surgery. Esdras had to wait several months until a surgeon that specializes in pediatric eye surgery was to visit Honduras, but it finally happened in late April

After a few days at home recovering, Esdras returned to school and the shelter. He now has normal vision and is learning how to live with this new reality. We are all so happy for Estras. We are sure that with his new gift of vision, he will be more successful in school, more physically active, and just be able to participate in life as a normal eight-year-old boy.

SAVE THE DATE

September 10 – 18 – Habitat for Humanity Global Village Trip. Join us for a week of hard work and fun building houses in Siguatepeque. Please contact Anna Beningo at abeningo@osmanhope.org for more info.

November 3 – Wine Tasting Benefit for Osman Hope. Time, place and pricing to be announced. Please contact Cathy Barry at mcbarry@chartermi.net for more info on volunteer opportunities. Please watch our website for updates on this event.

Weekend of November 26th – Representatives will be at St. Patrick Church in Brighton selling holiday cards and pins. Please contact Anna Beningo at abeningo@osmanhope.org for more info

Weekend of December 3rd – Representatives will be at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Brighton selling holiday cards and pins. Please contact Sherry Kunkel at jfkunkel@sbcglobal.net for more info.



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A LETTER FROM A PARENT

To all,

The reason for this letter is to express to you all how thankful I am with you for what you are doing for my son "Romario" because before my son was in the shelter, he and his siblings were doing very poorly. But now he has had an extreme change because the classes that you offer there have served him. Especially the English class because he knows the numbers and sings in English.

I know what you are doing with my son. God is going to compensate you one hundred percent because God is powerful because in the shelter it doesn't cost anything because you all have paid for everything and also I thank you for the school material that you all sent to my son and for the clothing that you all sent to us. The parents hope that you will always continue doing what you are doing and also I want to thank you for the construction that you are doing.

Without anything more that I can say you I will say good bye.

Carlos Rivera: Father

Alexis Romario Rivera: Son



Romario is one of the children at the Santa Cruz shelter.