



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 **Wine Tasting** event will be in the northwest Detroit area in early December. It is a great opportunity to socialize while tasting the selection of wines. It is also a great time to get a good buy on Holiday Wines.

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 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.

Our annual **Golf Outing** will be in May of next year in the Brighton, MI area.

We also have two to three **Mission Trips to Honduras** each year. This trip either build homes with Habitat for Humanity or works with the children in the shelters. Please see our website, www.osmanhope.org for more information.

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Los Techos

Shelter Updates



These are three of our newest children in Santa Cruz. The girl in the center was taught by her brothers to steal so they could eat.

During our recent trip to Honduras, we had a wonderful visit to the shelters (despite Tropical Storms Alma on the North Coast and Arthur on the South Coast of Honduras). We are always impressed by how happy and healthy all of the children are. There are currently ninety-three children in the three shelters; twenty-nine in La Lima, forty-five in Santa Cruz and twenty in Villanueva. For now, our future growth will be in Villanueva as we have the infrastructure there to handle more children. Besides the children in the shelters, there are also five children in our scholarship program attending their first year of colegio (high school).

In Santa Cruz, we just completed the expansion of the banos (restrooms) so there is now a private one for the boys and one for the girls. Each restroom also has two showers where the children bathe daily as there are generally no facilities in their homes. In La Lima, we have also authorized the expansion of their bano so they too can have separate facilities for the children. With the completion of these two projects, the major expenditures for these facilities will be complete, leaving only routine maintenance (replacing doors because of termites, painting, etc) in the future.

Once again, I wish you all had the opportunity to visit the shelters. The work that Osman Hope is doing is making a tremendous difference in the lives of the children, their families and the workers at the shelters. As we were leaving one of the shelters, I took a picture of a small child who did not attend the shelter and was peering through the gate at our happy and healthy children, I asked myself, how do we help more children? And then we went to visit a nearby church.....



The boys and girls of the Santa Cruz Shelter

What To Do?—Rivera Hernandez



The children of Rivera Hernandez at the church we visited.

On our visit to Honduras we were asked to visit a church in Rivera Hernandez, an area outside of San Pedro Sula. This slum has been developed on the levee of what is called Rio Negro (Black River or River of Pollution). The families are squatters, living illegally on government land. In the middle of this muddy and disease infested village was the church we had been invited to visit.

It was a hot and steamy Saturday afternoon as we entered the open air church. Immediately inside were three

groups of about twenty young adults receiving literacy lessons. These "students" had not been able to receive any more than an elementary school education as the government only pays for schooling through the sixth grade. They were trying to obtain more skills through the services of this church.

Outside, in the back of the church area, were sixty children from the ages of two to twelve. A handful of mothers were with them. All of the children were from single parent homes and had to care for themselves during the day while their mothers worked. The church provides them lunch for three days per week at a cost of 50 cents per child each day. This is not enough food and this is not enough nutritious food. To complicate this heart wrenching problem, the children also have untreated parasites and their frail, little bodies prove that much of the food is not being digested by their bodies.

This church, of course, is asking Osman Hope to construct a shelter to care for these children. It is impossible because of our present commitments. However, as a first step, we have agreed to get them medical care for the parasites and to supplement their lunch program so they can receive nutritious food at least once every day.

This is not a chance encounter. God, indeed, has placed these little souls in front of us. They are given to us at a time when Osman Hope is barely able to match our donor income to the help that we give to the children. This is because of the inflationary costs of the operating shelters and the fact that donations to Osman Hope are down due to the economic conditions in our own lives.

Several years before her death Mother Teresa of Calcutta wrote, "The very fact that God has placed a certain soul in our way is a sign that God wants us to do something for him or her. It is not chance; this encounter has been planned by God." Throughout our journey with Osman Hope, God as continually called us to do more. With your continued support either through volunteering time, your prayers or donations we can make a difference in the lives of these sixty children too.



You can see how underdeveloped this six year old is standing next to Christian Borg.



The mother of these two children has died from AIDS. Their father is dying from AIDS.

Cesia Esther Morales Medina

As translated from Baldemar Turcios



Cesia, is six years old and is in the first grade. Her mother's name is Irma Suyapa Medina. She is an intelligent child, possesses a mental maturity that is very high for her chronological age. Despite having a widowed mother, Cesia is a very happy and lively child.

Her father was killed in an assault, but she does not know this. She believes that her father died of natural causes. At that time she celebrated the "Week of the Student", in which the first place prizes were given for the best student in each grade. She received first place in her class, with a 96% average in her classes. This is an honor for her as well as her mother.

In this bulletin we appreciate various facets of Cesia. Here in our shelter, she always contributes with the cleaning, as well as assists her classmates with the completion of their homework. She even edited a letter of another boy here in Honduras. And we also saw her writing skills when she was preparing this letter. Cesia's mother is very thankful for the opportunities that Osman Hope has given her daughter.



Our Salaried Helpers

As the number of children in our shelters grow, we also have the responsibility to ensure that they are taken care of by good, reliable caregivers. This includes Administrators, Cooks, Teachers and Helpers. To date we have been blessed by very caring workers at the shelters with very little turnover, even though some make just a little over \$1.00 per hour.

The salary costs are the largest cost of operating the shelter, being slightly higher than the costs to feed and care for the children. However, with inflation, these costs will continue to rise. In the past, we have relied on our fund raising events and general donations to offset the salary costs. However, in the future, this is too risky to guarantee that funding will always be available to cover these costs.

Beginning in the Fourth Quarter of this year, we are going to begin a program where individuals, churches and foundations can invest in the lives of our associates by committing to pay for their salary for a year or a number of years.

More on this will follow in coming months as to how we will address this.



Meet Haydee Suyapa Alvarado the cook's helper in La Lima.