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Children Of Honduras Trust

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PAST AND FUTURE

This edition of the newsletter looks back a little and also looks forward. Like everywhere else, life goes on in Honduras. So, included are a couple of stories relating to individuals who have been commended, or have encountered setbacks and overcome them with a little help through CH Trust. Read on.

THE REBIRTH OF MACUELIZO SCHOOL

You may remember that Cesar worked hard to get Macuelizo school up and on the map about nine years ago. At that time, there were only two dilapidated classrooms and no teachers. There were plenty of children in the area but no school for them to attend. The two classrooms were refurbished but then CH Trust received a request to build an additional classroom to house a kinder class of thirty children. This was needed because they were occupying a classroom required for the older children. CH Trust was able to help fund the building of a new kinder classroom. Since then, a dining room and kitchen has also been built, along with another extra classroom. These have all been funded by one of CH Trust's donors.



**- NEW CLASSROOM, DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN BUILT BY
CH TRUST AT MACUELIZO SCHOOL -**

Recently, the government department for Education visited the school and were very impressed by what they saw. In support of the fact that Maculeizo had managed to obtain private funding for these three extensions, they agreed to build two more classrooms. These are now complete and being used. The last I heard is that the school currently teaches 190 children with six teachers.

In fact, the governing body were so impressed that they visited another five schools where we had built dining rooms and kitchens, as well as an extra classroom and school gardens. They went on to telephone Cesar and commend him for the work he was doing. It is nice to hear that he has received some recognition for all his hard work for education, which he does free of charge. Cesar continues as a full-time teacher in the capital city, Tegucigalpa.

TROPICAL STORM SARA

Tropical storm Sara brought large amounts of rain to Honduras. This produced significant flooding in the north of the country. The Valle area, in the south, was less affected but rain still caused real problems for families living near the river Cobra and others who daily crossed the river.

In the Valle a road was washed away, cutting off several villages which were on the far side of the river Cobra.

For most of the year the river is usually a small stream. After the heavy rain it became a fast-flowing river that was not safe to cross. This prevented many people from either going to work or, even more importantly, going to buy food. To buy food, of course, you need to have been able to go to work to earn money. The people who live in the cut off areas are generally poor, often living a day-by-day existence. A hard life indeed.

I received a request from Cesar to provide 400 food bags for the residents of some villages in the Cantarranas district, a place near the river Cobra. The villages are called El Barro Siniga, Macuelizo, Pizarra, El Rodeo and Corrales.

I am pleased to report that CH Trust was able to help.

The flooding of the river also affected a number of children. Because they could not cross the river, they missed the school Christmas Party dinner provided by CH Trust. After the floods had receded Cesar decided to provide dinner for them in the open air, as the schools were now closed for the long school holiday.



- PROVIDING AID TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD -



- ENJOYING AN OPEN AIR DINNER -



- CHILDREN ENJOYING THEIR CHRISTMAS DINNER -



- FINDING A SPOT WITH FRIENDS -

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Surprise, surprise! Cesar has asked if he can once again add another school to those we provide for this year. Fortunately, these schools are usually small rural schools with few resources to provide anything for their students. So, the impact on the available budget is not too severe. This is a lovely time of year for these children, as you can see from the photos. They had a fun time and most needed the good protein dinner.

Each school has the same budget per child, with a bit extra to cater for 'outsiders'. This is because the parties are usually open to all children, including pre-school age siblings. This year the meal consists of chicken, rice, potato salad, two tortillas, a banana and frozen drink, or alternatively, an apple and a drink in a cup. It all depends on the contacts the people at the school have. Some cannot offer frozen drinks. To freeze a lot of juice in bags for a school takes a lot of refrigeration!

Here is a selection of the photos from the various schools we supply:



- TERM ENDS WITH CHRISTMAS DINNER -



- I THINK THESE TWO PHOTOS SAY IT ALL -

We provided Christmas Party Dinners to 17 schools, three in the open air as picnics, plus dinners for another 430 children in our two feeding centres. This comes to a total 2,030 dinners! Not just a fun time for the children but also a good protein rich dinner that few could get at home, even at Christmas.

This year for the first time we have held the Christmas party dinners in November, before the term finished for the year. In previous years we have held the parties in December or January but often had difficulties, as many of the teachers have left the area for their long school holiday and the schools locked.

During term time some children stay with friends or relatives who live within walking distance of a school. At the end of term these children return home to their families and do not return until the start of the new term next year. In consequence, these children also missed their party.

Cesar is trialling the November option to see if it works better whilst pupils and teachers are still in school.



**- WHENEVER THEY GET THEIR PARTY THEY ENJOY THE EVENT
AND EVEN MORE THE LARGE PLATE OF FOOD -**

ESTEFANIA'S STORY – A TRIUMPH OF LIFE OVER DEATH

This is the story of Estefania, a young mum with three children, who was helped by a specific donation from a CH Trust supporter.

“Hello dear friends. God Bless you. My name is Estefania. I am so grateful to God and to you for the help you have provided. I would like to tell you a little about my life. I live very close to the church (Roca Firme), which translates to ‘firm rock’. This is Felix & Angelica’s church. I have three children, 1 boy and 2 girls. I am a single mum and I’ve had a peaceful life. I’ve been a member of this church since I was a little girl attending with my mother and brothers. In Jan 2023 I started to feel unwell. I had severe stomach ache and the pain radiated to my back. I was taken to see the doctor. They gave me some medicine but the pain in my stomach got worse. Whilst I was going through this, pastor Felix and Angelica continuously prayed for me. I believe this was a great support to help me cope. One early morning when they came to pray for me, I was so bad that they took me straight to hospital. This is when the biggest trial of my life started. It was a very difficult time for me, my children and my family. I was admitted to hospital on an observation ward. They did an ultrasound and the result was that I had gall stones and an infection in my pancreas. But they had no beds to keep me in. Then the infection turned to sepsis. I was admitted and ended up in intensive care. This was mal practise from the doctors, as they knew I had an infection which went to all my organs. The doctors told my family there was nothing they could do and I was going to die. This gave great sadness to my mother,



- ESTEFANIA AND HER DAUGHTERS -

as she pleaded with the doctors to treat her daughter. However, my family lacked the funds for the medication needed. In Honduras, medication is not free. Angelica and the church tried to raise some funds to help with my medication but it was the money sent through CH Trust that made a great difference. The doctors said only a miracle from God would save me. They opened up my abdomen, drained and cleaned the infected areas. There was much infection. They also had to apply a tracheotomy, as my breathing tube was compromised. Blood transfusions were also needed. My abdomen was then left open until the infection started to clear. By a miracle, after 4 months and 20 days, I came out of intensive care. I ended up with a colostomy bag and was able to go home. Even though this was a traumatic experience for me and my family, I know God did a miracle in my life. I am very thankful to him and everyone who has helped me. I am still healing. I also have a fistular, which the doctors told me should close within 4 – 6 months by itself. If not, they will operate and close it surgically. I know God will complete what he has started in my life. Please keep me in your prayers. In the future, God willing, I would like to have my own little business to keep myself and my children and also to keep serving God. My dream is to see my children graduate from university. I know I will have to work hard for that. Once again, thank you so much for your help. You are always in my prayers.”

The given funding paid for the surgical equipment needed for the operations and surgical procedures. Without this payment they could not have operated and Estefania would have died. She no longer needs a colostomy bag and continues to make good progress.

We usually refer to her church as Pedrigal, the name of the village in which it is located. The church continues to deliver a large feeding programme, three days a week, which is funded by CH Trust.

THE EL PEDRIGAL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Angelica reports that 330 children were fed. 284 children here in the village of El Pedregal and, in another place, 46 children. They love chicken, which they do not get at home. Many of the children eat the food as soon as they receive it, whilst others take it away to eat with their parents. The children are fed 4 times a week; on Sundays at 11 a.m., on Wednesday they are fed at 12 p.m., on Friday at 12 p.m. and on Saturday a snack is made for them. Other times, beans with egg and butter. Sunday, they will have rice with chicken.

FELIX'S HARVEST

Felix farms several fields, which he has on loan. He sent this report of his harvest:

The corn went well, 20 bags were harvested. The bean harvest went very badly. The beans got sick with a fungal disease. The treatment is very expensive. So, only two sacks of beans were achieved, one for us and one for the dining room. But we are going to re-sow in the name of Jesus and God will provide all the blessing. Angelica writes that the chickens are laying eggs well, so we no longer have to buy any for the family (they have two sons in their 20's). We also add eggs from our hens to those we buy for the children to eat.

ZOÉ'S STORY

Zoé is a sponsored student from Pedrigal.

Three months ago, her mother died of an abortion and bleeding. Zoé now lives with her grandparents and her little 4 year old brother. The grandparents are already old and are very grateful for the sponsorship that you give to Zoé Casares. This provides the items needed to attend school.

A CAKE FOR ONDINA FLORES AT ROSSY'S WHOLESALE STORE

I would like to introduce you to Ondina Flores who has become an important link in the work Cesar does in Honduras. This started when Cesar went looking for good prices for the basic foods he needed to purchase for CH Trust. Ondina gave him a good price as she understood and liked the work being done for the children and poor families. This continued for several years and then Covid struck. No one was buying from her store, as movement was restricted for nearly a year and no one was able to go to work to earn money to spend on food and necessities. If you remember we spent about £100,000 over 2020, 2021 on bags of food, which were given out in the rural villages around the Valle as well as to the Lenca and Tolupan people. Doing this needed permission from the police and army! Cesar went to Ondina as usual and this was a great blessing to her business as she could employ her people to weigh and pack the bags of food. The rice and red beans come in large sacks and have to be weighed and bagged before going into our mixed food bags. This gave them wages to feed themselves as well as the extended families and friends. Our food was helping more people than we were aware. This cemented an already good working relationship with Cesar and CH Trust. At this time food prices were rising fast and in 2021/22 she was prepared to buy and store supplies for us before we were in a position to purchase, thus giving us the best prices possible. At this time, we were also buying masks and soap to give out as help in the Covid crisis. Honduras, along with many poorer countries, had to wait for vaccine until after the developed countries had received theirs. Ondina found out where Cesar could buy these supplies at the best prices.

A few years ago, we gave Ondina a certificate for her help to CH Trust. I felt it was time we again recognised the help and financial benefit that Ondina had given us over many years. I suggested a cake, which I knew she would enjoy sharing with others. Cesar thought that was a good idea and the following photos are the result. I paid for this cake as I did not want it to come out of donations for the children, but felt it was important to show appreciation by CH Trust.

The cake has the English flag (the union jack is too difficult) and the Honduran flag and reads 'from Organisation CH Trust. Thank you for all your help'.

The first piece of this sponge cake has to go to Ondina. This is how you slice a large cake!



**- CESAR ARRIVES WITH
THE CAKE -**



**- THIS CAKE HAD MEANING.
IT REDUCED ONDINA TO TEARS -**



- ONDINA GETTING THE FIRST PIECE OF CAKE -

Then back to work for Cesar, Juan Carlos and Santos as they load the two vehicles with food bags to be given to a few chosen villages who are deemed to be the poorest in the Valle area, suffering from living near the flooding Cobra River.

500 bags to load, these are all ours. Then the bigger task of distribution, when they get them up the mountain.

It also reminded me how small some of the Honduran ladies are when you see them next to Cesar.



- LOADING THE BAGS FOR DISTRIBUTION -

VINTAGE ELECTRIC LIGHTING!

Rita and myself visited this school at Guayabo about twenty years ago. CH Trust provided the heavy electrical cable needed to bring electricity from the road into the school. It is a poor area but the school does show love for what they have. The lighting still works! The old wooden chairs we sent have all been painted matching bright pink.



- GUAYABO SCHOOL LIGHTING -

PROPERTY MATTERS

We built a house in the Valle area this year. This cost double what we collect for a house, which is why we no longer build in the Valle but have moved this aspect of our work to the Lenca people. Special funding was used to build this house. It was for a mother with four children who could not afford to rent. So, they were living in a tumbled down 'shed' which the owners wanted them to vacate. The lady owned some land but there was a big problem, 250 steps to access it!

The land did not have road or track to enable access for delivery of the boulders, sand, cement and blocks needed to build them a house. Cesar and Santos put their heads together and decided that a house could be built, but it would have to be made of wood. A block build was not practical.

The result is a very picturesque house, high on the mountain overlooking the village below. Cesar managed to get some help from the Mayor of Santa Lucia, in whose area the house has been built, who provided some labour.



**- TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY STEPS TO
THE NEW WOOD HOUSE BUILD -**

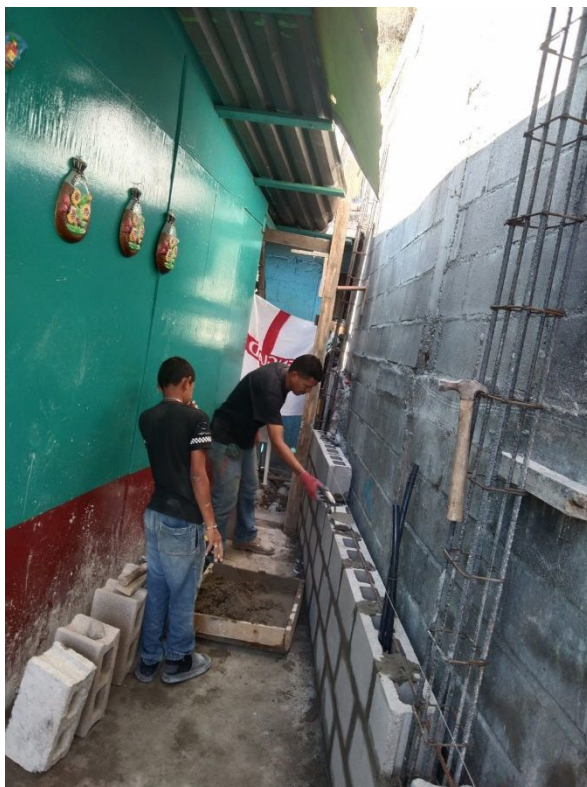


- THE COMPLETED HOUSE HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS -

The family all dressed up for the official opening. Lourdes, Cesar's sister did the climb and represented CH Trust for this special day. A safe and very happy family with no rent to pay or fear of eviction.



This unusual half build is taking place in Tegucigalpa as a specifically funded thank you, by a donor. It is difficult to show a good picture of this build. The original house was made of wood, which has a limited life and can be destroyed by fire. Fire is a hazard as many cook on open indoor hand made cooking stoves. The block build is being created by building around the wooden structure, after which the wood can then be removed.



- THE HALF BUILD HOUSE -

Jenny Smith school has enjoyed a complete repaint funded by specific donation. The young people helped, with the supervision of the adults and Santos our builder.



- A NEW COLOUR SCHEME -



- REFRESHING THE MURALS AT JENNY SMITH SCHOOL -

LOOKING FORWARD

With our sponsorship and education funds, we helped hundreds of children start their new school year. We provided the essential school supplies that each child needs to be able to attend school. As always, together with the feeding programmes, this continues to be the main focus of CH Trust work.

In addition, the past year projects have mainly been about water storage tanks to enable small communities to have a reliable supply of water for both drinking and small scale agriculture. This year, the emphasis will shift a little towards building houses for the Lenca people and helping poor families with things like pilas (a domestic washing/water storage facility), toilets and septic tanks (there is no central sewage system in these areas). Not very glamorous but very essential for healthy living.

Our first Lenca house will soon be completed. But more on this and other projects in the next newsletter.

BOOKS AND CHILDREN

We bought some new extra books for the .eight schools which had our first mini libraries. Those that like reading must have read all the books several times during their six years at primary school. The teacher says in a video, ‘we are infinitely grateful for the mini library project, a project that is used daily by the children’.

BLACK TANK

In the last newsletter you saw the base being prepared for a water tank that we were buying for Hector Medina College.



- THE MUCH NEEDED BLACK TANK IN PLACE -



- OUR NEW SCHOOL MINI LIBRARY -



- RECEIVING SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP KITS -

DONATION FORM

Please complete the form below and return with your donation. Please make cheques payable to “CH Trust”. Address on the front cover.

I would like to:

- ☐ Donate to the General Fund
- ☐ Sponsor _____ (Number of children) with a full/half sponsorship for the next academic year

I have enclosed £ _____

CARD LIST

Cards are £5 except where indicated:

Food for a family in need
Fruit Trees
Food for a feeding centre
Education Kit (£15)

Invest in a Child (education)
Children’s Christmas/Party Dinner
Exciting Reading for School Kids

ADMIN

GIFT AID

The Inland Revenue has a scheme called Gift Aid where, if you are a UK taxpayer, CH Trust can claim back 25% on top of the value of your donations/giving. If that’s you, it would be great if you would complete the Gift Aid details on the back page of this newsletter. We will do the rest. Please remember to tell us if you drop out of paying tax.

BANK DETAILS

To (Bank) Name: HSBC

Sort Code: 40-19-37

Account No: 61589865

Account Name: C H TRUST



- SCHOOL KITS PROVIDED THROUGH SPONSORSHIP -

GIFT AID FORM

If you are able and willing to grant to us Gift Aid, please complete the authorisation form below and send it with your donation.

I would like Gift Aid to be authorised for:-
(please tick all boxes you wish to apply).

Today	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back dated for the last four years	<input type="checkbox"/>
For the future	<input type="checkbox"/>

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax each tax year.
I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1

Signature

Date

Address

Postcode

Please notify the charity if you decide to cancel this declaration or change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax.
