

## Quarterly Report for the *Little Hands, Big Hearts* Mission

This report is a result of my most recent trip to Honduras this fall. It was great to see so **many of our ministries effectively sharing the love of Jesus** – in the preschool classroom, the ladies sewing class, the neighborhood children’s Bible Hour class, the daily staff devotional, and the rice and beans ministry. As I reflect on these I am reminded of Jesus telling his apostles “*whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me*”. (Matthew 25:40). With this report, we wish to thank each and every one of you who have been partners in this mission effort to **share the love of Jesus with “special needs” children and their families.**

One of the projects for 2011 was to prepare an area at the Family Development Center for the construction of several raised garden beds for next year. We wish to thank Brian and Jonathan Bilodeau for their hard work initiating this project by building the first couple of terraces in the area beside the visitor dormitory. The recent group from Seattle and Yakima completed that project by helping our Honduran workers build two more terraces. Thanks to these partners we **now have four terraced areas ready to build raised bed gardens** – two in the direct sun and two partially-shaded. Several compost piles were started to begin building rich soil to place in the gardens when they are planted next spring. It was especially **nice to see our hard-working gardener, Antonio, take ownership of this project.** He has quite a bit of gardening experience and willingly helps others so it has been great to have him oversee this project.

Visiting families in their homes is always a highlight of a visit to the *Little Hands* mission. Several *LH* staff members join our mission teams as they visit to deliver rice and beans. Each month a personal visit is made to take rice, beans, and children’s vitamins. This provides us an **opportunity to see how each *Little Hands* child is doing** in his family and reinforcing with the family that this is a joint effort – *Little Hands* staff, supported by Christians in the U.S., and them as parents. **Working together we can make a difference in the lives of these little ones!**

Collecting school supplies every fall has become an important element of our backpack ministry. The **October group transported several totes full of school supplies from people and churches** in the U.S. We want to thank the Fellowship Church in Seattle, St. Timothy’s and Note of Joy churches in Yakima, and New Hope Chapel in Union Gap for their generous assistance. Also thanks to others who contributed money to help purchase 100 backpacks and 700 spiral notebooks. Upon arrival in Trujillo these supplies were inventoried and stored in a secure, dry place until next February. Then they will be placed in backpacks to be given to children who cannot afford to pay the registration fee for school, purchase a school uniform and shoes, and buy school supplies. **Thanks to this joint effort about 100 children who cannot go to school without school supplies are provided a backpack** filled with supplies. This is just another simple way we can show that “we care” for these children.

While in Trujillo we received a nice visit from a local representative of the **World Food Program, an international effort to get food to school children to enhance their health and their learning.** They had visited our developmental preschool earlier and were impressed with how we cared for these children with disabilities. Based on the number of children we teach and feed each day, we qualified for a 200-pound quarterly allocation of beans, rice, corn, a fruit drink, and 14 liters of cooking oil. We are grateful for this assistance to help us meet the nutritional and educational needs of our preschool children. In fact, while we were in Honduras the local KFC and Pizza Hut franchises were conducting a promotion where a portion of every purchase was donated to the World Food Program in Honduras. *Que bueno!*

The fall issue of “Happenings in Honduras” will be out soon.

Please let us know if you’d like to be added to the mailing list.

In this issue we detail our most immediate need – **to raise funds to cover the part-time salaries of two of our teachers.** Norbertina and Erika have taught all year as “volunteers” – without receiving any pay. They are wonderful Christian young ladies who love the children and are so patient with them. They each work 24 hours (3 days) each week and have now for nearly 9 months. While in Honduras I spoke with each of them and told them we would seek the funds to pay them next year.

**We need to raise \$450 monthly to pay these dedicated teachers.**

We are seeking individuals, families, classes, and churches that will pledge a specific amount of money each month for the next two years starting in January 2012. **Do you have it in your heart to “invest” in the life of a teacher who gives her all to “special needs” children?**

If so, please call me at (509) 480-1993, email [trujillohearts@yahoo.com](mailto:trujillohearts@yahoo.com), or send a note and check payable to “Summit View Church of Christ” for *LHBH*, 100 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Yakima, WA 98908. You can be assured that your investment will bring great return in the lives of dozens of children who are impacted by these loving teachers.

Let me provide a quick update on three children that we have been trying to get surgeries for this year. Justin is ready for his palate surgery the next time the Operation Smile people return to Honduras. The challenge is keeping him healthy until they arrive again. Isabel is losing her sight due to congenital glaucoma. She is now on eye drops to help her maintain her vision and prevent further loss until she can have surgery. The doctor wants her to be older and physically stronger to increase the chance of her survival after the surgery. **José Ricardo has now had his CAT scan which shows considerable fluid on his brain.** He has an appointment in November to schedule the surgery date to insert a shunt. Please pray for these three little ones whose expenses will be paid by the Children’s Medical Fund.

In closing, let us urge you to **keep these children in your prayers** and also the *Fundacion’s* annual fundraising effort called “Maraton” in Honduras. The board is busy planning this kick-off event and the month-long campaign in November. Last year they raised over \$560 to help children get medical treatment and therapy. This is a wonderful effort supported by the community of Trujillo to supplement the efforts of the *Little Hands* mission. Thanks for your prayers and support!

Blessed to be His servants, *Mark and Brenda*