



Light of Esperanza 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAMMING SUMMARY:

During 2016, Light of Esperanza made continued progress in working to improve the lives of the women and children of rural Honduras. Light of Esperanza continues to offer its programs to the thousands of people who live in ten deeply impoverished rural villages within the State of Copan (El Bosque, Joyas Galanas, Limon, Agua Buena, Vega Redonda, Candelaria, Delicias, Balsamo, Los Naranjos, and Concepcion). Light of Esperanza decided to shift most of its efforts in 2016 to focus primarily on educational programs. This change in programming priority was made in order to maximize the effectiveness of Light of Esperanza's work, taking into consideration projected revenue, expenses, and the capability to successfully implement programs with a 100% volunteer-based operational system.

I. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Now in its fifth year, Light of Esperanza's Scholarship Program continues to be a very successful endeavor that addresses the need for financial support of promising students to continue their studies past the sixth grade, when free public education in Honduras ends. In 2016, Light of Esperanza sponsored eleven youth to study:

1. **Nuri Cardoza Marquez** – Candelaria, Copan – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan
2. **Yareli Castillo** – Limon, Copan – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan
3. **Delmer Mancía** – Vega Redonda, Copan – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan
4. **Roxana Melgar** – Dulce Nombre, Copan – studying Medicine at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan
5. **Yadira Martínez** – Vega Redonda, Copan – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan
6. **Ingrid Melgar** – Candelaria, Copan – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school
7. **Evelin Fuentes Garcia** – Limon, Copan – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school
8. **Emerita Sanchez** – Limon, Copan – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school
9. **Marlen Dubon** – Concepcion, Copan – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school
10. **Sarahi Madrid** – Limon, Copan – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school
11. **Fabiola Garcia Orellana** – Candelaria, Copan – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school

All of these youth did an exceptional job this past year in school. Nuri, Delmer, Roxana and Yadira received honors awards from their school for exceptional grades and leadership qualities. The success of Light of Esperanza's scholarship youth is even more impressive when one considers the fact that despite their young ages, all of them work full time jobs while studying in order to support the needs of their families.

Light of Esperanza was able to donate computers in 2016 to the five high school scholarship youth. They were having difficulties completing their assignments without access to a computer. Most had to pay to rent a computer at a coffee shop in town. Now that they all have computers, they are better able to successfully participate in their class expectations and assignments.

As with before, Light of Esperanza continues to give priority for scholarships to female applicants who come from deeply impoverished families. Light of Esperanza is committed to opening the doors of education to these girls who have so much potential to have successful professional careers, yet, are confined by the barriers of the socially imposed limitations based on their gender.

Light of Esperanza plans to expand its Scholarship Program in the coming year. Village youth from Copan are encouraged to apply year-round. The number of scholarships that Light of Esperanza will be able to grant in 2017 depends on the donations it receives.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For six consecutive years, Light of Esperanza has delivered over \$500 of donated school supplies to the youth in the village schools of rural Copan, Honduras. These supplies include notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, calculators, rules, and glue. For most of the youth, this is their primary opportunity to acquire school supplies. Light of Esperanza's school supply drive in the United States provides them with the tools to accomplish their academic dreams and goals.

COMPUTER CENTERS AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Light of Esperanza established a new computer center in 2016. This computer center was created in collaboration with the Honduran-based non-profit organization, "RBC Camino de Esperanza," in the village of Dulce Nombre, Copan. The students at this organization's school are all special needs youth. They are not allowed to attend normal schools, and thus "RBC Camino de Esperanza" is dedicated to offering them a basic education and teach them life skills. Light of Esperanza was proud to be able to establish the new computer center at their school, including technology-based educational programs in English and Spanish that will help these youth learn how to use computers for the first time.

Light of Esperanza has now established six computer centers in the villages that it works with. There continues to be a great need for additional computers, technology, and funding to establish a connection to the Internet. Light of Esperanza hopes to be able to fulfill these needs in the coming years.

II. COOPERATIVE BUSINESS PROJECTS

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING PROJECT: 2017 - 2020

Light of Esperanza began a new partnership in the end of 2016 with one of its star Scholarship youth, Delmer Mancía. Delmer has been working with Light of Esperanza as a volunteer since the beginning of the organization, seven years ago. Delmer participated as a key member of the Youth Corn Cooperative, as well as currently receiving one of Light of Esperanza's educational scholarships to study high school. Based on his ambition and consistent reliability, Light of Esperanza selected Delmer to implement a prototype business endeavor in 2017, with the hope that a demonstrated success will lead to the establishment of similar projects in the coming years.

The idea of this project is for Delmer to run and manage a Pig business. Light of Esperanza provided Delmer with a pregnant pig. He will raise the pig, sell its offspring, and continue to manage the business for a period of three years. During this time, Delmer will ensure that \$500 of his business's revenue will return each year to Light of Esperanza in order to fund a new scholarship. The rest of the earnings that Delmer receives will be his to keep. At the end of the third year, the business will become entirely Delmer's. The plan for this project is for it to continue to develop the special leadership qualities that Light of Esperanza sees in Delmer, while at the same time, raise money to offer a new scholarship for an impoverished youth in rural Honduras. Upon successful evaluation of this project, Light of Esperanza plans to work with other Scholarship youth to engage in similar projects.

FISH COOPERATIVE PROJECT: 2015 – 2016

The Fish Cooperative Project that Light of Esperanza started in the village of El Bosque, Copan, in 2015, ended this year. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, this project did not result in the success that everyone had hoped for. The weather during 2015 and 2016 proved to be very destructive for the fish. They did not grow as expected, and were eventually sold for very little profit. Additionally, the women from the Fish Cooperative became very disheartened with the lack of success from the first harvest, and decided that they no longer wanted to participate in the cooperative. Instead of trying to resuscitate this project, Light of Esperanza decided to keep the remaining funds from the initial donation for this project from the Jewish Helping Hands Foundation, and use these funds to purchase the pregnant pig that began the Pig business for Delmer in 2017.

PIG COOPERATIVE PROJECT: 2015 – 2017

Light of Esperanza's Pig Cooperative project in the village of Agua Buena continues to demonstrate a successful pattern for socioeconomic advancement for impoverished women in rural Honduras. The women of this Cooperative continue to save their earnings as they progress, with the intent to eventually, at the end of 2017, start their own private business endeavors. Without question, this Cooperative Project has been a success, as the women have worked very well together as a team. They have had their pig deliver three successful births between 2015 and 2016, all resulting in increased financial earnings and progressing towards the culmination of the project in 2017 as planned.

III. WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

DENTAL SUPPLIES

Light of Esperanza continued to provide rural youth in Honduras with access to dental care supplies, delivering hundreds of dollars in donated toothbrushes, dental floss, and toothpaste in 2016. For the vast majority of youth in rural Honduras, this is their only access to receive dental supplies.

Volunteers for Light of Esperanza provide classes to the youth who receive these donations on how to properly use the supplies and care for their teeth.

IV. VOLUNTEERS

Light of Esperanza continues to operate both in the United States and in Honduras 100% volunteer-based. Volunteers are in charge of managing both Boards of Directors – in the U.S. and in Honduras, the fundraising activities, the administration, implementing, supervising, and advising projects, and all other aspects of the organization.

V. REGISTERING LIGHT OF ESPERANZA AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN HONDURAS

While Light of Esperanza is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the United States, Light of Esperanza continues to patiently wait for the Honduran government to progress in the application for registering the organization as a non-profit based in Honduras. Due to changing requirements, and new laws, Light of Esperanza has had to wait for this process to be completed. Light of Esperanza has hired legal representation in Honduras to support our efforts in legalizing the organization as a non-profit. This goal will allow Light of Esperanza greater access to international support in our efforts to work with the impoverished women and children in rural Honduras. It is expected that Light of Esperanza will be granted its non-profit status in Honduras in 2017.

VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2016

In total, Light of Esperanza raised \$4,314 in revenue for the 2016 fiscal year. Light of Esperanza's total expenses for the 2016 fiscal year were \$5,149.

Of the total expenses in 2016:

86% was spent on programs (\$4,417), 5% on fundraising (\$263), and 9% (\$469) on administration.

For the past five years (2012 – 2016), Light of Esperanza has averaged 90% of its Annual Expenses towards Programming, 5% of its Annual Expenses towards Fundraising, and 5% of its Annual Expenses towards Administration.

Additionally, Light of Esperanza received a contribution from Angela Madrid Lara and Shmuel Rubinstein of \$9,999 in operational costs during the 2016 fiscal year.