



Wedding Gifts to El Hogar

Greetings from New York! I am long-time friend of El Hogar - a sponsor and a former long-term volunteer. My home parish of All Saints, Winter Park, Florida, has had a special relationship with El Hogar for decades. My husband, Mark Berner, has served on numerous charitable boards, and it is important to both of us that we create a home environment which is geared towards giving! When Mark and I married this past April, we decided, along with my daughters Abby and

Hopewell, that we would encourage wedding guests to make contributions to El Hogar in honor of our marriage.

To our great joy, El Hogar received over \$2600 in wedding gifts, and many new people have been introduced to the work of El Hogar. We hope that others will use this idea to spread the word about this wonderful school in Honduras.

Here is a picture of Mark and me, with Abby and Hope in the background, at Calvary/St George's, New York City, April 22. We recently moved to Manhattan from Oxford, England, where I have been finishing up my doctorate in Modern History.

- Ashley Rogers

Amarateca Update

We extend our deepest thanks to everyone who responded to our capital campaign appeal and helped us toward reaching our goal of raising \$1.5 million for the new Technical Institute at Amaratéca. We are now very close to reaching that goal and hope to report in the next newsletter that we have, with your help, completed this campaign. We are now building the classroom and dining hall building, and hope to complete all remaining construction by late 2007. Gracias a Dios!



El Hogar Ministries, Inc.
70 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890



The Home of Love and Hope

The Episcopal Agricultural School and Farm

St. Mary's Technical Institute

El Hogar Projects

Apartado Postal 764
Tegucigalpa, DC, Honduras

Executive Director

The Rev. Richard Kunz

Director,

St. Mary's Technical Institute

Sub-Executive Director

Lazaro Juarez

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School and Farm

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El Hogar

El Hogar reaches out to girls!



The staff of El Hogar Projects and the board of El Hogar Ministries are overjoyed to report that we will begin taking young girls into our ministry in Honduras!

When we tell the story of El Hogar's outreach to boys in extreme need in Honduras, the first and most insistent question is, "What about the girls?" We have always answered this by explaining that boys are turned out to the streets in numbers ten times greater than girls, and we felt the need to start there. In the 27 years of El Hogar's ministry in Honduras, we have seen many dire living situations, and been able to offer boys in those situations a wonderful alternative. We also see girls living under

the same conditions of hunger and poverty, facing bleak futures. It is wrenching to leave these girls behind to face lives of risk, disease, hunger and potentially prostitution.

It is El Hogar's mission to not only offer food, education and love to the poorest of the poor of Honduras, but to give them the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty into which they were born, by empowering them with the skills and the confidence to get good jobs and to be role models for those around them. We have been doing this with our boys for 27 years, and now God is leading the way for us to offer this to girls.

Our plan is to start very small, as a pilot project. Just as we did 27 years ago, we will take in five little girls the first year, starting January 2007. We will house them in a rental house in a safe neighborhood near El Hogar, and bring the girls to and from El Hogar to take classes with our boys. We will provide supervision and evening activities for them in

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El Hogar's Mission

The purpose of El Hogar is to provide a loving home and education in a Christian environment for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor boys, enabling them to fulfill their ultimate potential as productive human beings in Honduras.

El Hogar Marimba band visits the U.S.

This past June, El Hogar did something never before done in the history of the program. With funds raised by several churches in Ohio, we brought seven El Hogar boys, along with Lazaro Juarez (Director of the Technical Institute), Claudia de Castro (Director of the elementary school El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza) and Heyser Valenzuela (math and music teacher at El Hogar) to the US



to perform marimba music at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and at several churches in the Cincinnati and Columbus areas. The people who heard the lively, upbeat music of these talented boys were enchanted. The boys had an educational experience of a lifetime. They were wonderful ambassadors of El Hogar, and they were so thankful to see and understand better the world of their sponsors and supporters. They saw many people who had come to El Hogar over the years. Here are some of their comments about their experience in the US:

"When we received news that the marimba band might play in the United States, nobody believed it, and we thought that it was just an illusion of the Director [Claudia] and our music teacher."

"We left Honduras on June 8, and in the airport we were somewhat nervous, as none of us had ever been in a plane before. As we boarded the plane we felt content and emo-

tional, giving thanks to our beloved God for this. The following days were completely marvelous, like none I had ever had before."

"We arrived in Cincinnati very late, and I was thinking that at the airport we would see only Don Paul and those who were giving us rides. But to our surprise there was a mountain of people [about 100] from the different churches and many who we already knew

who had come to El Hogar. It was a moment that was very beautiful to see these people receive us like that!"

"We slept in a beautiful bedroom, which seemed to me to be a complete house by itself."

"This trip helped me a lot to see the humility of the people who are with us. They come here [to El Hogar] with no interest other than to give of their love in service. They come to work here without needing to. They already have more than we do, and live better than we do, and come to do work for us. I understand how much humility they have and that they serve from the heart without expecting anything in return."

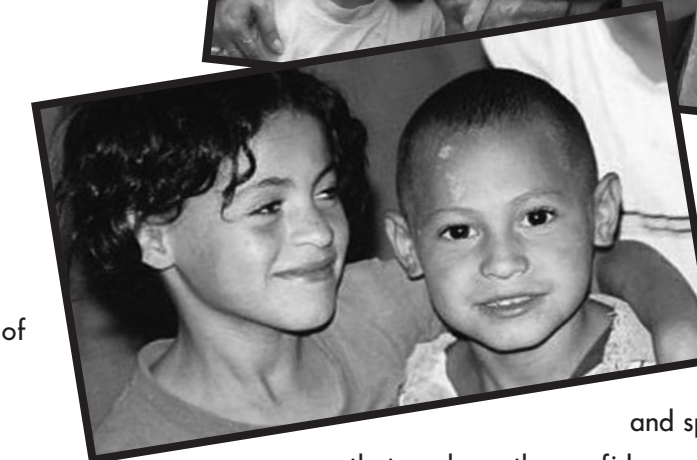
"I want to give thanks to each and everyone who worked together to make this trip possible. And to those people who permitted us to stay with them in their houses, and who shared with us their love and their company. I desire all the best for them, and may God bless them today, tomorrow, and forever."
- Charlie Benitez and Carlos Cruz

El Hogar Girls! Continued from page 1

their home. The first year will be our pilot program, where we can learn from experience and adjust our planning as needed. If all goes well, we plan to take in five more little girls each year. Once our girls reach high school age, they will live with us and go to a nearby private high school. In the evenings, we will offer special skills training in marketable vocations for girls in Honduras, such as computer use, secretarial skills, and sewing. We will teach them self-esteem, give them love, and show them the generosity of God's grace.

Our sponsorship program will remain the same, except we will have children, rather than just boys, to be sponsored. Sponsorships are \$1500 for a full sponsorship, \$900 for a housing sponsorship, and \$600 for an educational sponsorship. If you are interested in a sponsorship, contact our office and we will be delighted to assign one of our children to you. Sponsorship forms are available on our website: www.elhogar.org, or email or call: elhogar@3crowns.org 781-729-7600.

We are so very grateful for the opportunity to be able to expand our ministry in this way, and it is with eagerness and joy that we begin our outreach to girls. It is purely due to God's love through the support of our existing donors



and sponsors that we have the confidence to take on this new mission. Our hope is that we will receive continued support to enable us to sustain and grow this new ministry for girls. We cannot express our gratitude to you enough - nor can our boys, and soon - our girls! You are indeed gifts from God.

Help us furnish our new girls' home!

Here are some items we will need:



Refrigerator
Stove
Kitchen table and chairs
Kitchenware

Lamps
Couch
Living room chairs
Bedroom furnishings



If you would like to help furnish our girls' home, please let us know by sending a note and check to El Hogar Ministries, Inc. 70 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890. We will purchase these items in Honduras.