

## Financial Update

On behalf of all the boys, the board of El Hogar Ministries would like to express their heartfelt thanks to each of you who have given so generously to El Hogar. Response to our first-ever direct appeal last Fall has been very positive, with our first quarter giving amounting to \$86,000 as compared to \$44,000 during our first quarter last year. This is a real testament to your belief in the work we are doing with the poorest of the poor in Honduras.

The move of the Technical School to Amarateca has made it possible for us to accommodate ten additional boys at that location, and costs in Honduras continue to rise. As a result, our operating budget for this fiscal year has been set at just over \$750,000, about 17% over last year's, so your support is crucial. If you have not yet made a gift and would like to, we ask that you consider giving what you are able. Thanks again for your generous support!

### Yes, I have decided to get involved...

- q Use my gift where it is most needed.
- q A full sponsorship (\$1500/yr or \$125/mo)
- q A food and housing sponsorship (\$900/yr or \$75/mo)
- q An educational sponsorship (\$600/yr or \$50/mo)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_



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



# El Hogar S P R I N G 2 0 0 5

The Home of Love and Hope

The Episcopal Agricultural School and Farm

St. Mary's Technical Institute

### El Hogar Projects

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 Tegucigalpa, DC, Honduras

Executive Director  
 The Rev. Richard Kunz

Director,  
 St. Mary's Technical Institute  
 Sub-Executive Director  
 Lazaro Juarez

Director Agricultural School and Farm  
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Director El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza  
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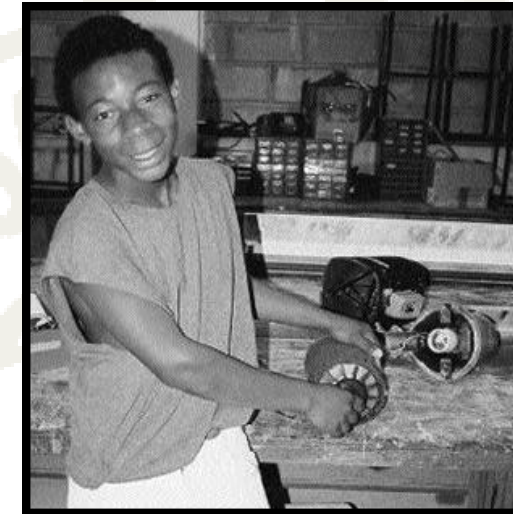
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Executive Director in North America  
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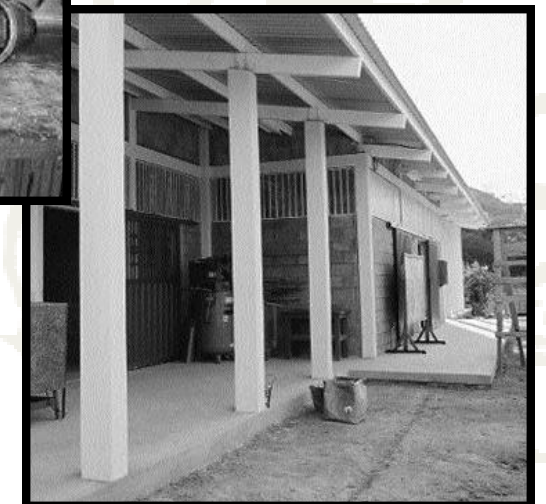
Canadian Advisor  
 Margo Mingay

## ITSM Moves to Amarateca!



Over the winter vacation months, our Technical Institute successfully made the move to the new site at Amarateca.

The school year began this February with the boys attending classes and living at our new location! The quarters



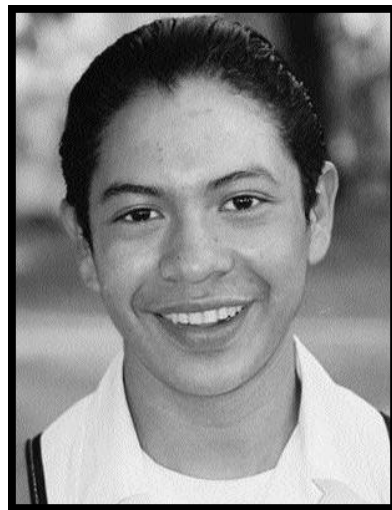
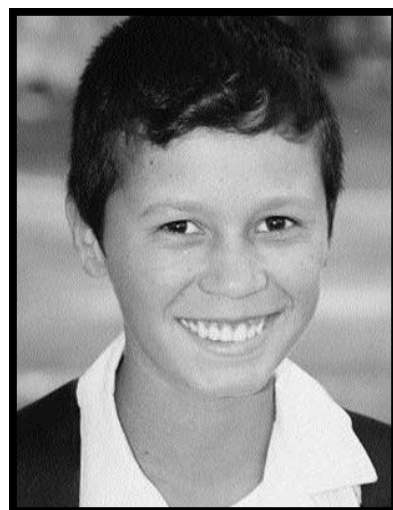
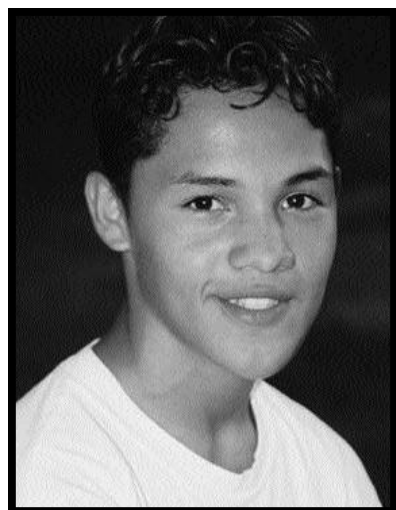
are still temporary, as the bulk of new construction lies ahead. The boys are sleeping in a converted porch and their classroom doubles as their workshop.

Meals are prepared in the small kitchen, and they eat informally outdoors around the grounds.

However, they are able to run freely on the soccer field area, they breath clean air, they have beautiful new workshops, and they are extremely happy and grateful for this chance to live and study in these exciting new conditions. We continue to deeply thank those who have contributed to our capital campaign as we celebrate this truly significant milestone.

### 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.



Some of our promising ITSM students

## El Hogar - An alternative to gangs

El Hogar has been providing a loving home and an education to children in desperate poverty for 25 years, and continues to do so. But during those years the stakes have grown higher. One of the sad developments in Central America during the past decade is the growth of gangs, originally imported from L.A. In neighborhoods where there is glaring need, few prospects for economic opportunity, and a subsequent fracturing of the family, gangs provide an alluring alternative. They promise a sense of belonging, increased economic prosperity, adventure, purpose, empowerment, and community. The gangs actively recruit for members, and are fond of enlisting children at a young age. These children are sent out to run drugs or to steal, or forced into prostitution or other crimes to prove their loyalty. By the time they are teenagers they find themselves so deeply involved that it is almost impossible to find a way out. The lives of gang members tend to be sordid, brutal, and short.

El Hogar provides an alternative to that destructive course. We provide a true sense of belonging, a chance to be more prosperous, experience joy, purpose, and community. But above that, we are inviting children into a community of God's love. The result of association with El Hogar is not fear and violence, but healthy growth and hope for better lives. And we provide the boys with the tools to achieve their dreams.

The boys in our care often feel the pull of the gangs. Relatives and friends belong to them, and often gangs rule the neighborhoods from which the boys come. El Hogar is a refuge and a haven. It is a place for the boys to mature in safety and affection. It is a place that offers them an alternative full of hope and joy. Without it, many of these boys would already be mired in a grim and angry world without love and without a future. Because El Hogar is there, reaching out to those in great need, our boys have a chance to choose life.

## Health Care in Honduras

The level of healthcare in Honduras reflects the overall poverty of the country. Our North American ideal of regular checkups under girded by health education is still a rare thing in Honduras. People tend to wait until they are very sick before seeking medical care. Often, when they do, they turn to clinics or hospitals which provide only minimal care. Doctor McCune, a medical missionary with the Episcopal Church, presently serving in Tegucigalpa, reports that it is unusual for doctors to even bother examining their patients. As a result, they focus only on the



most glaring symptoms, and miss other things. Many Hondurans are continually living with chronic health problems, undiagnosed and untreated. They have forgotten what it feels like to be healthy.

There is a public hospital in Tegucigalpa, but it does not provide sheets, hospital gowns, soap, latex gloves, towels, food, or many other things we take for granted. Procedures must be paid for in cash before they are done. Many peo-

ple are crammed into each room, without much thought to separating those who are contagious from those who are not.

One of El Hogar's goals is a more systematic approach to the health of the boys. Regular check-ups, monitoring boys who need to take regular medication for things like asthma, records of weight gain or loss, and education on health issues, seem like elements of basic care that we owe these boys.

Additionally, El Hogar wants to be able to offer help in the case of medical emergencies.

In 2002 we established an Emergency Medical Fund, an ongoing fund that supplies money for treatment of accidents, acute illnesses and surgeries. Through this fund we have provided for ear surgery, abdominal surgery and care for a head injury. Your continued support of this Fund is welcome and very much appreciated. Simply designate Medical Emergency Fund in the memo of your donation.

## Welcome to El Hogar Tour

El Hogar is planning the first of a series of special tours of El Hogar, designed for people who want to visit El Hogar and explore a deeper relationship with the project, but not be part of a mission team. Highlights of this five-day tour include visiting all three of our centers, spending special time with our boys and staff, visiting the neighborhoods our boys come from, as well as nearby areas of Honduras. This first Welcome to El Hogar Tour will be hosted by our Executive Director, Rich Kunz, and is targeted for Fall 2005. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Liz Kinchen at [elhogar@3crowns.org](mailto:elhogar@3crowns.org) or 781-729-7600.