

## Search for a new Executive Director

The Board of El Hogar Ministries is fully engaged in a search for the next Executive Director of El Hogar Projects. We are calling upon our large network of contacts to send us potential candidates, as well as advertising in various print and online publications. If you know of someone who may be a good candidate for this challenging and rewarding work, please contact us: [info@elhogar.org](mailto:info@elhogar.org).

You can find the job description on our website: [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org). We are actively interviewing several candidates and, although we would like to have found our next Executive Director by the summer of 2011, we will search and discern until – God willing – we find the right person.



## Walkathons

There have been two large walkathons this fall; in Winchester a combined walk and bikeathon raised \$23,000 and a Winter Park walkathon raised \$7000! Walkathons are easy and fun, build community, and can raise significant funds for El Hogar. If you would like help organizing a walkathon in your area, please contact us; we have experience to share.



## Shop at Amazon through [elhogar.org](http://elhogar.org)

Amazon and El Hogar have a partnership whereby 4% of any item purchased on Amazon.com will be given to El Hogar IF clicked through from the El Hogar website: [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org). There is no added cost to the shopper.

As the holiday season approaches, PLEASE remember to do any shopping on Amazon by starting at the El Hogar website and clicking on the Amazon button. Spread this word to all of your friends, neighbors and colleagues – we want to take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help El Hogar. Also, most college textbooks can be purchased on Amazon; please remember to use the El Hogar website for the upcoming spring semester!



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

Please remember to do your Amazon holiday shopping through our El Hogar website.  
[www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org) - Thank you!



**El Hogar Projects**  
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Tegucigalpa, DC, Honduras

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Lazaro Juarez

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

**Acting Director Agricultural**  
**School and Farm**  
Yony Aguilera

**Director El Hogar de**  
**Amor y Esperanza**  
Claudia de Castro

**Capital Projects Manager &**  
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Raul Castro

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# El Hogar

FALL / WINTER 2010

## Discerning a Mission Trip



On a beautiful autumn Saturday morning Liz Kinchen and I were sitting in a workshop about "Global Mission" sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The presenters were speaking about the spiritual vitality that can ignite a congregation leading up to and following from a short-term mission trip. Many people in the room had a story (or two) about their congregation's experience with mission trips to a variety of places, but some were in the room because their congregation had begun to think about a short term mission trip. One woman stood up to ask how her relatively small church could plan such a trip. One of the presenters replied, "I suggest El Hogar, because they're completely equipped for week-long teams."

The next Saturday morning Liz and I were once again together, this time headed to Boston's airport to fly to Tegucigalpa with twelve other adults from the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester, Massachusetts. Our group had met several times before we left, worked together to raise money for our trip, and prayed together to form ourselves as a community.

From the time we landed in Tegucigalpa until we flew home a week later, our team was constantly supported and encouraged by the community of people – adults and children – who are El Hogar. I found that El Hogar cares about hospitality, and they understand (extremely well) that mission trips are not only about getting some work accomplished, but also about listening for God, and developing friendships.

Yet there's another dimension for those of us who are discerning whether to go to El Hogar. For clergy the question may center on whether it's a good use of the parish's resources, and the cleric's time. For the lay person, the time and expense can be

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## El Hogar's Mission

The mission of El Hogar Projects is to provide a loving home and education in a Christian environment for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor children, enabling them to fulfill their ultimate potential as productive and caring citizens of Honduras.

## Dios le Bendiga, Rich Kunz!

We often hear people who have visited El Hogar say that the love and spirit of God are seen and felt in the very fabric of that place: the way the staff and teachers care for the children and young people entrusted to them; the way wounded hearts slowly open and learn to trust; the hospitality extended to volunteers and visitors; the way God is central in the lives and dreams of both students and staff; the community of faith that is El Hogar. During the last weeks and days of Rich Kunz' time at El Hogar, love was abundant. There were many good-bye visits, hugs, dinners, lunches and festive parties for Rich and for his wife, Doctora Barbra McCune. But these were not simply routine goodbye activities. They were gifts of the heart. To anyone witnessing these last days and hours, the

love of the children and staff of El Hogar toward Rich was palpable, as was his in return. The transforming power of love is what El Hogar is about, and it is found in abundance between and among those who live and work there.

In the words of Lazaro Juarez, sub- Executive Director: "The Lord sends us angels that come with a desire to serve our children and teenagers. Rich Kunz is one of those angels. We shared many moments that were very happy; we worked hard together; you are very special; you are a man who lives from your heart; you taught us how to serve. We are here one day and the next we are gone, but El Hogar will continue on. There will always be children who need help."



## Insights

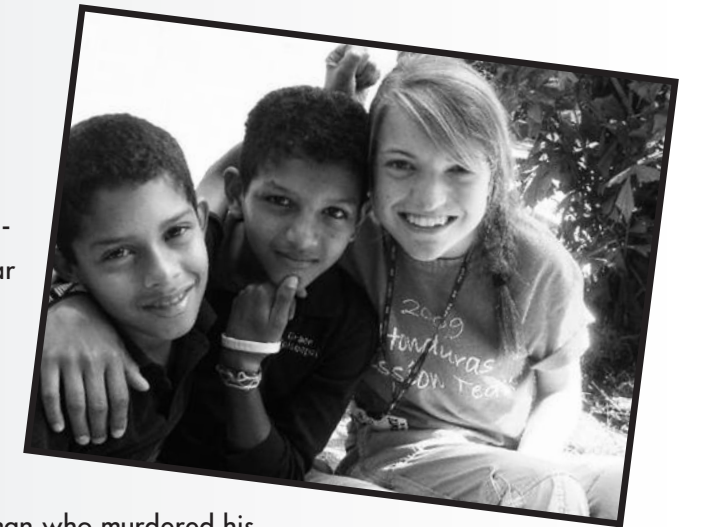
### Insights from a Mission Trip Volunteer

" ... On one of the last days of our trip we finally had the chance to talk with El Hogar's director, Claudia. When she spoke to us she told us stories of the boys and girls at El Hogar, and it had so much more meaning after we had had the chance to get to know them. She told us about the conditions she had found some of the children in and how El Hogar had changed them into the loving, vibrant kids we knew. A few of the kids came in and sat on our laps as Claudia told us their sad stories.

I am not much of a crier; it takes something very emotional for me to shed a tear. But when Claudia told us about a boy who had found the courage to forgive the woman who murdered his mother, and I watched this eight-year old boy cry into Eric's shoulder, I really broke down. Something painfully obvious finally became so clear to me. I thought I had come to Honduras to serve. We had raised money and given our time and love to El Hogar. I had been under the impression that the reason for the trip was to provide for and help other people, but I was very wrong. El Hogar, our mission team, and the people and children of Honduras had given me so much more than what I could have possibly provided them. In Mark 9, Jesus says: "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me doesn't welcome only me but also the One who sent me."

At El Hogar I felt like a child being welcomed into the arms of Jesus. I changed that week. All my worries about what waited for me at home, like friend drama or the first day of school, were suddenly so irrelevant. I couldn't look at anyone or anything with my previous judgemental, narrow minded outlook. Since hearing Claudia speak I have been more sure of my faith than ever before. I've been so focused on looking at the bigger picture, and what I can do to take the lessons I learned in Honduras to live my life in a more fulfilling way."

– Suzanne Ruffino, Grade 12



## A Mission Trip

Continued from page 1

prohibitive. Then there are the inevitable questions about the physical work, the ability to speak Spanish, and how one could possibly spend an entire week living in a small guest house with other parishioners. The plain truth is that while I wanted to go to El Hogar, I was also struggling to justify taking a week from the demands of my work. I've come to believe that many people preparing to go on a short-term mission trip feel ambivalence. And, I've come to believe also

that feeling ambivalent may be the voice of God. It seems to me that we shouldn't be entirely certain about short term mission trips. They're risky business because lives are changed, and eyes and hearts are opened in unexpected ways. But there's something larger at stake. If your congregation is talking about going to El Hogar, but you haven't yet decided, please keep reading.

A short term mission trip can be the catalyst for transforming your congregation's vocation to local mission. Three members of our team, because of their experience at El

Hogar, now feel called to serve with other parishioners to volunteer at a local church's food shelf. This past summer a group of high schoolers went to El Hogar, and two of them have changed their entire college plans based upon their experience at El Hogar; one of them said, "God changed me there." When the youth trip got home nearly every kid's parents reported something like, "They may not be in church every Sunday, but they can't stop talking about going back to El Hogar." At Epiphany in Winchester, mission trips to El Hogar have long ignited our commitment to serve in mission

projects within our own diocese, and in our local town. The more we engage in global mission the more we hear the Gospel's call to serve our neighbors here in New England.

Short-term mission projects aren't for every congregation, but for those to whom God has given this call, it can be life-changing for your worship, for your formation, and for your congregation's engagement with God's mission. The only way to test the call is to try it.

– The Rev. Thomas J. Brown  
Rector, Parish of the Epiphany  
(Full story available on [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org))