



## Prayers

### We Offer Prayers of Thanks for:

- A school bus from Dr. Robert Volz
- Locating the Amaratoca land site
- Our dedicated and loving teaching staff
- St. Margaret's, Annapolis – for a generous gift toward purchasing the Amaratoca site
- The leadership of Barry and Kay Wyckham as they transition into retirement
- God's guidance in the ongoing search process for a new Executive Director of El Hogar Projects

Articles contributed by volunteers  
Sarah Donovan and Roxanna Hastings

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Opportunities

### Are you interested in sending a work team to El Hogar?

Please contact Gary Thompson:  
ehteams@yahoo.com

### Would your church like someone to come and speak about El Hogar?

Please contact Liz Kinchen:  
elhogar@3crowns.org



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

Co-Executive Directors, Emeriti  
The Rev. Barry and Kay Wyckham

Assistant Executive Director  
Lazaro Juarez

Director El Hogar de  
Amor y Esperanza  
Claudia de Castro

### El Hogar Ministries, Inc.

70 Church Street  
Winchester, MA 01890  
781-729-7600  
elhogar@3crowns.org

### Board of Directors

The Rev. Rob O'Neill, President  
Jane White, Treasurer  
Jocelyn Rohde, Clerk  
Bunny Frey  
Liz Kinchen  
The Rev. Steve Muncie  
Jane Nies  
Perry Nies  
Paul Rank  
The Rev. Barry Wyckham  
Kay Wyckham

### Ex-officio

The Rt. Rev Lloyd Allen  
Bishop Of Honduras

Manager of  
North American Operations  
Liz Kinchen

Canadian Advisors  
Jim Martin  
Margo Mingay

# El Hogar

## A Day in the Life of an El Hogar Boy



Mornings at El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza begin early as the boys wake and shower and dress, making their beds and cleaning their dorms. Prayers are said before breakfast, and after eating eggs and beans with tortillas or warm cereal, the boys brush their teeth. The boys change into uniforms (jeans and a white shirt) for their morning classes. But before class starts the El Hogar community, both the boys and the staff, gathers for a morning service of prayer and song during which a fifth or sixth grade boy leads a discussion on a Bible passage.

Morning classes cover the main academic subjects and include a recess where the boys receive a snack and quickly form teams for games of soccer and basketball. For lunch, the boys again line up in front of the dining hall, say a prayer of thanks to God

and happily eat a noontime meal of beans, rice and tortillas.

Afternoons at El Hogar are just as busy. After lunch, the boys change out of their uniforms and return to their classrooms for subjects such as art, physical education, English, and music. The afternoon heat is softened by another snack, often a choconano (frozen chocolate-covered banana) or a charamusca (frozen juice in a bag). When classes let out, the boys begin to do chores around the school's campus, helping to keep it clean every day.

Dinner usually involves rice and cheese and perhaps some chicken. As the day winds down, there is an evening service of prayer and singing and another discussion lead by a fifth or sixth grader about a passage from the Bible. The final hour before bed is spent in elective activities, the most popular of which are soccer, basketball, skating and drawing.

Continued on page 2

### 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.

## New land site found for Technical Institute

The current Technical Institute is home to 66 boys who receive three years of high school and graduate as licensed carpenters, welders, or electricians. The current site is overcrowded with no space to expand and lacks recreational facilities (see *Spring 2003 issue*). Joyfully, a new site has been located sixteen miles north of



Tegucigalpa in the Amarateca Valley. The Amarateca Valley is an important and emerging industrial area, and home to many refugee housing projects established after Hurricane Mitch.

With the land site found, the work in Honduras now consists of purchasing the ten-acre site and constructing workshops, dormitories, classrooms, kitchen/dining facility, and a chapel. Two houses already located on the site will be used for administrative offices and

as a guest house. The Institute is being designed for 90 residential students, with allowance for future expansion. Work teams from the United States and Canada will be integrated into the construction process, making important contributions to this goal.

El Hogar staff in Honduras has received all the required permits and will finish the design phase the end of the year. If funds

become available, construction can begin in early 2004, and the new Institute could start operations in 2005. The potential realization of this long-awaited relocation and expansion of the Technical Institute is very thrilling for the staff and boys involved. El Hogar Ministries is embarking on a targeted-gift capital campaign to raise the necessary funds. Please pray for success in this important endeavor!

*Gary Thompson  
ITSM Relocation Project Manager*

## ITSM Grad returns to teach at El Hogar

Medardo Cardona began his life, like many Honduran children, in a single room wooden house with a dirt floor, two beds and no running water. Throughout his childhood he shared this space with eight family members. Medardo's mother supported her children with a 'chiclera', a tiny sweet stall similar to others located on every Tegucigalpa street corner. From an early age, Medardo had a love of art, and took joy in carving his own toys out of wood scraps he found in the street.

Although Medardo attended public school and was a good student, by the time he was 15 he no longer had the means to continue his schooling. Medardo and his mother learned of El Hogar's Technical Institute and were grateful and delighted when he was accepted there.

Medardo worked diligently and was an excellent student at the Institute, where he grew in knowledge and confidence that he could have more chances in life. He graduated as a qualified electrician in 1999. Harkening back to his early love of art, Medardo went on to study for three years at the National School of Fine Arts in Tegucigalpa. He sold his work to support his studies, participated in national art exhibitions and won first place in a televised art competition.

Medardo kept his ties with El Hogar alive, and recently discovered that El Hogar was looking to hire an art teacher. Returning to the place that had given him so much at a critical point in his life, he was thrilled to be accepted as a new member of the teaching staff at El Hogar. Because of the poverty he experienced throughout his childhood, Medardo shares a deep understanding and appreciation of where the boys come from and he is a wonderful, breathing example of what they can become if they also work hard and take advantage of the opportunity they are being given.



*Medardo and Enzo - immediately friends*

## Enzo Flores - A bright light

The other day during his free time Enzo Flores, age 8, asked a teacher for a broom because he enjoys doing chores. This is not the only thing that is unique about Enzo, who arrived at El Hogar at the end of January. When he arrived, Enzo was unable to bend his knee. Dr. Dario Zuniga, El Hogar's physician, examined him a few hours after his arrival and took him to the hospital for emergency surgery the same day. With a diagnosis of osteomyelitis, a possibly fatal infection of the bone, he spent a month in the hospital on intensive antibiotics while recovering from the operation.

Before coming to El Hogar, Enzo was living with his 63 year-old-father and two younger sisters in a small rented one room 'house' with dirt floors, no running water or electricity. His father has serious heart problems and is unable to work. Enzo's aunt sends \$70 each month for the family; the rent takes \$48 of it.

Enzo returned to El Hogar at the end of February with a full-length brace on his right leg. Did this slow him down or impede his enjoyment of sweeping, or even roller-skating and playing soccer? Not a bit. Two weeks after his return, the cast was removed and Enzo has been enjoying his year in first grade with his new friends.

## A Day in the Life

*Continued from page 1*

As the boys get ready for bed, changing into light and airy blue pajamas, they take the new treasures they got that day - a drawing or a favorite rock or a letter from a sponsor - and tuck it into their bunks. When everyone is settled in bed, one boy in each house leads evening prayer. The lights go out over the chatter of the boys in their bunk beds. Another successful day in the new lives of these precious boys draws to a close.

