



Cincinnati Fiesta a Huge Success!

On March 7, 2010 an El Hogar fundraiser was held at the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati Ohio. Lazaro Juarez, (photo on left) Director of the Technical Institute, traveled from Honduras and was the featured speaker. Over \$26,000 was raised and 250 people attended this lively and fun-filled evening. Thank you to Paul Rank, Chairperson of the event, and everyone else who planned, worked on, attended, donated to and otherwise supported this event!

Watch for a similar event in the Boston and Toronto areas this June!

Shipping Changes

Our storage unit in Jacksonville Florida is closed and no longer in use. If you wish to ship goods and supplies to El Hogar please contact Margo Mingay at mmingay@elhogar.org or 416-696-7682 for information on what goods are needed and how to send them.



Our Top 5 Supply Needs:

1. Jeans
2. Shoes
3. Spiral Notebooks
4. Shampoo
5. Socks

Reducing Paper Newsletters

In our continuing process to reduce the use of paper, our next issue of the newsletter will only be mailed in paper to those of you for whom we have no email address. Everyone who has given us a valid email address will receive future newsletters only electronically unless you ask us to continue to send you a print version as well. To request both electronic and print newsletters, please contact us at info@elhogar.org or 781-729-7600. If your email address changes, please send us a new one.



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



El Hogar

SPRING / SUMMER 2010

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

Director Agricultural
School and Farm
Balbino Andino

Director El Hogar de
Amor y Esperanza
Claudia de Castro

Capital Projects Manager &
Work Team Host
Raul Castro

El Hogar Ministries, Inc.
70 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890
781-729-7600
info@elhogar.org
www.elhogar.org

Board of Directors
Phillip Petree, President
Jane White, Treasurer
Jocelyn Rohde, Clerk
The Rt. Rev. Rob O'Neill,
President Emeritus
The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen,
Bishop of Honduras
The Rev. Roger Greene
Richard Holcombe
Sharon Holcombe
The Rev. Richard Kunz
Paul Rank
Rosalind Reyecraft
Robert Smith
Mary Street
Steven Taylor
Murray Van Lear
The Rev. Nancy White

Executive Director in
North America
Liz Kinchen

Canadian Advisor
Margo Mingay



El Hogar Welcomes Jeison

Meet Jeison Steven Montes

Sevilla, one of our new children this year. Jeison was born in a very poor and dangerous neighborhood in Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras.

His father was murdered and his mother is in jail. Jeison was living with his grandmother, whom he believes to be his mother.

His grandmother has had a difficult life and has emotional problems, causing her to move around constantly and to attempt suicide. Because of this unstable situation, Jeison has never attended school. He is currently nine years old. Now Jeison lives at El Hogar where he feels safe and well taken care of. He loves the happy atmosphere at El Hogar and is enjoying his first grade classes and making friends with his new brothers and sisters.

It is not always an easy adjustment for new children at El Hogar. Most children have never seen indoor plumbing and these most basic things need to be gently taught to them. Most are not accustomed to a structured environment and all the attention paid to their actions. Slowly over time, these children come to understand that they are safe and loved at El Hogar and relax into the routine. Jeison is no exception; he is learning that he is a beloved child of God and this brings joy into his young and wounded heart.

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.

Design services donated by Dysart Creative, East Sandwich, MA

Honduras, Haiti and Chile

This year has seen significant tragedy. The earthquake in Haiti, followed by the one in Chile, left tens of thousands dead or homeless. The logistics of trying to feed, house and provide medical care for the survivors of the quakes are staggering. Like the tsunami that took place several years ago, these desperate needs have a claim on our consciences and our



resources. The people of Haiti and Chile need our help.

On my last trip to the US, I was asked repeatedly if I felt that these crises would take away from the help available for El Hogar. Personally, I very much doubt that this will be the case and do not see this as a competition. As an advocate for the poor, I would never want to be in a position to argue against help to anyone in need. In a sense, what we are trying to do at El Hogar, and the relief efforts in Haiti and Chile, are interrelated. Both are necessary.

Relief has to do with the immediate care given to those who, because of natural disaster or war, have lost the ability and the resources to care for themselves. It is addressed to emergency situations, and concentrates on the survivors of a tragedy. But one of the truths in dealing with disasters is that loss of life and health and home has a very strong correlation with poverty. The poor are the ones who live on the flood plains, or places given to landslides, or in improvised shelters. There is a reason that Chile's earthquake, which was 500 times more powerful than the one in Haiti, caused just a fraction of the loss of life. A better economy helped them to be better prepared. The same dynamic was at work in the US when Katrina hit New Orleans: the poor were hit hardest.

If that is the case, then helping people to find their way out of poverty can serve as a mitigating measure against future disasters. Rather than simply trying to address the needs of survivors after a catastrophe, it is worthwhile to invest in the kind of development that will save lives in case of future disasters.

When Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras years ago,

thousands were killed, most of them poor people who lived in inadequate housing in unsafe areas. Honduras is in hurricane territory, so is almost sure to be hit again sometime in the future. When that time comes, the hundreds who have graduated from El Hogar, and found jobs, will face that crisis from sturdy homes built in safe areas.

Some ministries concentrate on ministering to the survivors of disasters. We are using our limited resources to do all we can to make sure that there are as many survivors as possible, who will then be in a position to help those less fortunate than themselves.

One thing I have concluded in my work as Executive Director is simply that generous people are generous. The people who care enough to support our children in El Hogar are probably the exact same people who are sending generous support to earthquake victims. It is a pleasure and a privilege to know such people, and to try to channel their gifts into the most effective ministry possible. Thank you for what you have done for the children of Honduras and for the other needs you address with your generous gifts!



Work Teams Return to El Hogar!

Volunteer groups have begun to arrive again, and the children and young people are welcoming them! We are gearing up to do some of our own projects that have been put off and enjoying having visitors take part in our life once more. Here some volunteers are working one-on-one with the children, helping them with reading and math skills. The children receive both educational and emotional benefit from this individual attention and the volunteers

are able to form close relationships with the children. In the words of a recent volunteer about a little girl she worked with: *"Her shy smile continues to make me smile and I look forward to watching her grow and be happy."*

We have a busy calendar for 2010 with room for more teams. If you are interested in visiting El Hogar, contact Margo Mingay at mmingay@elhogar.org or 416-696-7682.

Political Stability in Honduras

Honduras has returned to a position of political stability. The new president, "Pepe" Lobo, was elected with a clear majority after an election that had quite a high turnout. He has devoted himself to trying to restore normalcy after what has been an extremely difficult time. The United States has recognized the new government, as have most of the European nations. Foreign aid is beginning to flow once more.

The government faces stiff challenges. The global recession, along with the political crisis here, has left the government with a serious deficit. The economy went backward during the past year, and many infrastructure projects have been left undone. The southern part of the country is going through a severe drought, which has led to water rationing. Crime rose significantly during the last two years. The gap between rich and poor has increased. The prolonged period of division and uncertainty has left

hard feelings and mobilized a leftist-leaning coalition. Occasionally there are murders that seem to be reprisals for positions taken during the crisis. (Several reporters who have been supportive of the present government have been ambushed.)

On a day to day level, though, there is relief. We no longer face curfews and marches that block roads and public services. I was having some ice cream the other day across from the Presidential Palace. Not too many months ago it was a place fortified with combat ready soldiers, barricades, etc. Instead, now it was quiet and peaceful, with little trace of the drama that surrounded it for so long.

We thank you very much for all your prayers and interest during the "troubles." It was a huge help to know that we were not forgotten.