



NEWS FROM HONDURAS

Honduras Community Support Corporation

HELPING RURAL HONDURANS TO LIVE BETTER ON THE LAND AND TO PROTECT THE LAND THEY LIVE ON

December, 2015



As winter approaches here, it's nice to think of **FECOVESO's** (Fundacion Eco Verde Sostenible's) Board and friends enjoying the tropics!

FECOVESO is the Honduran partner of HCSC, and it is now doing most of the work in Honduras. This organization has grown in all ways. It is a real presence in Omoa and approaches the work with a great deal of purpose, dedication and confidence.

San Miguelito This mountain community, at least a two hour walk from the coastal highway, has been attempting to develop a road that would expand their ability to market their crops and bring in needed materials from the coast. FECOVESO is funding 20 hours of bulldozer work to help the process. (at right)



(below) **Paso Viejo** is located at the crest of the coastal mountain range — hours from highways on either side. Their Health Clinic serves an extensive area along the divide. FECOVESO provided funding to fence the clinic.

Las Vegas de Rio Idelfonso (above) Suspension bridges have a crucial function in this mountainous country. The bridge connecting this community to the rough road that leads down to the highway crosses a substantial and very steep river. Materials for badly needed repairs were funded this year by FECOVESO.



A Dozen schools!

As the possibility of FECOVESO support has become more widely known in the Omoa region, many local elementary schools have requested funding to address a variety of immediate needs. All solicitudes from new communities occasion a visit to determine the need and agreement of community members as well as their willingness to do the work. Twelve school solicitudes were approved and funded by FECOVESO this year.



Community meeting at San Jose del Norte

In **Rio Abajo** materials were provided to construct two latrines and a pila (a concrete water storage basin and sink). (below)



Nueva Delhi also needed latrines, and pipes to bring water to the school.



Students in San Jose were crowded around tables that were falling apart. Individual desks will replace them.

San Jose de Los Angeles received materials to repair latrines and also to construct living quarters for the teacher. Many teachers travel hours to the village and spend the school week there.

San Antonio de la Estrella was funded for latrine repair, paint and a cement floor to replace the old dirt floor in the school.

Las Flores also needed a new pila for the school as well as repairs to the schoolyard fence.

Below is the hilly schoolyard of **La Mota**. Last year FECOVESO funded a retaining wall to stabilize the school. This year fencing was provided to define and protect the school yard.



Brisas de Rio Cuyamel Except for the wood and labor, which the community provided, materials were funded to build a new one-room school. Though it was a holiday when we visited, students went with us to show off their new building, and even sang us some songs to entertain us! (right)

Formerly, classes were held outside under a tin roof. (below)



Many schools have asked for white boards — the lack of electricity often leaves classrooms rather dark, so white boards are preferred to blackboards. Both are heavily used due to lack of text books and workbooks. This year **Miramar** and **Brisas de Omoa** were provided with them.

Santa Isabel had one large schoolroom, holding two classes with two teachers. The chaos was abated by building a dividing wall and creating two classrooms.

Las Vegas de Rio Idilfonso community meeting at the school, which needed paint. (below)



Nuevo Palma Real (above) needed a new roof. It is being replaced during the November to February school vacation time. The village is scattered in and among these trees and hills! Quite a hike for some students.

To the left is the hard working **Solicitudes Committee**. They review all requests, visit communities, complete information and make recommendations to the Board of FECOVESO. Nestor Lainez (on the right) is a part time staff person and coordinates this important work.

Maintaining water systems in Honduras is a constant. In this steeply mountainous country, with heavy rains, deforestation, and occasional earthquakes, systems regularly need repair and sometimes replacement. Iron is prohibitively expensive so PVC is the material nearly always chosen.

Barbas Chelys Funding was provided to support the construction of the water distribution system in this mountain community. The municipality had constructed the dam, (note the pipe going to nowhere) and FECOVESO provided the distribution system.



Monte Sinai Last year we purchased land to protect the water source for this mountain community. This year funding was provided for materials to complete the water distribution system. The inauguration of the system was held in September. Part of the ceremony enacted in this joyous event was the breaking of the water jug, symbolizing the release of women and children from the burdensome chore of carrying water jugs on their heads to supply the family.



...and now the Piñata!



It is always satisfying to put more watershed land into the protective hands of FECOVESO and the community. This year 12 1/2 acres were purchased for **Santo Domingo**.

The growing village of **Suyapa Frontera**, just a few hundred feet from the Guatemala border, experienced a landslide that wiped out their water source. FECOVESO, in conjunction with the Municipality of Omoa, funded the creation of a new water catchment system.



Heading out to scope out a new water source

Aldea Gracias Adios. This community on the highway celebrated the opening of its new water system this Fall. , In cooperation with the Municipality, FECOVESO provided a significant portion of the system.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP...

We are an all-volunteer organization, and we operate with very low overhead. We put your tax-deductible donations to work directly for the people of Honduras – and we depend completely on those donations to support our work. You can find more information, including past editions of this newsletter, at our website

www.hcsc-honduras.org

Your contributions can be sent to...

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