



# NEWS FROM HONDURAS

Honduras Community Support Corporation

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

**Changes happening!** When we began this organization at the turn of the century, Nola White,



Nestor

brought funding requests to the HCSC Board of Directors in the U.S. Within two years she began work with community leaders to establish the Honduran non-profit FECOVESO (Fundacion Eco Verde Sostenible) as a locally controlled base for the projects, and, in particular to allow local ownership of land purchased with HCSC funds to protect watersheds serving community water systems. Most FECOVESO Board Members are representatives of those communities. Nestor Laínez, already the treasurer of

supported by a dedicated Board, was the connection between HCSC in the U.S. and the campesinos of Honduras. As HCSC president, she spent several months each year in Honduras processing project requests from communities, and

FECOVESO, was hired as the coordinator and worked with Nola visiting villages requesting help, and handling the coordination of the projects. As Nola has continued working with the FECOVESO Board, they have taken on more and more of the work she had originally done, including assessment and approval of community projects. Now FECOVESO has hired (at minimal expense) Marivél Reyes Ayala, a long-time member of the FECOVESO Board and the lawyer who has represented both organizations in Honduras. She and her husband are acquiring Nola's house adjacent to FECOVESO's office and so will provide on-site supervision of the organization's work. (Nola is building a new small house for herself next to the office.) So the very fine thing is that Nola is working herself out of her oversight role, and Hondurans are coming into full control of their own projects, with funding for projects and operating costs provided by HCSC.



Marivél



FECOVESO Directiva  
(Board of Directors)  
October 2016



The community of **Tamarindo** invited FECOVESO representatives to attend a celebration of the water system we helped to fund. It took a year to build it, bringing water to the many houses scattered among the rough terrain. A 4-wheel drive pickup was sent to fetch us up the mountain (which would otherwise have taken a good many hours of walking) on what turned out to be a very rainy day. After the pickup became mired in the mud we had to squish our way on foot for the last mile. But it was well worth the effort for the warm welcome, not to mention the delicious food.



Many people came to attend the community meeting after lunch. There was an animated discussion of their work and many thanks to FECOVESO/HCSG for their support.



*Slogging through the mud*

## SCHOOLS



School repairs are in demand this year. **La Ceibita's** and **La Divisoria's** roofs were full of holes and **Nueva Florida's** suffered a fallen tree. Materials to replace them has been provided, as well as school fencing for Nueva Florida and La Divisoria. In **Unión Frontera**, the wooden walls of the school are threatened with decay. FECOVESO is providing funding for a new cement block foundation as well as a new roof — and 22 desks will replace some of the benches now used.

50 desks will be provided in **Santa Isabél**. Desks are manufactured in Rio Chiquita, Omoa, by a business that uses local labor and materials, and also maintains a school that teaches woodworking skills.

Paint was provided for the **Monte Vista** school.

Located near the highway in the municipality (county) of Puerto Cortés, **Barracoa** is one of the few relatively large communities that FECOVESO has chosen to assist. The community was expanding its water system with partial support from the municipality, but lacked materials for a new water tank. As usual, they provided the labor and

native materials, and FECOVESO purchased the rest of what was needed. Barracoa is lucky to share an abundant water source with neighboring communities. The municipality of Cortés has helped with acquiring the title to the watershed land, as well as purchasing fencing materials for it.



Nestor and fellow Director, Julio Moncada, visiting La Divisoria. Materials to finish the fencing and a school roof (in background) were provided. FECOVESO directors often assist in project assessment, and communities only accessible by foot or horse sometimes meet them at the highway for the trek up the mountain.



The mountain community of **Campana** was developing a water system, but they lacked funds to finish the water tank that was essential to the system. Nestor and Marivel visited the community to look at the situation. On their recommendation, FECOVESO provided the needed materials.

**HANGING BRIDGES** are crucial to the routes that residents of mountain communities must travel on foot — especially when the streams are roaring with runoff from heavy rains. FECOVESO funded repairs to a bridge in **Listón** and will provide materials for a new bridge near **Las Brisas de Rio Negro** which will serve several communities in the area.



*Planning the repair of the Listón bridge*

*Bridge design  
by a Rio Negro  
community  
member*





## ADDING COMMUNITIES - QUIMISTÁN

Most of the communities we work with are located on the north slope of the mountain range or at its base near the coast. This year, however, we have gone beyond the divide into neighboring Quimistán, Santa Barbara, where FECOVESO coordinator Nestor Láinez has made his way to visit some small, very remote communities with serious needs.

Materials are being provided for construction of schools for **Santo Domingo** and **San Martín** (which have 22 and 23 students respectively). At present both are holding classes in open spaces attached to their churches.

In the even smaller community of **La Providencia**, a new school roof will be provided, as well as paint for the exterior, and latrines.

The Health Clinic located in **Concepción**, has served a set of high mountain communities for the past eight years. FECOVESO has approved funding for materials for an annex to the clinic that will provide services for pregnant women, and children under five.

**San Miguelito**, a somewhat larger village, has 45 families but a water system designed for only 10 families. FECOVESO will help them expand the system and add another water source. In **Monte Limár**, materials were provided to repair the water system. Community members grow corn on distant mountainsides, but they maintain this lovely garden to provide fresh produce.



## 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 news- letter, at our website

[hcsc-honduras.org](http://hcsc-honduras.org)

Your contributions can be sent to...

**Honduras Community Support Corporation**  
**16 Reynolds Road**  
**Cambridge, NY 12816**  
**518-677-3775**

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