



NEWS FROM HONDURAS

Honduras Community Support Corporation

December 2017

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

Since 2001, HCSC has funded 149 community projects in 72 rural communities!

Originally funds were allocated to the projects directly by HCSC. Today HCSC's Honduran partner FECOVESO (Fundación Eco Verde Sostenible) evaluates proposed projects and allocates the funding provided by HCSC. Only those projects which involve community wide efforts to meet community needs are accepted. Most projects are water system development and watershed protection, health centers, school construction and improvement, bridge construction and repair, and the list goes on...



This is an all day event celebrating the completion of a water system that serves four communities. They have included a focus on education, appreciation and protection. Work has been supported in construction, expansion or repair of 35 water systems since 2001.



Sign made by school children to tell everyone: "We take care of the water!"

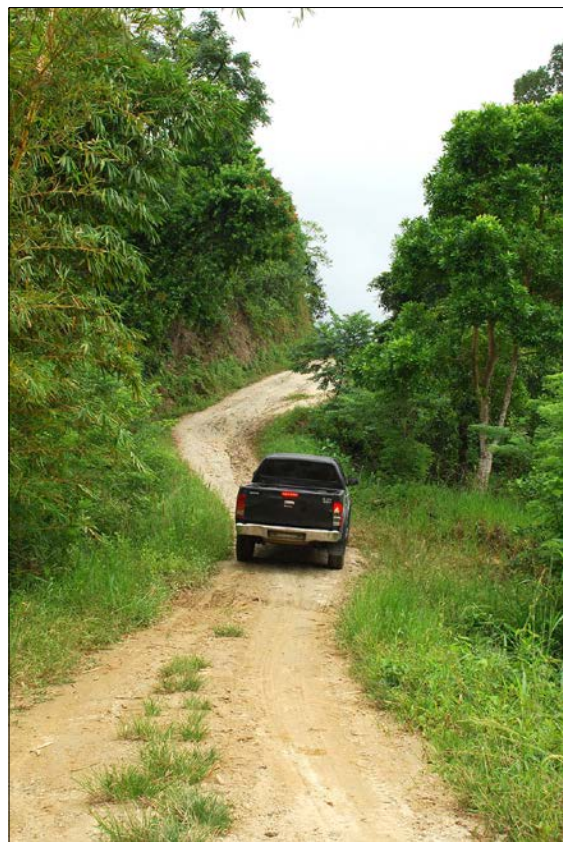


Unloading materials for a water system for San Miguelito, Quimistán, and materials to repair school latrines and replace the roof in La Providencia.



Materials for a new roof and outbuildings for San Martín and school repair in Santo Domingo.

Access Projects. In a country where terrain is steep and torrential rains are common, bridges over mountain streams are crucial infrastructure for many small communities. We fund materials for bridges and roads. Of eleven projects, seven have been suspension bridges. The remaining four are dirt road construction or improvement. The section of road seen here is in great condition, as it is relatively flat. Most are much steeper



Health Clinics are essential to the well being of people living far from the larger towns on the coast. We have expanded 9 of them — 2 this year. A large donation of medical material from a U.S. free clinic enabled us to provide supplies to the clinics in most need, as identified by FECOVESO.



El Paraiso, with Susan Alanraig



Consulting room in progress



Tegucigalpita

These dedicated nurses are pleased to receive the donated medical supplies! FECOVESO also supplied materials to add a room in Tegucigalpita and a new consulting room in El Paraiso. These clinics are on the coast, but serve many who come down from the mountain communities.



The vaccination room, with an informative poster about vasectomies.

School Projects. We have provided funding for the construction, repair, and improvement of 53 elementary schools, as well as for essential supplies such as individual desks and whiteboards and a bonus for teachers who have to travel the furthest. New schools were built this year in two communities hours away from the coast.



Note the ocean in the distance and imagine the hours of ups and downs, most often on foot, to get to this school. This mountainous terrain is a huge factor in the wide spread locations of the homesteads.



All metal is expensive in Honduras. Metal roofs for schools are a major expense.



This type of sturdy school fence is expensive, but needed for security and to keep free-range animals out.



With a large donation of huge Manaca Palm leaves from the community of Barbas Cheles, FECOVESO volunteers are constructing an outdoor space for their meetings when the temperature is high, and to house and protect Nola's car from the salt of the ocean.



Odaír, Marivel's husband, is splitting the leaves, to ready them for the roof.

To date we have purchased nearly 400 acres of watershed at a cost of about \$70,000. FECOVESO holds the titles, with elected community members serving on the Board.

2017 FECOVESO Board. Members, elected by their respective communities, can serve as long as they are re-elected. Many enjoy serving their neighbors and have served for years. At the October meeting, it was a surprise to have members of two communities come just to thank FECOVESO for its help. We were especially pleased because the manager of our Puerto Cortes bank, who had attended the meeting to see FECOVESO at work, was duly impressed!



FECOVESO administrator and board member Marivel Reyes Ayala conducting a computer tutorial.

Last year HCSC made a small grant to a group of women in Milla Cinco to help capitalize their cooperative loan fund, which is otherwise funded by the women themselves through interest on loans and various group projects. They also commit to doing a project each year for their community. This year it was a light for a section of their road.



Photo credits: Susan Alanraig ,Nestor Láinez, Marivel Ayala and Nola White

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

hpsc-honduras.org

Your contributions can be sent to...

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