



NEWS FROM HONDURAS

Honduras Community Support Corporation

December 2018

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

FECOVESO AT WORK!



The FECOVESO Solicitation committee (shown on right, taking a break in their office) considers all requests for project funding. The committee makes sure the request includes all necessary information. Following preliminary approval, an on-site meeting is held in the community to confirm that everyone agrees with the project and is ready to provide the necessary labor.



The final criterion is that the project will benefit the whole community. FECOVESO has now funded projects in a total of 78 communities, often with more than one project per community.



The committee takes its recommendations to the Board (on left) which discusses, makes the final decision, and allocates the funds for materials.

Rains are heavy in Honduras and deforestation makes mud slides a common problem. The small community of Monte Sinai lost two families in a large slide. The slide also destroyed the water system, which FECOVESO and the municipality had completed just a few years ago. Materials were provided to replace it.



Here Nestor is checking the new water tank for San Antonio de Los Angeles.

San Jose de Los Angeles made their own tank and FECOVESO provided materials to complete the system.



Roads in the mountains are quite primitive and hard to maintain. Mountain people do not have motor vehicles but may need a passable road to get materials delivered. The cost of several hours of bulldozer work was provided by FECOVESO for the community of San Francisco, where FECOVESO also acquired a watershed parcel (see page 4).



Schools continue to need repairs and upgrades. In Divisoria, where the roof was replaced last year, materials were provided this year to construct latrines and a water tub/sink (pila) for the school.

This unloading photo shows only the first step in getting materials to the mountain communities. Next they will be taken up the mountain by horses or by foot.



The school in Anexo Vegas de San Antonio consists of a roof with posts holding it up. If it rains with any wind, everyone goes home. Materials will be provided for a cement floor and wooden walls. This community is just off the coast road, so it will be easy to deliver materials.



This type of sturdy school fence is expensive, but needed for security and to keep free-range livestock out. Triunfo and Santo Tomas received materials for fences this year.



Santo Tomas

FECOVESO provided funding for pipes to complete the water system for Santa Isabel, Quimistan, a community high up over the crest of the coastal mountains. It takes a long day and a variety of



a couple of the old ones!

Jorge Chavez, of Monte Vista, receives new desks for their school. (Jorge served as president of FECOVESO, and continues as a director.)



transportation to get there (4-wheel drive, horses, and then a hike!) so it was lovely that Nestor was able to catch this Independence Day parade of the community's 27 students.



With funding from HCSC, FECOVESO purchases and holds land in watersheds serving community-based gravity-feed water systems. No land was acquired in new watersheds this year but important small parcels were acquired in 2 of the 15 watersheds already partly protected by FECOVESO holdings. As with all the watersheds, these parcels will be fenced with material provided by FECOVESO and installed by the residents of the communities served.

In September 2018, two directors from HCSC and three from FECOVESO attended a three day conference in Gracias, Honduras. All organizations working in Honduras, including government departments, are invited to this Conference. It is always interesting to hear what others are doing and to make connections. We seem to be unique participants and always pique the interest of others. USAID presented a program on its current focus in Honduras, which is forestation. Hopefully, they will take an interest in supporting our efforts.



L to R: Conference participant, HCSC President Nola White and FECOVESO Coordinator Nestor Láinez take part in small group work.



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.

Your contributions can be sent to...

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

or you can Donate and find more information, including past editions of this newsletter, at our website:

hsc-honduras.org

ENDOWMENT!

In addition to our regular annual appeal, we are this year seeking your ideas and your help to create an endowment fund for FECOVESO so that the future is secured. If you know a person who could commit to any amount, or suggest other resources to make this happen, we'd love to hear from you!

Photo credits: Susan Alanraig and Nestor Láinez