



Children Of Honduras Trust

Newsletter October 2024

Tel: (01332) 679687

E-mail: info@chtrust.org.uk Web: www.chtrust.org.uk

Mrs J. Cox, 20 Chapel Street, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7JP.

Charity No. 1075562

THE GIFT OF WATER

The last newsletter noted the completion of our second 20,000 gallon water tank for the Lenca people. Two more tanks were also being built in other areas of Yarula for the Lenca people. I can now tell you that these two tanks have also been finished. This required much hard work, in order to complete before the rainy season started. Prolonged rain spells affect the ability of the concrete to set and delays delivery of supplies due to the muddy roads.

Cesar and his team went to be part of the commissioning ceremony for the two tanks and attended a meeting of the local council. At this annual meeting, building projects gifted to the people during the course of the year are read out and listed. We now have four completed tanks in the area.

The two pipes will deliver water to homes and other locations. Inside the locked box are the water supply cut off taps.



- THE NEW WATER TANK FOR THE LENCA PEOPLE -

FROM BYRON RODRIGUEZ, MAYOR OF THE COMMUNITY OF YARULA.

I would like to say how grateful we are to the charity & every person who donates toward this project of the water tank, which is going to be of life changing help to the community of Huerta. My self and the community have no way of repaying you for this amazing investment for them and your help, but God will give back to you abundantly.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE WATER BOARD WROTE

It is a pleasure to greet you from community Nucleo Huerta, Yarula, in la Paz. As the president of the water board, I want to let you know how grateful we are to the people of England, for the materials provided for the construction of the water tank.

We will keep you informed of every stage of the project. We are very grateful and send greetings to everyone in England.

Since I received these pictures I am sure that the water supply is now connected to homes and other local places such as the school and clinic. Piped water and plenty of it, is a great luxury for these people. They can now grow some crops even during a drought season. What a blessing.



- LATEST TANK COMPLETED IN YARULA -

These are some of the people who will benefit from the ability to draw water from the tank for their crops. I am sure there are many happy people who now have

a good supply of clean water, collected and stored from natural water springs. This will help families to support themselves even during drought years, as the water will allow them to be able to grow small crops such as carrots, radish and corrianda which are very saleable.



- LOCAL PEOPLE GROWING FOOD -

It is a very long journey to Yarula, so the team also included the distribution of 1000 food bags, which they usually organise nearer to the end of the year.



- HANDING OUT FOOD BAGS -

This lady has a bowl containing bags of vegetable seeds, which we gave to her, for her community.



- BOWL OF SEEDS -



- ENJOYING A BISCUIT -

OUR TEAM IN YARULA

This young man is taking home a bag of food. He will be supervised by his neighbours to make sure that it gets home. The bags of food are very important to these families.



- YOUNG MAN & BAG -



- GOING TO YARULA -

SCHOOL AGRICULTURE

Over many years we have been building hen houses for several of the schools in the Valle area. We have also been encouraging school vegetable gardens by providing tools and seeds. These have been very successful and provided chicken and vegetables for the school dining rooms. These projects suffered disruption, when schools were closed for two years due to Covid. Some but not all have now managed to get up and running again. The good news is that the education authority plans to employ a teacher who has a special interest in developing the growing of seeds and raising of hens in schools. This teacher has been allocated to work with the schools in the Valle area. The schools have known about this for several months. In the interim, they have been raising money to help restart these projects with the expectation of extra support from the teacher. I am sure that CH Trust will also be needed to provide some of the funding. Hopefully, this will give these projects the boost needed to get them back to and beyond where they were before the COVID shutdown.

A WATER TANK FOR HECTOR V MEDINA COLLEGE IN VALLE DE ANGELES

One project that has just been started is to supply a very large water tank for Hector V Medina College. This is a well run college for senior school pupils and higher education in the centre of the Valle de Angeles village. You will have seen one of their teachers many times in our photos, as he is one of Cesar's team. He can be seen helping with the visits to the Lencas and Tolupan communities. He also uses his truck to make deliveries for us in the Valle area.

He is employed part time at the Hector Medina college, where he teaches agriculture and horticulture to 14-16 year old students. This covers the growing of crops to the use of oxen pulling a wooden plough! The college has always had a good reputation. It is also where Cesar and his siblings received their education.

Crops being raised by the College, which would be threatened if water was not available. There are crops under the white covers which will protect them from the sun and insects.

As you are aware, provision of water is becoming a problem in Honduras, as there has been little outside input into reservoirs and water infrastructure since the 50's. There is a large reservoir in the north of the country which provides hydro electric power. Much of this is sold to Nicaragua. The management of the water for this purpose is often unhelpful to those living in most of Honduras.



- GROWING FOOD AT HECTOR V MEDINA COLLEGE -

Currently the college gets its water supply from a stream that passes through the orphanage property. This, however, can be terminated at any time as it is a goodwill arrangement. To secure a water supply for all the agricultural projects, Juan Carlos would like to install a large black plastic water tank, so that water from the local water supply can be collected and stored. The village water supply is often only turned on once a week or fortnight, so storage is essential. He could also collect and store water from the stream running through the Orphanage as well.

Crop cultivation is important as, each day, they feed 150 children in the College with what has been grown.

This project has been roughly priced. As soon as I managed to get funding for it, the students began to prepare the base. They are in a hurry, as the term will finish early in this local election year, as Honduras prepares to go to the polls.

Boulders are being collected from around the site to be used to make the base for the heavy tank, when full of water.



- PREPARING THE LAND FOR THE WATER TANK -



- COLLECTING BOULDERS -

More about this in the New Year with the next newsletter. They want it functional for the New Year, as the country becomes hotter, with temperatures reaching towards 40°C as they approach Easter.

DINING TABLES AND CHAIRS

Two schools asked for dining tables for the students to use during lunch times. They would also be used for large paper projects, which at present have to be done on the ground. The study chairs used by the students only have little side tables attached for writing notes. Large tables are few and far between, which are a real need when working with card larger than A4.

12 white dining tables have been bought for Sotero Barahona school. They already had enough chairs they could use. Liquidambar School asked for five tables and 40 chairs. These have also been provided.

MINI LIBRARIES

We have provided mini libraries to three more small rural schools.



- CHILDREN ENJOYING THEIR NEW MINI LIBRARY -

Just because they live high in the mountains, it should not prevent them from having an opportunity to see, hold and read story books.

PILAS FOR POOR FAMILIES

This year we have built several pilas. These are large domestic concrete water tanks which are traditional to homes in Honduras. Labour and material costs make them expensive to build and even those who own their own home cannot often afford to build a pila.

This is Mayra Escoto's new pila.



- MAYRA'S NEW PILAR -

On the left-hand side, you can see a cast concrete scrubbing block. This is where the dishes as well as the clothes will be washed. The waste water from the scrub area goes down a pipe and into the soil in the surrounding area. The water supply in the main tank will be kept clean.

This is a quite a large water storage tank. It is difficult for us to realise what a difference this will make to the family, especially to Mayra, who is trying to run the household for her family.

This is a gift that will last for many years to come and deliver a big improvement to their quality of life.

The other essential that we managed to build this year was a toilet for a family. This sounds easy until you realise that we have to build the little house for the toilet and also build a septic tank and connect the two. Many would like to have a toilet but again they are a very expensive item for most families.

Jean Taylor wrote this for me about the importance of a toilet.

Some of us will remember as children praying to God, as we went to bed, that we wouldn't need to get up in the night to go to the toilet, which inevitably meant that we did need to get up! The darkness and the silence of the cold house made us hurry

down the stairs, slide the bolts and turn the big key in the back door. Then cross the blue brick yard, take a deep breath and open the door of the spider-infested toilet. We repeated the journey back to bed, hopefully to sleep.

We thank God that we no longer have to do this!

Our houses now have bathrooms. Our bathrooms have a toilet with a press down or handle flush, a washbasin that delivers water, hot or cold, a shower or bath, often both, to keep us clean and fragrant, and many of our houses have a toilet upstairs and one downstairs. No need for an outside except as an extra. However, we are not always aware of the technology or infrastructure required to provide for our convenience.

“What is a septic tank?” I asked my husband.

“It digests sewage”, was his uncharacteristic short response.



- A SEPTIC TANK UNDER CONSTRUCTION -

How many of us know this? Could you tell me where yours is?

Most of us, in fact, do not have a septic tank as we are plumbed into the local piped sewage system. However, septic tanks are used in the UK, in rural areas where no piped sewage system exists.

How fortunate we are! In the rural regions of Honduras there is generally an appalling lack of sanitation. There will be no toilet, no running water, only rainwater, no bath, no shower. Even many of the people in the villages do not have a flush toilet, as a septic tank is expensive to build. Without a septic tank you cannot have a flush toilet, since it has nowhere to flush to. So, for many, basic sanitation is a major inconvenience and potential health hazard.

To buy and install a toilet and septic tank, would mean our friends in Honduras would no longer have to trek through vegetation, which might host snakes, mosquitos and worse nasties than spiders, to squat and do their business.

Unfortunately, there is not a lot of change from £1000 when we build and install a toilet in a shelter together with a septic tank. Cost varies depending on how much free labour is available and how difficult and far the location is to where the supplies have to be delivered. The value to the recipient is of course immense and long lasting. Water Aid acknowledges that just supplying water on its own is not sufficient. But clean water is an easier sell than sewage, which we rarely need to think about.

Having toilets is something we have taken for granted here in the UK for more than a century.

CHRISTMAS APPROACHES! __

We are again hoping to provide a Christmas party dinner for seventeen schools and two feeding centres. Some will take place in December and others in January. This is dependent on when the teachers are available to open the schools, during the long 'summer' holiday. These meals are important, as food is often scarce at home. A good meal is, therefore, a necessity for the children as well as a fun get together day with their classmates. Last year Cesar managed to get the food bought and cooked for £2 per child. Rossy helps all she can with the price of the basic foods used. Cesar buys wholesale from her at below the prices she charges everyone else. I do not know if last year's price will hold for this year, as we know food prices keep creeping up. What we do know is that it will be a good chicken meal, with a drink and a piece of fruit enjoyed by all.

TREES

LIQUIDAMBAR SCHOOL



- TREES AT LIQUIDAMBAR SCHOOL -

These trees cost nearly five pounds each but they are older and bigger than ones Cesar has bought in the past. They will fruit after two years and some in one year. The trees bought were, orange, of which they have many varieties, lemons, the royal lemons are as large as a grapefruit and sweet and ideal for making drinks for the children. Ordinary lemons are used a lot in Honduras to clean a grill, tenderise meat in a restaurant etc. and, so, are very saleable. Other varieties are papaya, mango, avocado and one I cannot read. I only get the photos and, of course, the bill receipts. Which trees went to schools and which to families I do not know.

The photos illustrate your long-term investment into the country of Honduras. They should produce increasing amounts of fruit with each passing year.

Many of the fruit trees were given to families who own the land around their houses. If you have to rent a room this does not work. Cesar gives them out two per family. These are usually extended families, not the twos and fours that often make up homes in England.



- PLANTING TREES -

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

When you read this newsletter it means that sponsorship money is due as I need to send it out before Christmas.

Nothing is provided by the school, not even a bar of soap or marker pens for the teachers. Everything must come from home. Each child also has to provide a small amount of money each term, so that the teacher is able to buy display card and paper to put displays up on the wall. Education provision is very different from here in England!

The pandemic has changed the Honduran employment situation from very little paid work to even less. Basic food prices have also gone up. So, for a mother with three school age children, who all need the mandatory school shoes and the supplies needed for school, the cost is daunting. It is in fact beyond many poorer families, the ones which we try to support. When children are helped with school supplies it does encourage the parents to make more effort to send their children to school.

The Honduran education system requires a child to attend for the full year, to qualify for and, hopefully, pass the grade test at the end of year. If they fail the test, they must repeat the whole year again. In the case of the children who received a school supply pack from CH Trust, reports have come back observing that they achieved full attendance at school, barring illness. Can we give them a better gift?

ATTENTION CHILD SPONSORS - PLEASE NOTE

Those who pay by cheque will now need to send their donation to:

Mrs J Davidson, Trent Farm, Tenter Close, Long Eaton, Notts. NG10 1HX

Email: sponsorship@chtrust.org.uk

If you have not received any correspondence and feedback about the sponsorship you paid last year can you please get in touch. Judy found that a lot of her sponsorship letters, that were sent by e-mail, were sent to peoples trash bin rather than the inbox on their computer!

We do appreciate the money you send for the children's schooling and want to get the feedback to you.

For those who do not want to committ to sponsorship but would like to help with an education package, we have an education fund again. This is run by Judy Davidson, where any amount of money can be donated as a one off payment.

I have also raised a new gift card costing £15 which will provide the school supplies needed for a child for the year. I do not know the exact price of the supplies until Cesar buys them in January. If there is any money left over it will go towards another school pack.

The books with the bright colours are writing exercise books. They also have to have spiral edged books which are divided into the four main subjects taught. The other items are pens, glue, scissors, geometry set and crayons. We gave out 3000 of these kits last year. Can we do the same again?

A YEAR OF BLESSINGS

The Lord has blessed 2024 with another good year for both us and Honduras. We have fed, and helped in the education of children. We have also been able to make long term investments into the future well being of so many people with water tanks, food bags, trees and sanitation. I hope you feel as proud as I do of what we have achieved together and in the hard work of Cesar and his team.

I wish you a good 2025 and look forward to many more things that we will achieve together.

DONATION FORM

Please complete the form below and return with your donation. Please make cheques payable to "CH Trust". Address on the front cover.

I would like to:

- Donate to the General Fund

- Sponsor _____ (Number of children) with a full/half sponsorship for the next academic year

I have enclosed £ _____

CARD LIST

Cards are £5 except where indicated:

Food for a family in need
Fruit Trees
Food for a feeding centre
Education Kit (£15)

Invest in a Child (education)
Children's Christmas/Party Dinner
Exciting Reading for School Kids

ADMIN

GIFT AID

The Inland Revenue has a scheme called Gift Aid where, if you are a UK taxpayer, CH Trust can claim back 25% on top of the value of your donations/giving. If that's you, it would be great if you would complete the Gift Aid details on the back page of this newsletter. We will do the rest. Please remember to tell us if you drop out of paying tax.

BANK DETAILS

To (Bank) Name: HSBC

Sort Code: 40-19-37

Account No: 61589865

Account Name: CH TRUST



- THE KIT REQUIRED FOR ATTENDING SCHOOL -



- ENJOYING A SPECIAL MEAL AT CHRISTMAS -

GIFT AID FORM

If you are able and willing to grant to us Gift Aid, please complete the authorisation form below and send it with your donation.

I would like Gift Aid to be authorised for:-
 (please tick all boxes you wish to apply).

- Today
- Back dated for the last four years
- For the future

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax each tax year.
 I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1

Signature

Date

Address

Postcode

Please notify the charity if you decide to cancel this declaration or change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax.
