

FRIENDS OF HONDURAS

President's Report for 2022

As 2022 began there was a sense of optimism for the year ahead. With the success of the 2021 Christmas Fundraiser there was money left over in the FOH bank account to start the year which allowed us to plan some maintenance to the school buildings and to purchase some school supplies. School started again in March on a limited "in-class" basis as the pandemic situation continued to improve and "merienda" (afternoon snack) was provided to the students each day. As a result of some very generous donations early in the year, funding was put in place for the replacement of the roofs on two of the classrooms and the installation of a raised metal pitched roof over the kitchen which would allow for extra storage & classroom space in the future. Much needed interior renovations were done to the classrooms with the new roofs, to the bathrooms and to some of the storage areas. School supplies, backpacks for the students, hand sanitizing stations along with safety items like metal handrails & fencing around the school yard were also purchased and installed. The Medical Clinic building was also used periodically through the year by teams of doctors & nurses who provided COVID testing as well as medical check-ups & clinics for the children and families

from the local neighborhoods. The decision was made to hold another “Christmas Food Bag” (containing enough food & basic needs items for a family of 4 for a week at a cost of \$38CAN\$ per bag) and “New Curriculum Materials & Classroom Supplies” fundraiser at the end of the year and in early October fundraising began. By early December over \$14,000 (CAN\$) in donations had been received which allowed food bags to be provided to the families of the 380 students at the two schools (180 at Retiro & 200 at Macuelizo). Donations continued to arrive for the “New Curriculum Materials & Schools Supplies” fund such that by the end of December the fund total was just under \$7500. The goal was to raise approximately \$6000 in total (\$1000 per each of the classes) and it was very gratifying and encouraging to be able to exceed that goal.

As always, there are many people to thank for their contributions toward what FOH was trying to accomplish through the year. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of many generous donors which allowed us to provide assistance to the students and their families at the two schools. Leda & Rigo Chang continue to be our facilitators and organizers on the ground in Honduras and their vision, expertise and tireless energy is invaluable. Thanks also to the FOH Board Members here in Canada who continue to selflessly volunteer their time and energy to this cause....Iris Bos for her language and translation skills and for being our liaison with the

folks in Honduras, to Cathy Stone for so carefully and competently looking after the books and finances of FOH, to Jillian Polson for faithfully recording and distributing the FOH meeting minutes and to Directors-at-Large Bob & Heather Philps and Greg Stone and Member-at-Large Graham Philps for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted January 30, 2023



Dave Philps
President