

Friends of Honduras
Sociedad de Amigos de Honduras

President's Report for 2023

With Covid-19 mostly in the rear-view mirror, 2023 arrived with a sense that things were slowly getting back to normal. A very successful "New Curriculum Materials & Classroom Supplies" fundraiser that ran through the end of 2022 and into early 2023 raised almost \$9000(CAN\$) and allowed FOH to provide much needed teaching supplies for the start of the new school year in late February. The new materials were delivered in March and the teachers and the students were most appreciative. Iris Bos, one of the FOH Board members, was able to visit the school in April and judging by the reports that she made and the photos that she brought back, the school seemed to be operating quite well. The Medical Clinic was also utilized regularly throughout the year with Doctors and Nurses coming from the Catholic Hospital in Tegucigalpa to staff the clinic and provide regular check-ups, inoculations, flu-shots, blood tests, etc. for the children and adults in the neighborhood around the school. With the success of the 2022 Christmas Food Hamper fundraiser, the decision was made to try to do the same thing for Christmas 2023 and in September the fundraiser began. The cost had gone up slightly, from \$38 to \$41 per hamper, as

had the number of hampers needed, from 380 to 400 (200 for Retiro and 200 for Macuelizo). By the middle of November, thanks to some amazing continuing support by a wide range of donors, the goal of raising \$16,400 (CAN\$) had been met. The funds were sent to Honduras and our team there went about obtaining the necessary supplies to put in the hampers. The 200 hampers for Retiro were put together by a great group of volunteers and by the middle of December the hampers had been distributed to the families of the students at the school. Due to some supply chain issues in Honduras (there are shortages everywhere) the distribution of the hampers to the families of the students at the school in Macuelizo has not taken place as of this date but we are hopeful that that it will happen soon.

None of what has been accomplished this past year at Retiro and Macuelizo would have been possible without the support and assistance of a wide range of people, both here in Canada and in Honduras. FOH is so grateful for the ongoing support of so many generous donors who provide the funds that allows us to provide assistance to the students and their families at the two schools. Leda & Rigo Chang, along with Suyapa, continue to be our facilitators and organizers on the ground in Honduras and their vision, expertise and tireless energy is invaluable. My thanks also goes out to the FOH Board Members here in

Canada who continue to selflessly provide their time and energy to this cause.....to Iris Bos for her language and translation skills and for being our liaison with our partners 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 29, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philps", enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Dave Philps
President