

Friends of Honduras / Sociedad de Amigos de Honduras

President's Report for 2025

The arrival of 2025 brought with it a sense of anticipation as a trip to Honduras was being planned and organized for two of the Canadian Board members to visit the schools and the medical clinic in February. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no one from FOH Canada had been able to visit the schools since July 2019 when the Medical Clinic was opened and we were looking forward to seeing firsthand how things were progressing. With the successful fundraising campaign that took place in late 2024 and early 2025 there were sufficient funds available to provide the students in Retiro with new backpacks and individual packages of school supplies (pencils, pens, erasers, scissors, paper, workbooks, etc) plus soccer balls & basketballs, and provide the teachers with new text books and teaching supplies (craft paper, crepe paper, glue guns & glue sticks, rulers, protractors, colored pencils & crayons, pens, masking & cellophane tape, scissors, white glue, stickers, pipe cleaners, white board markers, etc). The FOH representatives also visited the school in Macuelizo and dropped off some school supplies and soccer balls and provided a snack for the students. The Mayor of Valle de Angeles (the district where the Retiro school is located) hosted the FOH representatives at the Valle de Angeles municipal offices and presented FOH with a “Certificate of Appreciation” plaque for the 25 years of support that FOH has provided to the community. Various maintenance and repair projects were identified at the school in Retiro and plans were put in place to get started on those projects. The Mayor of Valle de Angeles provided the tradespeople & materials to

hook-up dedicated municipal water supply lines to the school & the medical clinic (a much needed upgrade!). Another joint project saw FOH providing the paint and the Mayor providing the painting crews who put a fresh coat of paint on the interiors & exteriors of the classrooms. The stairs from the school grounds down to the lunchroom were repaired and resurfaced, making them much safer, plus FOH provided the funds for repairs to, & an additional propane tank for, the stove in the lunchroom so the stove can be used to prepare the daily “merienda” for the students. The medical clinic continued to be utilized thru the year for regularly scheduled visits by teams of doctors & nurses from Tegucigalpa, benefitting both the students at the school and the folks in the surrounding communities. In August the decision was made to begin another fundraising campaign with the intent of raising enough money (\$18,000) to provide food hampers at Christmas to the families of the students at the school in Retiro as well as the school in Macuelizo. After a very successful 3 month long fundraising campaign, the project was fully funded by the end of November and our FOH partners in Honduras undertook the huge task of obtaining the items for the food hampers, putting the hampers together and then distributing them at the two schools. Thankfully there were sufficient funds available to purchase additional food hampers for the teachers, for other folks who assist at the schools and for some needy people in the communities. An additional fundraiser for school supplies for the 2026 school year was run in conjunction with the one for the food hampers and I am happy to report that the \$6000 target for that project has also been reached. The school supplies and other items for the teachers will be purchased and distributed when the new school year starts near the end of February 2026.

As I put this report for 2025 together I once again feel humbled and blessed by the continued support of so many people, both here in Canada and in Honduras, who make this work possible. To the wide range of generous donors who continue to support this work with their monetary contributions....thank you! To Leda, Rigo, Suyapa and your teams of volunteers in Honduras....your vision, expertise and tireless energy as facilitators & organizers is invaluable and we are so grateful. 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....Iris Bos for her language and translation skill and for being our liaison with our partners in Honduras, Cathy Stone for so carefully and competently looking after the books and finances of FOH, Jillian Polson for faithfully recording and distributing the FOH meeting minutes and Directors-at-Large Bob & Heather Philps and Greg Stone and Member-at-Large Graham Philps for their strong and steady support.

Respectfully submitted January 26, 2026,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Philps".

David Philps, President