

Friends of Honduras Annual Report for 2009

2009 turned out to be a 'slow but steady' kind of year for F.O.H. We were not able to get anything substantial done during the year because of major political unrest and the fact that the school board members were changed three times. During the year we had several phone conferences with Leda, our agent in Tegucigalpa. Leda is very aware of the political and social difficulties in Honduras, and because of that, has been very cautious with the dispersal of the funds raised here in Canada for the school. I think we could all agree that very little could be done through F.O.H. without Leda's leadership and her love for the kids at Retero.

Some of the things that we were able to do during 2009:

- 1) Jessica got the website process started and was able to secure a domain name. Because of her busy schedule, David looked to his website provider and was able to get us an actual working website, friendsofhonduras.org
- 2) Dave was able to get some up to date brochures printed, and they were made available for all board members to distribute.
- 3) Graham worked on the videos from past trips to Honduras, which David was able to put on the website.
- 4) Leda purchased shoes for the school children, which I am sure were much appreciated.
- 5) At a cost of about \$476.00 U.S., Leda purchased locally made backpacks, complete with a school logo attached, for distribution in the early part of the 2010 school year.
- 6) Ingredients for the hot lunches were provided on an on going basis.
- 7) Lice and parasite medication were given to the school children three times during the school year.
- 8) School supplies were purchased as needed.

As F.O.H. is able get details and costs on needed projects, we look forward to raising the required funds and working together with Leda to improve the education and wellbeing of the kids at the school. As Honduras held new national elections in November 2009, and with the political tensions settling down, we hope to have a much more active year in 2010. Much thanks to all of the board members here who have spent a lot of time keeping records, running the meetings, providing a place to meet, developing and keeping up the web site, corresponding with Leda, translating, etc., etc. A special thanks (and a group hug) to Leda for her incredible work on behalf of us and the school kids at Retero.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Philps

