

## **President's Annual Report for 2015.**

2015 arrived with much anticipation as a trip to the school was being planned for early in the year. In late February, after much preparation, Heather, Bob, Iris and I left for Honduras, taking with us over 400 "hug-a-bears" and multi-colored cloth bags very graciously hand-made for us by the missionary ladies group from Central Baptist Church plus a large suitcase full of brand new school supplies donated by the Compassionate Resource Warehouse. The long, tiring trip down was survived by all (!) and we were met at the Tegucigalpa airport by Leda, some of her friends and Ever (our faithful friend & driver extraordinaire!) We thought our first day at the school would be quite quiet as the students were still on their end of school year break, but word had got out that the Canadians were coming, and we had a large and very welcoming group of students and parents to greet us on our arrival. The school is doing well, with approximately 150 students enrolled. The former principal of the school, Raoul, has moved on to another school (more on that later in this report) so one of the teachers has been promoted to take over as principal and he seems to be doing a good job. A new and much improved bathroom and teachers room were in the process of being completed while we were there and FOH supplied \$1000 (US\$) to help pay for renovating the old bathroom into another classroom. With Leda's assistance and organizational skills, we were also able to purchase individual school supply packages (notebooks, pencils & sharpener, erasers, ruler, scissors, etc.) at a department store, put them together with backpacks, the cloth-bags & hug-a-bears, and then distribute them to the students on their first day back at school. Raoul, the former principal, is now the principal of a new, 3 room school in Macueliso, a small mountaintop community that FOH has visited previously. The school, built with funds supplied by the Taiwanese government, has provided a huge positive change in that community and we were able to visit Raoul at that school and distribute hug-a-bears, cloth bags and school supplies to them as well. Leda & Rigo Chang graciously donated a large bale of clothing that we were also able to distribute to the families in Macueliso. While we were in Honduras, a small house adjacent to the school came up for sale (\$7000US\$), and after viewing the property and discussing it, the decision was made to purchase for use

as a medical clinic. Leda negotiated the purchase on our behalf and Rigo took care of the legal/paperwork part of the purchase process. Preparations are now underway toward renovating the building, outfitting it, and getting the clinic operational.

Fundraising continued through the year with monies coming in from friends, family and other donors. A GoFundMe campaign was launched and to date has brought in over \$500. FOH continues to be blessed by many faithful supporters and from our small beginnings many years ago, to date, approximately \$100,000 has been raised for the work in Honduras.

Discussions are ongoing regarding getting NGO (non-government organization) status for FOH in Honduras, which would allow FOH to purchase supplies tax free.

Initial contact was made here in Victoria with Elizabeth May's office (local MP) regarding a possible joint venture with FOH/Canadian Government/Honduran Government to fund the renovation and operation of the medical clinic. Rigo kindly provided us with a letter of introduction from the Honduran government that we can use in our discussions with the Canadian government.

Many thanks to all our board members who continue to volunteer their time and work so hard for FOH. Thanks to Leda & Rigo Chang in Honduras, we wouldn't be able to do anything without their able and knowledgeable assistance. Thanks also to Vice President Iris Bos who provides us with valuable language skills and acts as our liaison with Leda & Rigo. Thanks Cathy Stone for taking care of the books and so ably looking after all the donations, tax receipts, etc. Thanks Jillian Polson for faithfully recording the minutes of our meetings and distributing them to everyone. Thanks to our Directors at large, Bob & Heather Philps and Greg Stone and member at large Graham Philps.

It has been another good year and I look forward with hope as 2016 unfolds before us.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Philps