

Friends of Honduras Society

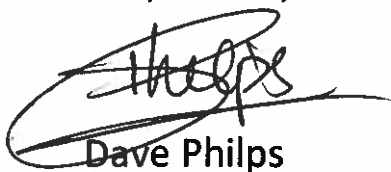
President's Report for 2020

2020 began with the Society eagerly looking forward to the beginning of the new school year in late February. Donations had been received through the last few months of 2019 and in early 2020 that would allow FOH to purchase school supplies for the students and teachers to start the year. There were also funds available for the purchase of the necessary food supplies so that the students would have a daily meal while at the school. In February the water supply/system at the school was upgraded and improved. March arrived and with it the COVID-19 pandemic. The school and clinic were shut down and everything came to a grinding halt. In April FOH was able to arrange the purchase and distribution of beans and rice for food bags for the needed families of students who were not getting a daily meal at the school because of the shut-down. In August Suyapa asked if it would be possible for FOH to purchase paper and ink for a photocopier so that the teachers could prepare lessons for "distance learning" by the students working from their homes. In September, with assistance from the Mayor's office and the local government, the roof on one of the classrooms was replaced and a new fence & gate was installed at the entrance to the schoolyard. In November two hurricanes hit Honduras a short time apart and caused major damage and destruction. With money received from fundraising done by Iris Bos and her family, plus other funds that came in during this time, FOH was able to send \$5000(US\$) to Honduras to help purchase & distribute food, clothing and basic

necessities to the people in some of the hardest hit areas in and around Tegucigalpa.

This has been a difficult and uncertain year for the students and their families at the schools in Retiro and Macuelizo and for many other people in Honduras. Thankfully, the generous and ongoing monetary support of FOH by a wide range of donors has allowed FOH to continue to fund and provide assistance to children and their families in Honduras. To those donors we offer our heartfelt and grateful thanks. None of what FOH has done this year would have been possible without the involvement of Leda & Rigo Chang in Honduras. They are our facilitators and organizers in Honduras and their connections, expertise and tireless energy multiplies many times over the positive effects of what FOH is trying to accomplish. A big thank you also to all the FOH board members here in Canada who continue to selflessly volunteer their time and energy to this cause. Many thanks to Iris Bos for her language and translation skills and for being our liaison with Leda & Rigo 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 the Directors-at-Large Bob & Heather Philps & Greg Stone and Member-at-Large Graham Philps for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted February 23, 2021.



Dave Philps