

Celebrating our 20th Year
in Service to Honduras



Winter 2010

www.hoi.org

Phone 404-327-5768

Trip Calendar

- 1/16 Covington United Methodist
- 1/23 Tarrytown United Methodist
- 1/30 Alpharetta First United Methodist
- 1/30 Hamilton Mill United Methodist
- 2/13 GACS
- 2/13 Conyers First United Methodist
- 2/20 Decatur First United Methodist
- 2/20 Mt. Park United Methodist
- 2/27 Mayo Rehab
- 3/6 Smoke Rise Baptist
- 3/13 Newnan

Methodists

- 3/20 Wilderness
- 4/10 Nacoochee United Methodist
- 5/15 CVM
- 5/29 Grace Presbyterian
- 6/5 Hillside United Methodist
- 6/5 Simpsonwood United Methodist

14 Villages Need YOU!

Everyone at HOI is pleased that we are able to reinstate group travel to Honduras. Our first team for 2010, Covington First United Methodist Church, will be at Rancho el Paraiso January 16-23.

We have space available on the trip calendar, and 14 villages are in search of Volunteers! Our HOI staff in Honduras has worked with these villages to determine their needs, but we are short-



handed of mission teams. Please contact Emily Grossman, Group Travel Coordinator, for additional information at egrossman@hoi.org or (404) 327-5770.

The weeks that are currently available:

- May 22-29
- May 29-June 5
- July 3-10
- July 10-17



The School Year in Honduras Begins In February...

...So January is a great time to get involved in HOI's scholarship and education programs! Free (or mostly free) public education is provided through the 5th grade in Honduras, but the HOI programs allow students to continue their education beyond that basic level.

Our **scholarship** program partners (that's you!) work with Honduran middle and high school students. Many students live in villages that do not have a local school, so HOI provides the opportunity for these students to live with a family in another village and attend school there. For \$600 (tuition, room-and-board), you can provide one student's scholarship in 2010 and allow the student to get an education he/she could not obtain at home. There are also students who have a school in their local village, but they do not have the fees needed for uniforms and basic school supplies. For \$250 (tuition-only), you can enable a student to attend school in his or her local village.

Our **Culuco education** program connects sponsors with students in the HOI-run schools in the village of Culuco. Three schools - Aldersgate Elementary, Hope Middle, and the new Grace High School - provide education for students living in the area immediately around the Ranch. For only \$250 you can sponsor a student in these schools.

Being a sponsor in either of these programs, scholarship or Culuco education, is a rewarding way to stay connected with the work of HOI year-round. Each sponsor receives the name of the student sponsored and generally gets a picture of that student and at least one thank you letter from the student. But there is much more to the program than a few hundred dollars and a letter. Knowing you are making education possible for a child really is its own reward. One of our faithful sponsors, Pam Buzbee writes:

She [scholarship student] writes that I have sponsored her for five years and it's that only with my help and her family's support that she is able to graduate. How rewarding to read such words. Sometimes it feels like "what difference can I make?" but then to hear what it has done for even just one person makes you realize that you CAN make a difference.

Texas Event—October 8, 2009

Honduras Outreach is reaching out! As we celebrate our first 20 years of service with residents of the Agalta Valley, we are also seeking to engage and encourage churches and mission teams beyond our historic stronghold of dedicated supporters in the North Georgia region.

Because HOI has a cluster of churches and supporters in Texas, particularly in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, we established the Texas Advisory Committee in late 2008. Representatives from five mission teams / churches were charged with recruiting new churches and groups to the HOI family and to hold fund raising events to benefit the organization.

As a result, the first annual Texas Fund Raising Event was hosted by Rev. Jack

Arrington at Northway Christian Church in Dallas October 8, 2009. Rev. Molly Goodrich and Gene Roberts, members of the Texas Advisory committee, planned a worshipful event focusing on the blessings team members derive from a week's work in the Agalta Valley and the blessings they bring back to their local churches when they return to the States.

The evening began with a delicious potluck buffet of Hispanic and North American dishes. Speakers included Chris Hudson, former ranch pastor, who now lives with his family in Fort Worth and Jose Almanza, pastor of a Hispanic congregation in Dallas who also mentors our ranch pastor Wilmer Padilla.

Interspersed during the evening were testimonies and anecdotes by mission team members

sharing what an HOI mission experience had meant to them. Greg Nunn, organist at Midway Christian Church provided music and led singing.

This first, and hopefully not last, Texas Advisory Committee event, had 35 people in attendance, representing seven different churches. Coming the farthest were Stuart Garner from Tarrytown UMC in Austin and Charlie Candler from First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta who now works in Austin.

If your team would like to host a cluster event to benefit HOI and to spread the message of mission work in Honduras to your neighbors and neighboring churches, please contact Emily Grossman, Group Program Coordinator, at: egrossman@hoi.org



**...focusing
on the
blessings
that teams
bring back
to their
local
churches**

HOI's Youngest Donor



Meet Hayley Anderson. She is 11 years old and has been saving her

allowance and some of her birthday money since February of 2009 in order to donate to HOI's vaccination program. Here is the

Dear HOI,
My name is Hayley and I want this money to go to the HOI Village Vaccination program to help the kids in Honduras. I saved up \$100 and my dad payed for the other half. I hope this helps all the people of the village.



letter that we received in the Atlanta office last month, along with a check for \$200. It was such a joy to us that we wanted to share it with all those who participate with HOI.

Her father, Joe Anderson, travels with Mountain Park UMC and according to him, Hayley wants to travel with the team! He told her that she needs to wait until she is a little older to experience a mission trip HOI allows children who are 13 by January of the year of travel to join a mission team, as long as they travel with a parent of the same gender.

Contributions in 90 days: October 1– December 31, 2009

Contributions \$25,000-\$5,000

EICKHOFF, GERALD E.
 CLAUGUS, THOMAS E.
 PRATT, JOHN & TERESA
 WHITMIRE, MARK T.
 DECATUR FUMC
 ESTATE OF GEORGE A. BROXTON
 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Contributions \$999-\$300

LEWIS, MADELINE
 FUGILL, ROSS J.
 TILLMAN, SR, DAVID & MARTHA
 WETTLAUFER, MARK & LINDA
 CURTIS FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 EAST COAST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, LLC
 LIVINGSTON, DONALD G.
 MARTIN, KENNETH & PATRICIA
 NACOCHEE UMC
 SAMPSON, FRANCES & JAMES
 SIMPSONWOOD UMC-PRESCHOOL
 SMITH, STEVEN G. & ELIZABETH C.
 STONE, DAVID & LESLIE
 STOREY, JAMES R.
 WHATLEY, WILLIAM & ELAINE
 SHANDON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 BROWN, TED
 HUGGINS, ANDREW G.
 JOHNSON, MARY ANN & TERENCE
 KATZ, RALPH & ELLEN
 ROBERSON, JIM
 ROBISON, BRUCE
 WIECHERN, MARY V.
 BAUMGAERTNER, WILLIAM & KATHY
 FOUST, DARLENE P.
 MANTON, TERRA & RONALD
 DOXTATER, GARY M.
 GIDDENS, W. NOLAN
 GILLASPIE, JAMES P.
 SULLIVAN, DEBORAH

Contributions-\$4,999-\$1,000

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 NORTHWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 THECOMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 SMOKE RISE BAPTIST CHURCH
 FUMC OF COVINGTON
 SPRUELL, W. HUGH, M.D.
 TARRYTOWN UMC
 BEAR CREEK METHODIST
 HOLY TRINITY PARISH
 WILKS, STEPHEN & ROBIN
 BRASHER, JOSEPH & MELANIE
 DOBBS, OLIN
 AUSTIN, JUDD A
 BUZBEE, PAMELA K.
 UNDERWOOD, JEANNINE
 CANNON UMC
 BOVE, JOSEPH A.
 BYERLY, DENNIS R.
 FUMC OF CONYERS
 JORDAN, LEE & ELIZABETH
 WATKINS, PAUL & MILENE (FERRELL)
 WOODALL, LEE, M.D.
 WORLD OUTREACH FOUNDATION, INC.

Contributions \$299-\$125 Continued

BENNETT, JR, GEORGE & LINDA
 BRIARCLIFF UMC
 CULTRA, REBECCA
 DILL, DONALD & SHANNON
 FUMC CENTERVILLE, TX
 SKINNER, KATHY
 WHITE, JR., ALBERT P.
 ANDERSON, JOE T. & DEBORAH Z.
 BRYER, MIKE
 KIERAN, NEIL D.
 MCCULLOUGH, BARBARA
 ST. MARK UMC-AUGUSTA
 THOMPSON, JAMES
 WIRTH, HENRY & ALVA
 BECKWITH, JULIAN & JOYCE
 BELL, BETH & WOODY
 DUNBAR, JAMES & SUE
 GROSSMAN, MARY EMILY
 HOLMES, RHETT J.
 JONES, LINDA P.
 KIERAN, LISA TAYLOR
 SULLIVAN, GENE & JANENE
 WHITE, PAUL R., D.D.S.
 WRAY, STEVEN
 TOLLEY, ROB
 MCCARTHY, SUSAN
 ROGERS, JAMES H.
 WATKINS, TIM A.

- Remember...you will need a passport valid for at least *six months* from the date of entry to travel to Honduras, according to the U.S. State Dept.

In rough financial times, I like the final quote made by Will Rogers before he took off on his ill fated plane trip with his friend and pilot, Wiley Post. "The secret to happiness is very simple. Always love people and use things; never, ever use people and love things."

Tight cash makes us less enamored with things and more appreciative of the people we know. Its good to know the people here and the ones in Honduras, Our friends in Honduras teach us that poverty and having little in the way of things are two different states of being. They live basic lives but are happy; they don't need psychiatrists, psychologists, Dr. Phil or Oprah or even Rush Limbaugh to explain life to them. They are not "poor", just don't have much. But they do have us, and we have them.
-Bob Hope
HOI Board Member

Louise Mahaffey Bible Training

The Bible Training Center held its ninth graduation ceremony at the Ranch in October, 2009. Since the program began in 1998, 111 students have graduated and become pastors at local churches and leaders in their villages. This year's graduation ceremony featured a



sermon by a member of the class of 2008, Maria Irene Lopez, the first woman pastor to deliver the graduation sermon!

This class is the 4th class instructed by Wilmer Padilla, Director of Spiritual Life at Rancho el Paraiso. Eighteen students became members of the tenth class in October 2009. They will finish their studies in October 2010.



Ten Years of Service at Rancho el Paraiso

Three employees were honored for completing 10 years of service to Rancho el Paraiso and HOI:



Seyla Andrade who began working as a teacher at Aldersgate Elementary School when it opened in 2000.



Nely Padilla who began working as the custodian at Aldersgate Elementary school when it opened in 2000.

Maria Cruz who began as the administrative secretary in 2000 and is currently the secretary of the medical program at the ranch.

From the Health Team at the Ranch

January through September saw 8255 patients, which includes 1707 who were under the age of five!

During the same time period, there were:

- * 990 prenatal visits with each person receiving an ultrasound.
- * Family planning was prescribed for 1675 patients
- * 227 PAP smears
- * Vaccination rate remains at 98% (or higher)
- * Reduction of Malaria 100% in our area of influence; no cases this year
- * Cases of diarrhea- 30% less than last year
- * There have been no infant mortalities in the past 3 years!