

Honduran Charity Calls Aurora Hills Home

by Jenny Lawhorn Sammis

After a fire destroyed their 25th Street South home ten years ago, Glen and Karen Evans began the arduous task of rebuilding. And there, in the midst of wrangling with insurance, budgets, zoning, architects and contractors, Glen began a different, more human kind of renovation project: helping the thousands of Honduran laborers and their families attain a better future.

As his home was being rebuilt in 2002, Glen befriended a group of undocumented immigrants from Honduras living in Arlington. He soon realized these young men were totally cut off from their families. From his background as a pastor and volunteer in some of DC's poorest neighborhoods, he had seen firsthand the problems that were created when communication between family members is severed. So he decided to visit the men's families in Honduras. He made videos of the men here and videos of the families in Honduras, allowing each to see and hear the other. Using his vacation time to make the trips, Glen discovered the tremendous destitution of Honduras. Poverty was nothing new to Glen. He volunteered for six years in a homeless shelter in Washington DC, and had also volunteered in India, but the poverty he saw in Honduras touched him in new ways. He wanted to find a practical solution for the poverty - thus Art For Humanity was born.

Art for Humanity is an all-volunteer nonprofit serving Honduras, the second-poorest country in the western hemisphere. Art For Humanity uses donations of money, clothing and household goods to help poor families begin small businesses with which to support themselves and educate their

children. Traveling to Honduras six or more times a year with large container shipments of art supplies, kitchenware, new and gently used clothing and shoes, computers, and



Children in Honduras receive clothing and shoes from Art for Humanity donors

more, Glen and his volunteers help Hondurans foster new businesses that include bike repair, sewing, farming, and nursing.

Lack of quality education is a major hindrance to Hondurans. Many leave school without attaining the equivalent of a second-grade proficiency in math and writing. This creates many hardships and has the effect of keeping people poor. To illustrate the need for basic education, Glen related an anecdote from a few weeks ago. "On February 21, there was fear and excitement in Honduras. Unknown to the average Honduran, the US space shuttle was making a night landing in Florida. It passed over Honduras creating fire as it reentered the atmosphere. When people saw the big fire in the sky, they thought the end of the world was at hand. Many ran into their homes to hug family and see what would happen next. To their surprise, nothing else happened. The next day, news spread via TV, etc. that the fire in the sky was not the end of the world but the space shuttle landing in Florida. Man were they relieved!"

This news story shows how underdeveloped Honduras is in many ways,

Do you have a neighbor who's doing something cool? Write it up and send it in.

especially related to education. One of Art for Humanity's current missions is to build the country's first English speaking college. The Leadership University of Honduras, which will be based in a rural center of the country, will also be the first college in Honduras offering full scholarships for good students from needy families.

Last year, Glen was in Honduras during the coup and, later, during the elections that changed the leadership in Honduras. "These elections were a huge victory for the Honduran people," says Glen. "It is also good news for Art for Humanity. With stability returned, we can once again focus on our mission here - to work with the local people as they empower themselves to provide incomes for their families, educate their children and participate in their government."

To join Art for Humanity, visit www.artforhumanity.org or email Glen: glenevans@starpower.net Glen regularly sends his donors email updates and photos from the field, and they are always interesting to read.



Glen Evans visits Hondurans on election day in November

Glen Evans
Art For Humanity.....redefining the art of helping the poor.
Neighbors can leave donations at his home at 635 S. 25th St. Arlington, Va. 22202 or call 703-684-4635.
Combined Federal Campaign 11701