

Each of these articles were published by [www.honduranweekly.com](http://www.honduranweekly.com).

## Art for Humanity: Empowering the Agents of Change

Wednesday, 21 July 2010 08:46

Lech Walesa, Desmond Tutu, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and most other great agents of change all realized that they had the potential to make a difference.



**By Glen Evans**

Hondurans have, for too long, looked outside for help in creating a better future for their country. In some measure, that may be part of the reason Honduras does not seem to be able to develop and escape its high levels of poverty and dependency. To mainly look abroad for solutions to internal problems is ineffective as well as counterproductive. Unfortunately, the attitude of relying on sources “over there” rather than from “within” is an idea promoted in Honduras' education system, as well as in its churches -- thus pervading the culture in general. Not only are the schools not effectively teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, neither are they adequately teaching self-respect or self-empowerment.

One of the educational goals of [Art for Humanity](#) is to teach, coach and equip students to believe in themselves... to emphasize that they hold the keys to a more positive future for both themselves and their country. Once people begin to recognize that they have the power to determine their fate, they begin to unlock their full growth potential.

The one thing that most change agents have in common is that change began to occur once their eyes were opened to that possibility. Until that happens, positive change is nearly impossible. This phenomenon is not unique to Honduras. It is true globally. Lech Walesa, Desmond Tutu, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and most other great agents of change all realized that they had the potential to make a difference. When that initial moment of realization arrived, the process of change was ignited. That is my wish for the agents of change in Honduras.

For samples of empowering quotes we use to help students to realize their inner power, see <http://www.artforhumanity.org/about-us/quotes-for-living>. If you have others to share, please e-mail them to me at [glenevans@starpower.net](mailto:glenevans@starpower.net)

*Note. The author is the founder of Art For Humanity, a non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. He will be a guest speaker at the 11th annual [Conference on Honduras](#) in Copán Ruinas on October 14-16, 2010.*

## Art for Humanity: Teaching Leadership

Friday, 02 July 2010 05:43

*If Honduras is going to improve its position as the fourth poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, its people -- not gringos -- will have to lead the way.*



**By Glen Evans**

I believe education is the key to the future success of Honduras. As it is now, because of inadequate education, Honduras cannot even compete with its Central American neighbors when it comes to attracting international businesses needing workers capable of something more than assembly work. I am told the Honduran educational system lags 35 to 50 years behind those of other Central American countries. My personal estimate is that the average high school graduate in Honduras functions at about a 6th grade US level.

I have never met an Honduran high school or college graduate who can properly punctuate a sentence or do the simplest math without a calculator. I meet Honduran college students who are about to graduate with a major in journalism and they do not know the difference between a period and a comma, or when to use upper case letters. Similarly, I have yet to meet an Honduran college graduate who can touch type, even though they type daily. With that level of education, how can a nation progress in the world economy? This is a central problem which needs to be addressed if Honduras is to have a better future.

Although [Art For Humanity](#) is a tiny charity, we believe we can do something significant to improve education in Honduras. Unlike all of our other efforts which focus on helping individual families at the grassroots level, the goal of our new effort is to educate the next generation of Honduran leaders. With a good education, students from poor families can develop and implement the changes needed in the Honduran system to bring about a greater level of prosperity for the country. If Honduras is going to improve its position as the fourth poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, its people -- not *gringos* -- will have to lead the way. It is precisely for this reason that we are building the [Leadership University](#).

Our belief is that if Hondurans are provided the right tools, they can lead their country to a new and better future. People who have experienced poverty are the ones best able to understand poverty, and thus they are the ones with the greatest motivation to do something about it. Consequently, it will be good students from poor families who will be invited to attend our small residential college where volunteer faculty from around the globe will help them develop leadership skills, as well as provide them the most well-rounded education available in Honduras.

Because our students will be starting far behind their counterparts in the developed world, the education will be intense. Students will be taught from early in the morning until the evening, using a wide variety of teaching methods and personal mentoring and coaching, for the full twelve months of the year over the course of five years. Upon graduation, students will be among the best educated people in Honduras, with hearts and spirits modeled after great leaders throughout history who helped transform their countries.

As a person with a science background, I believe things happen for a reason. Things do not normally “just happen”. In the next few weeks, I will be sharing some of the reasons to which I attribute the prevalence of poverty in Honduras, and the things we are doing to bring sustainable, positive change to the system.

*Note. The author is the founder of Art For Humanity, a non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. He will be a guest speaker at the 11th annual [Conference on Honduras](#) in Copán Ruinas on October 14-16, 2010.*

## Art for Humanity: Creating Small Businesses in Rural Honduras

Monday, 28 June 2010 06:45

*If India had Honduras' educational system, that country would still be deeply stuck in the poverty that I witnessed four decades ago, rather than becoming the fourth largest economy on the planet and a global leader in technology.*



**By Glen Evans**

In the 1970s, I was a graduate student volunteering in India. At that time, India was about as poor as a country could be. The poverty was shocking to me. Today, much has changed for India. I hope the same happens in Honduras. I am with a small humanitarian charity called [Art For Humanity](#). We mostly help the rural poor create small businesses. In the beginning, the businesses were mostly related arts and crafts. Mothers could do this in their homes as they cared for their children. Thus, the name "Art For Humanity". We have now expanded into other areas such as farming, welding, bike repair, and retail.

In many respects, we are like most other charities trying to help the people of Honduras. That is, we work at the grassroots level, aiding one family at a time. While what we do is appreciated by the families, it occurred to me sometime ago that the "Honduran system" is producing poor families faster than charities can prepare assistance. In many respects, we are going backwards rather than making progress. The Honduran system is very efficient at producing more poverty.

One part of the Honduran system that contributes to creating more new poverty is the education system. While this is more true of public education than private, the problem is a broad one. If India had Honduras' educational system, that country would still be deeply stuck in the poverty that I witnessed four decades ago, rather than becoming the fourth largest economy on the planet and a global leader in technology. Education fueled that change. I believe the same can be true for Honduras. Each week, I will be writing on this topic and our pilgrimage to do something about it. I hope you'll join me. (6/28/10)

*Note. The author is the founder of Art For Humanity, a non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. He will be a guest speaker at the 11th annual [Conference on Honduras](#) in Copán Ruinas on October 14-16, 2010.*