



International Project Alliance (IPA)

## On Becoming a Friend of IPA



Here is a unique opportunity to become engaged with a non-profit organization achieving great results in western Honduras. An opportunity to do more than writing a check, but without assuming a lot of responsibilities. An opportunity to involve yourself with the organization or its beneficiaries, in the way you find most rewarding.

By becoming a Friend of IPA, you – or the organization you represent – can choose to:

- Share your knowledge and experience by advising one of our six local project management teams.
- Join the lively discussions at our monthly social and planning meetings in Mount Vernon, WA.
- Travel with us to Honduras, where we will introduce you to real life in indigenous mountain villages and to the people who benefit from our aid.
- Extend your family to include students that you support in school. Exchange letters and photos.
- Hang out with a group of Rotarians who know how to have fun while helping others.
- Help us with local fund-raising activities.
- Attend our annual celebration for Friends, where we recognize your contribution and bring you up to date on our activities in Copán.
- Join our email list to receive our trip reports, minutes of monthly meetings, and other key documents.

### What is the IPA?

Founded in 2014, we are a large collaborative group of Rotary clubs in northwest Washington State who made a long-term commitment to helping the people of the Copán Ruinas region of western Honduras.

Our projects cover most areas of international aid, including education, health, food and agriculture, water and sanitation, construction, and economic development.

We work mainly with the indigenous Mayan villages in the mountains surrounding Copán Ruinas, but we also support the few small towns in the region.

Please refer to our pamphlet entitled *Help for Copán, Honduras* for more details of our work.



*A local sponsor bonding with her middle-school student in the village of El Mecatal, Santa Rita.*



*Primary students in the village of Ingenios, Cabañas.*

### Who is eligible to become a Friend of IPA?

The following are invited to become a Friend of the IPA:

- Any **individual** who donates \$1,000 or more to the IPA in any year; and
- Any **organization** that donates \$2,000 or more. Eligible organizations include service clubs, foundations, church groups, charities and businesses.

### What would my contribution be used for?

It's up to you. Here are some examples you might choose:

- Make an unrestricted donation that we will allocate to the best use that we identify on your behalf.
- Sponsor a village primary school in our Adopt-a-School program. We currently support 1,400 students in 30 villages. Cost is only \$20 per student per year, and generally runs between \$400 and \$1,500 per year for an entire school.
- Fund a scholarship for one or more students attending secondary school in our Adopt-a-Dream program. We currently award scholarships to more than 400 village students. Cost is \$160 per year in middle school and \$260 per year in high school. This is a great way to develop relationships with students and their families and communities.
- Make a donation to our Student Health Fund, which pays for health care for our students. We focus on serious health issues that affect the quality of life or the ability to learn in school. It is amazing how little it costs in Honduras to change a child's life. A \$100 surgery allowed a tongue-tied girl to speak normally. A \$45 surgery saved a boy's foot from amputation.
- Fund a specific project that interests you. For example, you might like to support our economic development program. Or if you'd like to repair or build a village school, we can connect you with a suitable project.

Pamphlets explaining the three school programs are available on request.

### What percentage of donations actually benefits the recipients?

100% of donated funds pay for direct project expenses. All overhead activities are performed by volunteers who cover their own expenses.



*Business planning session in the village of Brisas del Valle, a partner in our economic development program.*

### Do I have to make a long-term commitment?

We would of course be delighted to have your long-term involvement with the IPA, but the duration of your support is entirely up to you.

If you are sponsoring a school or secondary student, we do ask that you pledge at least three years of support. However, we understand that circumstances can change, and that you might need to end your support.

### How do I get started?

Please contact us so that we can answer your questions and discuss the best way for you to support us. As a first step, please contact Peter Martin at [pgm@seanet.com](mailto:pgm@seanet.com).

### How do I send my donation?

Please make checks payable to "IPA Foundation" and include a note to indicate the purpose of the funds. Mail checks to:

IPA Foundation  
c/o Archer Halliday PS  
1621 Cornwall Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225



*Men from the village of La Laguna building three new classrooms.*

### Are my donations tax-deductible?

Yes, the IPA Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization registered with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

### Are there other tax-advantaged ways to donate?

Yes. Here is just one example. If you are over 70½ years old and required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA account each year, and these funds are more than you need to cover living expenses, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the IPA Foundation. The amount you donate is excluded from your taxable income. A QCD is very easy to arrange, and your IRA fiduciary will have a simple form to complete.

### What happens after I donate?

We will acknowledge receipt of your funds and send you an invitation to become a Friend. We will also be available to discuss with you how you might want to become more involved.