



*Changing lives in Copán, Honduras*

## **Adopt-a-School Program**

**Support for village primary schools**



### **What is “Adopt-a-School”?**

Adopt-a-School is a program offered by a group of Rotary Clubs in northwest Washington State and southern British Columbia, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Copán Ruinas, Honduras. Service clubs and individuals can sponsor a Mayan village school in Copán. Sponsors provide the funding for school supplies, backpacks, uniforms and teaching materials for every student in the school. Sponsors receive letters, photos and reports from their school, and are welcome to visit.

### **Why is Adopt-a-School necessary?**

Honduras is the poorest mainland nation in Central America. The Mayan people of Copán survive on \$1 to \$2 per capita per day, much of it earned during the coffee harvest. Few families can afford school uniforms and supplies. As a result, many children do not attend school, or they attend without notebooks and other basic tools for learning. The government only provides teachers and sometimes a school lunch.

### **Which schools are in the program?**

We select schools based on need and the quality of teachers. Every school in the program is in a Mayan village in the mountains surrounding the town of Copán Ruinas.

Our sponsors are currently supporting 2,000 K-6 students in 38 villages.



*Typical village school with one classroom for 56 students in all six primary grades*

### **How are the schools organized?**

A small village will typically have a one-room primary school, with a single teacher responsible for 20 to 50 students in all six grades. Larger villages might have two or three classrooms, each with its own teacher. Most villages have a kindergarten in a separate classroom. Some villages have a middle school, but virtually none have a high school.

### **What results does the program achieve?**

Providing school supplies means that more children attend school, and they complete more grades. Better educated people make more informed decisions, have better life skills, have smaller and healthier families, and contribute more to the development of their communities. Education is also an essential tool for breaking the cycle of poverty.

### **What supplies are provided to each school?**

Each year, we provide every student with the supplies they need, such as notebooks, pens, pencils, a backpack and a uniform.

Teachers receive materials such as whiteboard markers, dictionaries, craft and art supplies, and cleaning materials.

### **How often do you visit the schools?**

We visit each school every three months, in order to develop relationships, monitor progress and deal with any problems.

Supplies are delivered to students at the start of the school year, in early February.

### **What connections will I have with my school?**

We welcome sponsors who would like to develop relationships with their adopted schools. At least once per year, you will receive a report about your school, and letters or art from students. When we visit schools, we deliver any letters and photos received from you. We provide a free translation service for correspondence.

If you come to Copán Ruinas, we will gladly arrange for you to visit your school, including a translator if needed. The best time to do this is when we make deliveries in February. You can also visit the world-famous Copán Ruinas archaeological park, a major center of the ancient Mayan civilization and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



*Students from three villages in uniforms provided by Adopt-a-School*

### **Can I choose the school I sponsor?**

Yes, we will help you select a school whose size matches your budget.

### **What does it cost to sponsor a school?**

For an entire year, the cost of supporting a student is just \$15 in kindergarten and \$22 in primary school. Most villages have between 25 and 70 students, and the total cost of sponsorship is generally between \$500 and \$1,500 per year.

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

We ask that you pledge to sponsor your school for at least three years. Of course we understand that circumstances can change, and that you might need to end your involvement in the program.

### **Can I do more to support my school?**

Our Adopt-a-Dream program provides an opportunity to sponsor individual students in secondary school or college. Our Adopt-a-Village program lets you support additional needs in your village. See the separate brochures.

### **Can I participate with a smaller donation?**

A popular alternative is to sponsor a secondary student in our Adopt-a-Dream program, for \$220 per year.

### **Who administers the program and delivers supplies to schools?**

Program funding is managed by the IPA Foundation. Our partner in Honduras is the Rotary Club of Copán Ruinas. They purchase and deliver the school supplies.

Our partnership is known as “IPA-Copan”, and we support many different development projects in the region.

### **What percentage of donations is actually used to buy supplies?**

100% of every donation is used to buy supplies. Deliveries and administration depend on volunteers who cover their own expenses.

### **Where do you buy the supplies?**

We purchase virtually everything in Honduras, where prices are lower than in the U.S. and high shipping costs can be avoided. Buying in Honduras also means more jobs and income for Hondurans.

### **What other support do the schools receive?**

Every school in this program also participates in our seven other education programs, including a mobile library, health insurance, and scholarships for secondary students.

### **Is the program means tested?**

No, because poverty is widespread in the Mayan villages. Means testing would exclude very few students from the program.

### **When and where do I need to send my donation?**

We ask you to send it within 30 days of receiving our invoice. We order school supplies in early November, for delivery in February.

Please make checks payable to “IPA Foundation” and write “Adopt-a-School” on the memo line. Mail your check to:

IPA Foundation, c/o Bernadette Halliday  
PO Box 282, Burlington, WA 98233

You can also pay on-line:

1. Go to <https://IPAFoundation.org>
2. Click on SUPPORT US, then click the first DONATE NOW button
3. Complete the transaction.

### **Are my donations tax-deductible?**

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

### **How do I get started?**

If you are interested in sponsoring a school, please contact the program’s administrator:

Marty Pease  
Adopt-a-School Administrator  
International Project Alliance

Email: [mcconlogue@msn.com](mailto:mcconlogue@msn.com)

Thank you!



*Young students from the village of Mirasol Rio Negro*