



**ANNUAL REPORT
2024
ESPERANZAS UNIDAS**

During the 2024 year, Esperanzas Unidas had lots to celebrate in the advancement of our mission to uplift the women and youth of rural Honduras.

“THE BAMBOO CENTER FOR CULTURE AND EDUCATION”

Over the past year of 2024, a major focus for Esperanzas Unidas was our collaboration with the Architectural Department at the National University of Honduras to develop a master plan design for the infrastructure projects that we will be built on our organization’s land in Copan. Professor Claudio Diaz has been an incredible element in progressing our plans to use bamboo to empower the women of rural Honduras as well as in advancing his vision for more sustainable construction projects in Honduras. Professor Diaz and his core group of students met with our Team weekly throughout 2024 to create prototypes and to discuss different options for the future buildings on our property.

Esperanzas Unidas has also been meeting with the Agricultural Department of the National University of Honduras in Santa Rosa de Copan over the past year to develop a plan for their students to use our land as a space to study and experiment with traditional plants. We hope to begin hosting their students in 2025 with a number of exciting projects.

Additionally, Esperanzas Unidas was honored to have Dr. Clive Lipchin, of the Israeli-based Arava Institute, travel to Honduras to support our efforts in developing water projects with different communities. We held a number of meetings between Dr. Lipchin, our organization, and the Mayors of Dulce Nombre de Copan and of Dolores, Copan, as well as with the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa de Copan, the National University of Honduras, and other nonprofits in the region who are also working on water projects. The inspiration for Dr. Lipchin’s trip began with our initiative to develop a sustainable water system on our land and to support the neighboring villages in Chaguiton that do not have access to water for over five months of the year. Dr. Lipchin’s visit allowed Esperanzas Unidas to establish a number of incredible contacts that will support us in the coming years to develop these water projects.

After receiving a very generous donation in 2024 of solar panels from the Cherry St. Energy Company in Atlanta, Georgia, our organization will now have electricity on our land in Honduras. We have been working with the Solar Energy Club of the University of Washington and local Honduran solar energy companies to set up the logistics of installing the solar panels.

THE “LEADERS OF TOMORROW” PROGRAM

Our first cohort of the Girls Leadership Program, “Leaders of Tomorrow,” finished their final year of high school through our scholarship program. Diana and Gloria graduated from high school in 2023, and Valeria, Britany and Karol all completed their studies in 2024. We also added an amazing new scholar, Nahomy, to our Girls Leadership Program in 2024, so that she could finish her final year in high school and take advantage of the opportunities available for her through our program.

In addition to completing high school, our Leaders continue to create spectacular works of bamboo art through our Bamboo Artisanry Cooperative. Additionally, our Leaders have expressed their intention to continue collaborating with our organization as volunteers, supporting our new cohort of Leaders, who will begin our Girls Leadership Program in February 2025.

In 2024, our Leaders also continued to develop their English language skills through our weekly online tutoring program. It has been incredible to see each one grow in their confidence and use with the English language. Our Director of Education has done an exceptional job in enhancing the English language class curriculum with creative lessons that have supported our youth in their learning. Additionally, the special cultural exchange that takes place between the volunteer tutors and the students has been an additional bonus to an already successful program.

During the summer of 2024, Esperanzas Unidas had the opportunity to interview a number of outstanding candidates for the second cohort of the Girls Leadership Program. Esperanzas Unidas’s Board will make the difficult decision of who will be awarded the opportunity to join our Leadership program in January of 2025.

“PROJECT BAMBURAS”

Now in its third year of life, our bamboo continues to grow strong on our land. We are busy connecting with educational and professional institutions throughout Honduras, Central America, and the United States to grow in our knowledge and application of working with bamboo. Our bamboo should reach a construction-grade level of quality in three more years, in which we will implement a series of business endeavors that will benefit women from the villages we work with.

Esperanzas Unidas also began a new exciting collaboration with the U.S.-based Seas of Trees Foundation. Seas of Trees sponsored our “Bamboo in our Patio” project in 2024, which built a bamboo-nursery on our property in Honduras and will also fund the distribution of bamboo saplings to women throughout the rural villages we work with. The nursery was successfully built, and we have begun the process of allowing the bamboo saplings to root so that we can begin to distribute them to the women in 2025. Esperanzas Unidas was especially happy to implement this project because it will allow our organization to continue to distribute bamboo

plants to women in the villages so that they will have a new source of income for themselves for years to come.

“PROJECT ROSA”

Esperanzas Unidas has developed a new program, “Building my Hope,” that seeks to train fifty women from the rural communities in bamboo carpentry and construction skills. Upon receiving funding, we will be able to bring veteran bamboo artisans from Guatemala and incorporate the designs generated by the students and professors at the Architecture Department at the National University of Honduras, so that the participants will be able to gain invaluable hands-on skills building with bamboo. When our bamboo is matured, our participants will be able to choose to join our different projects, full of knowledge and experiences, to ensure a great success.

THE VOLUNTEER TRIP OF 2024

During the summer of 2024, seven volunteers accompanied us on our first official organized group Volunteer Trip to Honduras. The volunteers had an intimate opportunity to work on our land and to lead activities in the surrounding village schools. They were also able to experience numerous special cultural activities, including a guided tour on “Mototaxis” of the beautiful murals in the town of Dulce Nombre de Copan, horseback riding, and an amazingly fun cultural food preparation course with local chefs in Santa Rosa de Copan.

ADMINISTRATION

Esperanzas Unidas received a donation from their sister-organization, Light of Esperanza, of three boxes of in-kind donations in 2024. Included were educational supplies, bilingual art therapy workbooks for children, soccer supplies to amplify our Girl’s Soccer League, and dental supplies.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

The total amount of donations received by Esperanzas Unidas in 2024 was \$20,020 (405,563 Lempiras).

The total amount of expenses in 2024 was \$15,626.

94 % of the expenses were Programming

6% of the expenses were Administrative

Additionally, Esperanzas Unidas received an in-kind donation of the rental of the land for the organization in Dulce Nombre de Copan by Angela Madrid Lara in 2024.