



Light of Esperanza 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAMMING SUMMARY:

Throughout 2017, Light of Esperanza continued to make a tangible difference in the lives of the women and children our organization is dedicated to working with in rural Honduras. In addition to primarily focusing on educational-based programs, this year, Light of Esperanza also launched a new and exciting Youth Leadership Initiative, with the goal of developing future community leaders.

Light of Esperanza programs and resources serve the thousands of people who live in the ten deeply impoverished rural villages within the State of Copan that we have established a partnership with (El Bosque, Joyas Galanas, Limon, Agua Buena, Vega Redonda, Candelaria, Delicias, Balsamo, Los Naranjos, and Concepcion).

Light of Esperanza continues to operate both in Honduras and in the U.S. as a 100% volunteer-based organization.

I. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Now in its sixth year, Light of Esperanza's Scholarship Program continues to be a very successful endeavor that addresses the need for financial support of promising students to continue their studies past the sixth grade, when free public education in Honduras ends.

Understanding the extremely limited opportunities that exist for girls to pursue their academic career, our organization gives priority for scholarships to female applicants who come from deeply impoverished families. Light of Esperanza is committed to opening the doors of education to these girls who have so much potential to have successful professional careers, yet, are confined by the barriers of the socially imposed limitations based on their gender.

Village youth from the State of Copan are encouraged to apply year-round for the scholarship opportunities offered from our organization.

In 2017, Light of Esperanza sponsored seventeen youth to study:

1. **Yadira Martinez – Vega Redonda, Copan** – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan. She earned a 94% overall average in 2017, and has one more year to finish in order to complete High School. In this past year, Yadira focused on establishing her vocational internships to develop her future professional career.
2. **Delmer Mancía – Vega Redonda, Copan** – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan. In 2017, Delmer focused on establishing his vocational internships to develop his future professional career. Delmer has one more left to complete High School.
3. **Nuri Cardoza Marquez – Candelaria, Copan** – studied Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan. Nuri graduated from High School in 2017, and will now be looking to either begin working or possibly study at the University level.
4. **Mari Marques – Candelaria, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Mari finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio (Middle School).
5. **Ingrid Melgar – Candelaria, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Ingrid finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio (Middle School).
6. **Yareli Castillo – Limon, Copan** – studying Business Administration at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan. In 2017, Yareli focused on establishing her vocational internships to develop her future professional career. She has one more year left to complete High School.
7. **Sarahi Madrid – Limon, Copan** – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Sarahi was elected as President of the Student Government of her school. Next year will be her last year to complete Colegio (Middle School).
8. **Emerita Sanchez – Limon, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Emerita completed her final year of Colegio (Middle School). Based on her excellence in school, she was awarded Light of Esperanza's newest Scholarship to continue studying into the High School level in 2018.
9. **Fernando Barrientos – Limon, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at his village school. Fernando finished the 9th grade this past year with a 85% overall average, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).
10. **Mayra Armijo – Limon, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Mayra finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).
11. **Evelin Fuentes Garcia – Limon, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Evelyn finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).
12. **Jose Hernandez – Limon, Copan** – studying 6th – 9th grade at his village school. Jose has one more year left to finish his study at the Colegio level (Middle School).
13. **Roxana Melgar – Dulce Nombre, Copan** – studying Medicine at a vocational high school in Santa Rosa de Copan. Roxana has one more year left to graduate from High School.
14. **Dunia Ramos – Agua Buena, Copan** – studied 6th - 9th grade at her village school. Dunia finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).

15. **Doris Mendoza – Agua Buena, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Doris finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).
16. **Geidyn Gonzalez – Agua Buena, Copan** – studied 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Geidyn finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).
17. **Xiomara Maria Soriano – Los Naranjos, Copan** – studying 6th – 9th grade at her village school. Xiomara finished the 9th grade this past year, and graduated from the Colegio level school (Middle School).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For seven consecutive years, Light of Esperanza has delivered over \$500 of donated school supplies to the youth in the village schools of rural Copan, Honduras. These supplies include notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, calculators, rules, and glue. For most of the youth, this is their primary opportunity to acquire school supplies. Light of Esperanza's school supply drive in the United States provides them with the tools to accomplish their academic dreams and goals.

II. COOPERATIVE BUSINESS PROJECTS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE: 2017 - 2020

Light of Esperanza began a new partnership in the end of 2016 with one of its star Scholarship youth, Delmer Mancia. Delmer has been working with Light of Esperanza as a volunteer since the beginning of the organization, seven years ago. Delmer participated as a key member of the Youth Corn Cooperative, as well as currently receiving one of Light of Esperanza's educational scholarships to study high school. Based on his ambition and consistent reliability, Light of Esperanza selected Delmer to implement a prototype business endeavor in 2017, with the hope that a demonstrated success will lead to the establishment of similar projects in the coming years.

The idea of this project is for Delmer to run and manage a Pig business. Light of Esperanza provided Delmer with a pregnant pig. He will raise the pig, sell its offspring, and continue to manage the business for a period of three years. During this time, Delmer will ensure that \$500 of his business's revenue will return each year to Light of Esperanza in order to fund a new scholarship. The rest of the earnings that Delmer receives will be his to keep. At the end of the third year, the business will become entirely Delmer's. The plan for this project is for it to continue to develop the special leadership qualities that Light of Esperanza sees in Delmer, while at the same time, raise money to offer a new scholarship for an impoverished youth in rural Honduras.

In January of 2017, Delmer began to build the pen for the pig to begin this project. Delmer received his pregnant pig a few weeks later. Unfortunately, the pig aborted the pregnancy, and lost all of the offspring. This was a very difficult experience for both Delmer and Light of Esperanza, as we had both invested a lot of work and hope in this new project. In March, we paid to breed his pig again, and she became pregnant. In December, Delmer's pig gave birth to 13 piglets – a superb result. Delmer has since sold most of the piglets, keeping a few for future breeding with other pigs. With his earnings, Delmer contributed \$250 to Light of Esperanza's Scholarship fund, paying for the scholarship of a youth in 2018. He kept the rest of his earnings to reinvest in his business. Although this new project started off with some difficulties, it has become a complete success. Light of Esperanza plans on expanding the Youth Leadership Initiative to a new Scholarship youth to begin another project in 2018.

PIG COOPERATIVE PROJECT: 2015 – 2017

Light of Esperanza's Pig Cooperative project in the village of Agua Buena came to its culmination in 2017. After three successful years, the women from this Cooperative business saved enough of their earnings to start their own private pig businesses.

III. WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

DENTAL SUPPLIES

Light of Esperanza continued to provide rural youth in Honduras with access to dental care supplies, delivering hundreds of dollars in donated toothbrushes, dental floss, and toothpaste in 2017. For the vast majority of youth in rural Honduras, this is their only access to receive dental supplies. Volunteers for Light of Esperanza provide classes to the youth who receive these donations on how to properly use the supplies and care for their teeth.

IV. VOLUNTEERS

Light of Esperanza continues to operate both in the United States and in Honduras 100% volunteer-based. Volunteers are in charge of managing both Boards of Directors – in the U.S. and in Honduras, the fundraising activities, the administration, implementing, supervising, and advising projects, and all other aspects of the organization.

V. REGISTERING LIGHT OF ESPERANZA AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN HONDURAS

While Light of Esperanza is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the United States, Light of Esperanza continues to patiently wait for the Honduran government to progress in the application for registering the organization as a non-profit based in Honduras. It is expected that Light of Esperanza will be granted its non-profit status in Honduras in 2018.

VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2017

In total, Light of Esperanza raised \$5,928 in revenue for the 2017 fiscal year. Light of Esperanza's total expenses for the 2017 fiscal year were \$4,323.

Additionally, Light of Esperanza received a contribution from Angela Madrid Lara and Shmuel Rubinstein of \$3,434 in operational costs during the 2017 fiscal year.