



LIGHT OF ESPERANZA

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAMMING SUMMARY:

In 2018, Light of Esperanza continued to implement hands-on projects with positive and immediate results, making concrete transformations in the lives of the women and children of rural Honduras. In addition to continuing the successful Light of Esperanza Scholarship program, we also celebrated the realization of two new programs – a Youth Leadership Initiative, and the “Food for the Children” village school project. Both of these new programs were so successful that Light of Esperanza plans on expanding them to neighboring villages in 2019.

Light of Esperanza programs and resources continue to 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).

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

I. EDUCATION PROGRAMS SCHOLARSHIPS

For the past seven years, Light of Esperanza has helped impoverished youth from rural Honduras to continue their educational careers past the sixth grade, when free public education in Honduras ends. Many of these promising youths cannot continue to study because of lack of financial support from their families. Without Light of Esperanza's Scholarship program, their options for their future would be extremely limited. This is especially true for young females in rural Honduras, many of whom are denied the opportunity to study not only because of financial realities, but, in addition, because of gender-based discrimination inflicted by their communities.

Through Light of Esperanza's Scholarship program, the youth who win scholarship receive all of the necessary supplies for them to continue studying. This includes uniforms, books, backpacks, school tuition, transportation from their village to the school, and any additional school costs during the year.

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

In 2018, Light of Esperanza sponsored eight youth to study:

1. **Yadira Martinez – Vega Redonda, Copan** – Yadira graduated from High School this year, with a focus on Business Administration. Yadira graduated with honors from her High School. She has received a Scholarship from Light of Esperanza since the seventh grade. Yadira is planning on working in the coming year in order to save money and hopefully continue her education into the university level.

2. **Delmer Mancia – Vega Redonda, Copan** – Delmer graduated from High School this year, with a focus on Business Administration. Delmer has been a rising star among the youth that Light of Esperanza works with. He has received a scholarship from Light of Esperanza since the seventh grade, and over the past years has demonstrated excellent leadership skills. Frequently, when Light of Esperanza needs help to host our volunteers that come to Honduras to support our projects, Delmer is the first of the youths to offer his support. Delmer will be working this coming year, with the hope to save enough to continue studying in the university level. Delmer hopes to work one day with a non-profit organization in the future.

3. **Jacoba Paz Reyes – Vega Redonda, Copan** – Jacoba started her first year of high school at a vocational high school in the city of Santa Rosa de Copan. She is focusing on studying Business Administration.
4. **Mari Marques – Candelaria, Copan** – Unfortunately, Mari had to leave school after a few months due to personal reasons. She hopes to return to her studies in the coming year.
5. **Yareli Castillo – Limon, Copan** – Yareli graduated from High School this year, with a focus on Business Administration. Yareli is a very motivated and ambitious young woman. She plans to work in the city of Santa Rosa de Copan and save money in order to continue studying at the university.
6. **Emerita Sanchez – Limon, Copan** – Emerita had an excellent first year studying High School at a vocational school in the city of Santa Rosa de Copan. She had previously received a Light of Esperanza scholarship for her middle school years, and impressed our organization so much with her intelligence and motivation, that she was offered a scholarship to continue her studies at the high school level. Emerita was also selected to be the newest participant of Light of Esperanza’s “Youth Leadership” initiative. Through this initiative, Emerita was provided the resources and guidance from Light of Esperanza to start a personal business. This project is intended not only to cultivate the leadership skills of Emerita, but also to help her generate money for herself, and, at the same time, fund the scholarship of another youth to study this year.
7. **Jose Damian Hernandez – Limon, Copan** – Jose is studying in the ninth grade at his village school. This will be Jose’s final year in middle school. Jose has demonstrated excellent academic skills over the past year.
8. **Roxana Melgar – Dulce Nombre, Copan** – Roxana finished her high school program, and is now certified to work as a nurse. She plans on applying for employment at the hospitals and clinics in Santa Rosa de Copan.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For eight 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. YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

In 2017, Light of Esperanza began a new initiative to cultivate the leadership skills of some of the star youth that our organization works with. The first youth to participate in this project was Delmer Mancia. The idea of this project was for Delmer to run and manage a business. Light of Esperanza provided Delmer with a pregnant pig and all of the additional resources and advice necessary to start this business. He raised the pig, sold its offspring, bred the pig, and has continued to manage the business for the past year. During the 2018 year, Delmer's pig gave birth three different times, with an average of 11 piglets with each birth. Delmer has successfully managed his earnings, saving sufficient funds to maintain his business, putting aside additional revenue for his future goal of studying at the university, and, as part of the agreement that we made with him, returned \$250 to Light of Esperanza in order to fund the scholarship of a new youth. This project will continue to be associated with Light of Esperanza for an additional two years. Once the third year has been completed, the business will transform into an independent enterprise, completely under the control of Delmer.

As Light of Esperanza has already witnessed the enormous success of this endeavor with Delmer, we decided to expand this Youth Leadership Initiative to a new scholarship youth in 2018, Emerita Sanchez, from the village of Limon, Copan. In 2018, Light of Esperanza implemented the same pig business prototype that was used with Delmer, with Emerita. Her pig gave birth twice in 2018, and Emerita has already funded the scholarship of a new youth to study in 2019. As with the partnership that Light of Esperanza has with Delmer, after three years, this business will be entirely under the control of Emerita.

Light of Esperanza plans on expanding its Youth Leadership Initiative to a new star scholarship youth in 2019.

III. “FOOD FOR THE YOUTH” VILLAGE SCHOOL PROJECT

Light of Esperanza’s newest project in 2018, the “Food for the Youth” project, was born through a concern for the health of the youth in the communities that our organization works with. Many of the children that attend school in the rural villages have very little, if any, food to eat. They attend school with empty stomachs, affecting not only their state of health, but additionally, their ability to successfully learn. Light of Esperanza met with the community leaders from a variety of villages, and decided to implement a prototype project in the village of Delicias, Copan, with the stated goal of establishing a self-sustaining project that would generate funds to provide food for the school children. Light of Esperanza purchased a pregnant pig, and provided all of the necessary resources and funds to begin a new pig business in this village. The idea of the project is that the parents of the PTA share the responsibilities of raising the pig and selling its offspring. The revenue from the sale of the piglets is used to buy food supplies so that the children can eat breakfast and lunch in school. Light of Esperanza implemented this project in August of 2018. The pregnant pig gave birth, and the PTA from Delicias has been preparing breakfasts and lunches for the youth at school.

Light of Esperanza’s “Food for the Youth” project was so successful in 2018, that we will be implementing a similar project in the village of Los Naranjos, Copan in 2019.

IV. 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 2018. 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.

In August of 2018, Light of Esperanza Director, Angela Madrid Lara, was accompanied by Light of Esperanza President, Shoshanna Cohen, Light of Esperanza Oregon Chapter President, Peggy Rubinstein, and other volunteers on a ten-day volunteer trip to Honduras. During their time in Honduras, they supervised current projects, implemented new ones, and coordinated with our Honduran volunteers to plan for the coming year.

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. In 2018, Light of Esperanza acquired new legal counsel to support our organization in this effort. It is expected that in 2019 Light of Esperanza will be granted its status as a non-profit organization in Honduras.

VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2018

In total, Light of Esperanza raised \$6,755 in revenue for the 2018 fiscal year. Light of Esperanza's total expenses for the 2018 fiscal year were \$6,202.

Additionally, Light of Esperanza received a contribution from Angela Madrid Lara and Shmuel Rubinstein of \$ 3,888 in operational costs during the 2018 fiscal year.