



News from Norma

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Dear friends,

I am wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2014 from this beautiful place in the rain forest of Mocerón, Honduras.

This year, our newsletter will share a few short, but fateful stories about some of our friends that we have helped through the years.

In October 1998, one day before Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras, a family with four children came to my door. The mother was distressed, calling my name, "Dona Norma, Dona Norma, help us please. Our baby is dying."

The day was cloudy, with thunder, lightning and rain. The McCaw parrots, wild turkeys and other animals were flying away, without a place to rest. Children in the village were crying, hungry and scared.

The baby's name was Carolina, a four-week old little angel. I took her in my arms and had the whole family come into my house to rest and eat. We walked to the health clinic to get some medicine, but since so many children had been sick, the whole supply of medicine was gone. We prayed to Heavenly Father to help us. That's when my husband and I decided to drive to Puerto Lempira to get food and medicine. In our 1986 Toyota 4x4 we hit the road for the long drive to the city. The road was so bad that some of the places had huge holes with mud and quick sand. There were times I was so scared, but I didn't care, I just wanted to get to the city.

The news was bad. When we got to Puerto Lempira we heard La Mosquitia was on Red Alert. The city was like a ghost town. It was dark and everything appeared closed. We almost lost hope but when we arrived at the Catholic Parrish they gave us some baby aspirin. That was it. We couldn't wait any longer for food or medicine. We had to get back to our village. Hurricane Mitch was already surrounding the coast and Puerto Lempira was shaking. We left with the hurricane on our tails.

When we arrived at the village, everything was dark and quiet. The people were hidden in the churches, schools and some in their own run down homes. We could not find Carolina's family anywhere. I have never been as scared as I was that awful night. As the house rocked and reeled from the wind and rain, with all our pets and some visitors gathered inside, we waited for the new day.

The morning came with wind, rain, thunder and lightning. We were so worried that there was no food in the village, no medicine-especially for the children. We were in Gods hands. Suddenly, we heard a big noise in the sky and saw a huge airplane passing directly overhead to the 5th Battalion. Half an hour later a military truck arrived at my compound. The officer told me that the airplane that just arrived came addressed to the Norma I. Love Foundation from Mission of Love Ohio USA (Kathy Price) and Casa Guatemala (Angie Galdamez). The goods were to be delivered and given only to Norma Love. The plane came with food; medicine and other much needed supplies.

My heart was full of joy and happiness as I ran to the Battalion. With the soldiers, we started unloading the plane. I saw boxes with writing, in big letters; MILK FOR BABIES. There were cans, bottles, and different brands

of goods. I told myself, "God heard our prayers." Carolina was saved and with her, thousands of children from La Mosquitia, Honduras and Coco River, Nicaragua.

My friends, God is love. Through the loving actions of those who have God in their hearts, little angels are saved from dying of hunger, sickness and cold.

I am Carolina. I'm 15 yrs. old now and have dreams of becoming a teacher some day. My parents are very poor and can't give me the education that I wish for. We live as farmers, from our plantation of rice, beans, yucca and the grace of God.

I would like to ask our friends from the NILF to help me continue my education. I am in need of school supplies, uniform and shoes along with a few other expenses that come through the school year. Would someone like to sponsor Carolina's education through her high school graduation? This would be one of the greatest gifts she could receive in her whole life!



My name is Horacio Morfi. I am a native of Mocoron and the Miskito people are my tribe. When I was a little boy I wanted to learn to read and write. At six years of age I went to school by myself. After 6 years of studying I continued my education in the city by supporting myself with a small job, and I graduated from high school.

I went back to Mocoron and the war with the Sandinistas was going on. The Contras were refuges in La Mosquitia and I had the opportunity to get a job with the organization ACNUR. Six months later I won a scholarship to study in the capital to become a nurse. I graduated and came back to Mocoron to serve my people. I worked in places where the Contras were fighting. It was miserable, with so much sadness and there were many people without arms or legs. War, death and sickness were everywhere. I learned as much about medicine as a doctor, and when the war ended I returned to my home in Mocoron.

In July 1996 Norma and I were married. I studied to become an Environmental Forestry Tech and worked with many organizations like the Rotary Club of Texas. Bio Sand filters; wells, and defending the rights of the indigenous lands were some of my jobs within that field.

In Sept 2009 I left Honduras to live in Texas with Norma part of the time, and to work towards becoming an American Citizen. With the help of friends and family, we arranged my papers and I received my Green Card and got a job at Office Depot. I have been learning English, computer skills, and technical heavy machinery and warehouse certifications to move forward in my job.

I applied for my American Citizenship in November 2013 and have been given the privilege of becoming an American Citizen. I am so proud and happy to have accomplished these dreams that for many people are unreachable. Thank you Norma I. Love Foundation and friends for supporting me in all these endeavors in 3 and a half years.

My name is Roberto Garcia Paton. I am from Mocoron. When I was 10 years old I remember Tia Norma coming to visit us every summer and winter. She brought bags full of school supplies and Christmas presents. All of us felt so happy and cheerful to see her and we called her our God Mother.

Our school was very old. The roof was leaking everywhere and the windows were broken. We were so unhappy going to that school and wished for a new school. Then one day Norma came with some of her American friends and USAID and they built one of the best schools in La Mosquitia. Other projects popped up like the Kindergarten, with the help of the Canadian Embassy, an annex to the



health clinic and a computer center. She brought medical brigades and schoolteachers, like our good friend Ann Mitchell from Arlington, Texas. Ann taught us the basics about computers, which is a skill that changed my life.

Through the NILF I received a scholarship to study as a computer tech in Puerto Lempira. After graduating I worked in the USAID computer center for 2 years as a volunteer. Then in 2012 I applied for a scholarship from the Mayor of the city and qualified for a partial scholarship to go to the university in Catacamas, Olancho. Once more the foundation, Norma's daughter Gigi Love and her husband Peter Nicholson, my family and Mrs. Marszal from Canada helped me through the year.

I've been studying and working hard. I am so thankful for this opportunity to become an Environmental Engineer. Going back to Mocerón to help my community, showing my brothers, sisters, family and friends that we can accomplish an education and improve our lives, and give something back is a great blessing to me. I have 2 more years to go to get my degree. I am hoping that the NILF and friends will continue to support me in my education. The day I graduate will be an accomplishment not only for me but also for our village and all those who have helped me fulfill this dream.

THANK YOU!

The Norma I. Love Foundation has helped 1,000's of people over the last 20 years with the help of grass-roots activism, and the support of an amazing community of people from Texas and all over the world.

We'd like to thank several of those groups who contributed this year to make a difference in the lives of these humble villagers who are on the verge of shifting into a new and better future because of these donors.

MEDICO—from Austin, Texas helped more than 350 people by bringing Dr.'s and dental assistants to the village of Mocerón and Walpakiakira.

Send Hope donated goods such as Ensure milk. **Dr. Brian** donated boxes of rice mixed with soy and vitamins.

The Rotaries of Arlington, Texas donated financial aid for the children and adults to have their annual Christmas Party and also continued to meet their goal to donate 900 water filters. This donation gives us more available water filtration than any other area of La Mosquitia.

The LDS Church—from Arlington, Texas for donating cases of peanut butter for the malnutrition babies; and **Lexi Martin** and the young women who packaged together hundreds of gift bags for the children of Mocerón



and the surrounding villages.

Kiwanis of Arlington for their financial aid donations to purchase medicine in Honduras.

The Methodist Church of Arlington it's members for donating financial support for sewing supplies.

Deborah Singleton—one of our most faithful donors since she believes so strongly in our endeavors.

Thank you **Peter Nicholson and Gigi Love** for all the financial support they give to the foundation throughout the year.

(A great friend who donated the solar batteries—A wonderful man who would like to stay anonymous from Virginia donated solar batteries for the compound so the

computer center will be able to start the computer lab next year. This also was gift for the main house so that we could have light at night when we eat dinner.

Thanks to **Andres y Mirna Gonzales** from Fort Lauderdale, Florida for their continue support to the schools for dozens of soccer balls.

PNUD with their continued support of the hydro-electric project in Mocoron.

From San Pedro Sula, Honduras we have our sister school **Academia Americana**. The children donated Christmas presents for all the kids in La Mosquitia.

USAID, for their continued support in health and sanitary projects.

There are hundreds of friends that we have who every year remember the children in the rainforest of La Mosquitia.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you all so much for your compassion and generosity for the village of Mocoron and all the people who live in this remote area of the world.

Goals for 2014

1. A Vocational College: An additional school building is needed to provide space for the education extension. This would also provide a potential ground base for aid, and shelter in the event of a community emergency.
2. Hydroelectric energy project so Mocoron can have electricity and be the first in La Moskitia to produce it.
3. Potable water and construction of latrines
4. Galvanized silos for rice and seed storage
5. Lap tops for the computer center
6. Establishing a seed bank of basic grains to assure the indigenous families have seeds to plant in this unpredictable climate.



Needs of the Foundation

1. We are in desperate need of a new main house. The compound is 30 years old. The main house is our meeting area, social and planning area and hosting area for visitors. Please help us rebuild it.
2. A new fence with cyclone wire.
3. New septic tanks for the Norma I. Love compound
4. We are in need of a new 4 x 4 diesel truck. Our truck is the saving grace for so many villagers when they are sick and need to go to the hospital in Puerto Lempira as well as the means to carry donations from the different villages.

My wish for you all is that life will bring you joy and peace. Serving others is one of the ways to create this great blessing of gratitude and wholeness in our busy lives today. Please think of the children in La Mosquitia this year and know that I will personally deliver your donations, gifts and love to them and their families. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

Asibe, Norma I. Love

Contacts

Please see our Website: www.NormaLove.org for more information on your organization.