



News from Norma

The Norma I Love Foundation a non-profit organization 501(c). TIN:75-2473456

November 2008

Hello my dear friends,

The year has flown by fast and we are continually looking forward to the year ahead. All of you that encompass the different corners of our world have been an inspiration to me. Without your unfaltering support this wonderful mission of 20 years would not be accomplishing the goals of education, health, and the environment we have set for the foundation.

When we have had the opportunity, with the help of our good friend, Dr. Brian of Allen, Texas, from “Send Hope,” we have been able to ship supplies such as dehydrated food, sewing materials, medicine, educational supplies, equipment, and much more.

With the abundant help from “Mission of Love,” Kathy Price and “The Denton Amendment Program,” the hospital in La Mosquitia, (which happens to be the only one in the region) has received an ambulance, medical equipment, bedding, diapers, hand-pedal wheelchairs and crutches.

With monetary donations from our good friends, The Kiwanis of Arlington, we were able to purchase first aid supplies in Honduras, which were distributed in different health centers of Mocoron and the surrounding villages.

The Rotary Clubs of Texas have completed the installation of 175 sand filters in many villages, which will purify the water for many families. Their goal is to eventually install 10,000 sand filters all around The La Mosquitia region. They will also be starting a new Agro-forestall project in the village of Rondin. Their hopes with this project will be to enrich the soil for better production of vegetables and grains.



Steven Herbert, from “Water for Humanity,” has constructed the first ever Latrine Abonera. If this test latrine produces good results, his organization has considered building many more.

Our good friends from USAID have been effortlessly helping with the potable water project in Mocoron, as well as working on the construction of 5 new bridges.



With our ever-growing concern of the environment, we are making many efforts to replenish our jungles with new fauna. David Stone, from First Rate and Devie Richards have been able to plant more than 1000 trees in different areas of the jungle. Here are two children helping load a canoe with trees to be transported to the jungle.

Our friends from “Cross Trail Outfitters,” from San Antonio, Texas, have helped the women from the Moravian Church. They have built the women a restaurant which will now provide an income for them to support their families and their church.



An organization called, “Students Helping Honduras,” has made it possible for us to continually reap the rewards of their donations. With the first distribution of seeds, the families have multiplied their plantations. They will have corn to eat, be able to sell some, as well as

replanting to produce more for the upcoming season.

Thank you to Doug and Stephanie Murphy from Gilmer, Texas for organizing with their youth and family members of their church to collect toys, clothes, school supplies, and many more items that helped so many families.

Friends from Belgium, enjoying the natives foods and culture.



What a productive year the indigenous of La Mosquitia have had because of your generosity, but the need is still very real and forever lingering, especially when the unforgiving weather causes such catastrophic incidents which leave many families without any crops to harvest or food to feed their young ones.

We can go on, but we must learn that all we have done in the past and what still can be done is because of God's will and the over-flowing love that comes from the heart of our supporters.

All monetary donations can be made on-line through pay pal on our website at: www.normallove.org and can be directly deducted from your taxes by using our non –profit tax id number, or you can mail it to:

Carlos Hernandez (Treasurer), 404 Rosemary Lane, Euless, Texas, 76039 or Tiffany Love (Assistant Treasurer), 5107 Atlantis Terrace, Arlington, Texas, 76016.

These are some of our special needs and requests for 2009:

- To build more schools, health clinics, and a library
- To provide funds for our students education (Beto, he will be a senior this year because of your support)
- To have galvanized silos for the containment of rice and beans
- To have more voluntary missions
- To bring more educational and medical supplies
- Need more solar batteries and computers for the learning center
- Help to organize micro financing for the women's groups
- To have some sort of constant food supply

Every year we work very hard to organize with the pastors of the region to provide cookies, piñatas, and refreshments for all the children in each of the villages. To do this we depend dearly on your generous Christmas donations. Please help us to be able to continue this tradition so that the children can have something to celebrate and look forward to.

My Christmas present to all of you is the true story about, "The True Meaning of Christmas," written by me, Norma Love.

The True Meaning of Christmas

Ever year, closer to Christmas, I think a lot about that special day, so many years ago, traveling around the jungles of La Mosquitia, Honduras, with my good friends from the Honduras Red Cross. The year was 1993, "I will never forget it!"

We left Puerto Lempira with the heavy down pour of rain following us. We navigated over the very famous and dangerous Caratasca Lagoon in a wooden canoe with a 40 horse power over board engine. Yes, if I remember it well, we sailed with seven passengers aboard this small vessel. Rushing across the big waves in about one hour we arrived into the first community named Cauquira. We continued our journey until we arrived at the river Cruta.

Our mission was to go to a very remote and forgotten village named Tikirraya. We were all singing Christmas songs and feeling the joy of the season, our loud cassette player awoke the curiosity of the villagers. The canoe was full of Christmas presents, candy, and cookies. Cautiously the children, who were very unaccustomed to seeing this many gifts and hearing the music, quickly became joyful and eager to see what had been brought to them.

Suddenly, on the bank of the river, we saw a woman holding a tiny baby in her arms, as well as three more small children surrounding her. She looked very poor and lonely. We stopped the canoe so that I might be able to greet her. I did this in her language, which I didn't know very well but felt that was the right thing to do. I said, "Nakisma mairin painkira?" This means, "How are you beautiful lady?" I saw a tender smile appear on her face and her big brown eyes opened up, looking up at me when she heard me speak her own language. We gave her enough presents and food for her and all of her children. She told us that she would be walking many hours to get to her village. We said good-bye and continued going across the River Cruta.

Finally we arrived at Tikirraya. What an unforgettable Christmas it was there with all of the children and adults. What a satisfaction it was for us to see the expressions of joy and gratitude on everyone's faces. They were dancing and singing, showing us a window into their unique and mysterious culture.

Two days later it was time for us to go back to Puerta Lempira. I was scheduled to fly out of San Pedro Sula the following day and then on to home in Dallas, Texas. Our hearts and spirits were filled with joy for everything that we had been able to do for these wonderful individuals. We said our goodbyes and hoped one day to return. We were rushing through the river, when suddenly we saw a woman and her two children on the bank of the river waving their arms and yelling at us to stop the canoe. We instantly got very worried; we did not know what was wrong. When we got closer, I notice the woman's face. To



my surprise it was the same lady with her children that we had given food and presents to, two days ago. She came up to the boat with her baby, getting very close to me and spoke these words to me in her native tongue. "Norma Love, I have been waiting for you in this place for almost two days." "I don't have very much to give you for Christmas but I have a chicken. She has laid a few eggs and I would like for you to have them, this is my present for you. My children and I are giving you this present with much love just as you have done for us."

Never in my life have I had that wonderful sensation that I felt at that moment when I heard those kind and sincere words. Tears of gratitude rolled down my face. In that instant I gave thanks to Heavenly Father for bringing me to that region of La Mosquitia, where the needs of the people are so immense and unknown by too many.

I believe that Christmas means love and faith. I learned a wonderful lesson: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

May God guide your spirit and bring you peace this holiday season.

Norma I. Love