



December 2015

From our "Pequeña Amazonas"
We wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year for
2016.

**The Norma I Love is a
Non-profit organization
501 (c3).
TIN: 75-2473456**

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News from Norma



**Volunteer from Utah-Jason Fry
and the rising generation of La
Mosquitia out on the river
bringing in yucca and timber.**

Happy holidays from the families of La Mosquitia!

We would like to start this newsletter with a little story that will give you a glimpse of the past, a reality of the present, and a vision for the future.

This story is told through the eyes of an eight year old indigenous boy in 1965: Oh, how I loved to get up early before the sun would shine upon my face; I would go down to the river with my fishing pole, my harpoon, and a piece of yucca for bait to catch breakfast for my family before I went off to school. I felt so much joy and pride as I was able to show my family and others how I could be responsible in providing for us. The river was plentiful with fish, the crops and rain forest was abundant with vegetation, and the valley was filled with animals to hunt.

Fast forward to 1982: During the Contra War in Nicaragua, thousands of refugees crossed the Coco River fleeing from utter destruction settling into La Mosquitia, Honduras primarily around the village of Mocarón. After a few years of being over populated and the land worked too many times, the effects began to become evident. Similar to a plague, once the affects began the process of destruction it was very difficult to stop the repercussions that followed.

The traditional ways of planting, which are still used today, consist of cutting many trees and burning the fields. This burning and clearing process requires the farmer to have many plots of land to rotate through while the earth is going through a healing process; usually 2-3 years. This has impacted the soil and the harvest during the growing seasons as well as the scarcity of free land available.



Vision for the future: The desire for horticulturist, environmentalist, and International organizations to come and help teach the indigenous better ecological techniques to grow healthy and abundant crops with minimal damage to the environment. The young need to be taught how they can make a difference in their environment now so that they can have a home in the future.

The Objectives of the Norma I Love Foundation

As the years have passed in big and small ways, we have had the opportunity to serve the indigenous population of La Mosquitia. Our objectives have stayed the same since the Norma I. Love Foundation was founded in 1993: Education, Health, and the Environment.

Education

Our home base is located in the village of Mocerón which is very far from the big cities of Honduras; with this being the situation many of our teachers would like to improve the quality of their teaching methods by attending beneficial workshops, having functional educational material, and more accessibility to technology. We can help them by having volunteers from USA and other countries come and spend some time in the rain forest and/or organizing projects for collecting school supplies to send.

Stephen Vincent, the Director of “Power of the Sun” is a perfect example of a volunteer who has dedicated his time and service by donating and installing eight solar batteries and all of the accessories that were needed to help the Computer Center run more efficiently. He has also benefited the community of La Mosquitia by bringing solar lamps to many families at a reasonable cost.

Health

The Rotary Club of Arlington Texas have distributed more than 900 water filters around Puerto Lempira and neighboring villages. Children from many schools have benefited by having purified water which has kept them from contracting intestinal parasites.

We are so fortunate that the Rotary Club is expanding their efforts with this project and are planning to donate more water filters this coming year.

The medical teams from US AID and the government of Honduras have brought first aid supplies; Dr. Tom Brian from “Send Hope” has donated many boxes of micronutrient-enriched rice for the malnutrition babies.

Environment

This past year we had the opportunity to have special volunteers from Casa Guatemala, the Founder, Angie Galdamez and her associate Lionel Rosales. Angie taught the villagers how to plant different varieties of papaya, tomatoes, chilies, and carrots. More than 600 plants of papayas were planted in different areas of the rain forest.

Mahogany plants were planted in surrounding areas of many villages by ICF, a forestation governmental organization.





The Volunteers of the Norma I Love Foundation

With the help of Angie Galdamez, the leadership of La Mosquitia wrote proposals to different organizations and to the government to help them keep their land free from those who were trying to stake their claim on the indigenous land.

Jim Cook and the Lion's Club of North Richland Hills, Texas donated ten boxes of reading and sun glasses that will benefit hundreds of people.

Pamela Durall, a member of The First Methodist Church has donated school supplies, clothes, toys, as well as her time and gas to help transport many boxes to the container in Allen, Texas.

Royce Mitchell, also a member of The First Methodist Church, The Kiwanis Club of Arlington, and The Samaritans has donated money for first aid supplies.

Caden Portillo, a 14 year old boy from New York City sent donations of shoes, clothes, and school supplies.

Paul Adams, a Colleyville soccer coach and the Colleyville Soccer Association blessed the children with several bags of soccer balls.

Bailey and Brice McCarty and the Young Women from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints donated school supplies, educational toys, clothes, candy, and Christmas decorations.

Amy Homeke and her school, Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy, collected school supplies for the teachers.

Deborah Singleton from Texas and Sandra Abogabir from New York have been special donors for the last 20 plus years by donating money to the foundation monthly.

Charlene and Peter Nicholson from Utah have been wonderful supporters of the foundation for several years. Their continued support has provided Roberto, a young man from the village of Mocoron, the opportunity to continue his education at the University in Olancho, Honduras where he will earn his degree in Environmental Engineering. They have also enhanced the compound and guest house by remodeling it, and have donated airline tickets multiple times for the President of the foundation to continue her welfare mission in La Mosquitia, Honduras.

Academia Americana, our sister school in San Pedro Sula, Honduras donated Christmas gifts to many children across the La Mosquitia region.



Carlos Hernandez, a board member of the foundation and colleagues from Honduras have persevered since 2008 on the creation of the hydro-electric project that would help several surrounding villages of the Durzuna River have electricity by the force of the river. To accomplish this project we need help from the government of Honduras and International organizations to collect the monetary amounts necessary to pay for the final study of the project.

The Goals of the Norma I Love Foundation

A continuation of the previous year:

- A. Hydro-electric project
- B. Vocational School
- C. Health and Sanitization
- D. Galvanized Silos
- E. Seeds to plant rice, beans, and corn
- F. Help the co-operatives to advance with their mahogany plantations
- G. Start a recycling initiative
- H. Reforestation and planting of trees all around the villages
- I. Cacao Plantations
- J. Acquiring gardening tools for the labor in the cacao plantations
- K. Lap top computers
- L. Solar batteries

The Needs of the Norma I Love Foundation

- A. A better built home/office in Mocoron with cement and blocks
- B. 4x4 Toyota diesel truck
- C. Cyclone wire fence
- D. Remodeling of the Computer Center (painting, updating the restrooms, new chairs and desks, and Ventilator fans.

Monetary donations for the Norma I Love Foundation

- Pay Pal: login to Pay Pal account, click pay or send money, type in email- carlosRH@gmail.com , type in amount you are donating, add note: For Norma I. Love Foundation, and click send.
- Personal Checks payable to:
The Norma I. Love Foundation
5107 Atlantis Terrace
Arlington, Texas 76016

The foundation has many friends in many places; you know who are and we want you to know how much we appreciate you and all of your efforts. We love that you have created a place in your hearts for the indigenous children and their families. Please remember that this is the time of year when we need to focus on the love of Christ, gratitude, and kindness.

“The best portion of a good man’s life: his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love”.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
With Love and Appreciation,

Norma I. Love

