

News of the Niños

Dear Sponsors, Friends, and AGC Board Members,

Hogar Nazareth respectfully greets you. We desire that God bless you abundantly.

Congratulations to the two girls that graduated High School from Casa Buen Pastor, Nancy and Dania and the five girls that graduated that live at Hogar: Wendy, Nordana, Isis, Mandelina, and Margarita. No boys graduated this year. Currently, both girls and boys attending the government school are studying hard for their final exams.

We were blessed with a short vacation on a beautiful Honduran island called Roatan in August. Children raised in Hogar now studying in the US raised money and made this holiday possible! This holiday was a special treat for the children (Alba Esther, Jane, Fanny, Miguel, Maria Esther, Mami, Dago and Doris) as they were selected for their good behavior, cooperation in the various activities within the Hogar, and good academic performance. It was a terrific vacation filled with many adventures and new experiences. Traveling to Roatan was exciting for me because this was the first time I have visited this part of our beautiful country. We have shared pictures from the vacation with you.



Left: Hogar alumni fundraise to send Mami and a few children to a special place in Honduras. **Right:** Gabriela and Esteisy in a Celebration of Independence parade.

In September we participated in the Celebration of Independence! All of our boys and girls were busy in patriotic parades. Gabriela and Esteisy paraded in the honor roll for academic excellence, placing second in their class.

The children and young people had a school break for three days in October. There was much laughter and fun as each home enjoyed different recreational activities and sports, including swimming.

Recently, we received two new girls — both named Erika and ages four and twelve. I am happy to share that both girls have adapted easily and are happy.

We are thankful that all projects are coming along fine. The girls have a lot of work with the bakery continuously producing bread. Some of the farm boys are working hard together with Mr. Randy on improvements to be made in our homes. We are busy but enjoy working together for our family.

Thank you for all your support and prayers. The children, staff, and I are thankful to our supporters, benefactors, and AGC's Board of Directors for their unconditional support.

God bless you.

Carmen & children



God does all things perfectly.

Each child comes to Carmen with a special and unique story that they are challenged to overcome. Our work with the children is daily, monthly and extends for many years. Your regular and faithful support makes stories like that of María Martha, an introspective 16-year-old girl living at Hogar Nazareth, come to pass. María Martha's thoughtfulness and hard work has brought her peace, love, and has made her one of the top students at the Hogar.

It is a privilege to be able tell a little of my story — a story that was not to be from the start. I was not planned to come into the world because my mom was raped.

My mother, María Ángela, is both deaf and unable to speak. When I was born, everyone believed that I would also be deaf and unable to speak, just like my mom. But it did not turn out that way as our Heavenly Father knows what He is doing.

When I was growing up, my family had very limited resources. My mother was a real fighter, struggling each day to provide for me. My grandmother raised me and I was not close to my mother. I even used my mother's name, María Angela, when I spoke to her. I don't think I felt any love for her.

I was brought to the Hogar Nazareth at seven years of age when my grandmother died. I remember feeling strange, afraid, and sad when I arrived. Now though, I feel completely different. Today, I feel very happy because I belong to a very large family. I am a part of the biggest family on earth! It was not the family I dreamed of having but it is better than the family I dreamed for.

It has been difficult to overcome the past. Sometimes I was mad at God for allowing me to go through

being an unwanted child. But then I started thinking, "Why do I exist?" Humanly speaking, I was a mistake. Through living at Hogar Nazareth, now I understand that our Father God has a plan for me. I know He has something special for me because God does all things perfectly. There is a reason why my start in life was meant to be just as it was. Understanding this, as time went by, I started feeling love for my mom. Now, I enjoy my relationship with my mom.

One of my dreams is to graduate. My desire is to become a professional and to be successful. Believe me, I am working hard to make the dream a reality. I want to make something better for my life.

You do not know how much I appreciate your help. Thanks to you, Daddy Allen, and Mami Carmen, I am here. First of all though, I give thanks to God.



May God bless you
now and always.

María Martha

12TH ANNUAL All God's Children Golf Open

By Michael Alch

The sport of golf involves many numbers. For example: "Is the next hole a par 3 or a par 4?" "Can I sink this 20-foot putt for a birdie?" Right now, the only number I want you to think about is 12101. In case that number is not familiar to you, 12101 is the zip code for Comayagua, Honduras.

Many variables can shape a child's future in life. One of those is the zip code where they grow up. That's because not all neighborhoods have the same opportunities and resources for food, housing, healthcare and quality schools. The good news is that because of All God's Children support, as well as the support of each donor and Padrino (sponsor), we can collectively ensure the 300 orphaned children who call Comayagua home have a chance to grow up in a stable and nurturing environment and realize their dreams.

When I first visited Honduras in 2005, my first of 13 visits, what I expected to find was Niños (children) with attitude. I struggled with the concept of growing up without my parents by my side every day and if it were me, I think I would have had an attitude. In many cases, until they arrived at the Hogar or Granja, these children did not know when they would eat another meal. Who could blame them for having an attitude? Boy was I wrong!

What I discovered instead was Niños with gratitude. Until they arrived at the orphanages, these 300 children did not have daily access to many things we take for granted and guess what? They learned to focus instead on the daily blessings they do have. The blessings of the relationships they have built with one another and the relationships with many of you who have visited or exchanged sponsor letters. These children's gratitude attitude is contagious. It is very difficult to say goodbye to them each time we board the bus to head home. Typically, several boxes of Kleenex are utilized both by the Gringos boarding the bus as well as the Ninos at the Hogar and at the Granja.

Let me share with you another number — 60060. That number is the zip code of Pine Meadow Golf Club (located in Mundelein, Illinois) where the 12th Annual All God's Children Golf Open was recently held on September 23rd. That number, along with the following numbers, made a profound impact on the lives of 300 children in Honduras. The five volunteers and numerous sponsors that made it possible for 74 golfers, including three AGC Board Members, to raise over \$23,000 dollars last month. It is these dollars that will

help to provide the 300 children living in the Comayagua based orphanages with opportunities their zip code would not afford them otherwise.

We look forward to the 2017 All God's Children Golf Open where we, as Padrinos, will continue helping to smooth out the unavoidable bumps in the dirt roads that are prevalent both in life and in Comayagua, Honduras.



Winning Foursome: Daniel Lageste, Craig Lacy, Ray Carter, Paul Lageste



Bill Tazelaar, Nan Loerop, Judy Bronger & Bob Loerop

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**November 29 is
#GivingTuesday**

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