Retreat with Red Viva

The leadership at the Hogar has been actively pursuing the best care for the children. This led them to a training offered by Red Viva Honduras. Red Viva seeks to improve the care of children in Honduras in a God honoring way. In 2009 they began a project with the goals of helping children in orphanages heal from their wounds, forgive and move forward.

Ten young adults from the Hogar were able to attend the training. They went on an emotional two-day retreat led by experts in the field of psychology. One of the most important things the young adults worked through was understanding how adverse childhood experiences affect people when they are not processed, and the implications of these experiences in all facets of their lives. As one can imagine, tears were shed throughout this weekend, but we trust that God continues to work in the hearts of these young adults and that He is healing them.

A second, significant part of the training involved the young adults creating a goal for their lives and a plan of how to achieve this goal. According to the director of the training, the Honduran culture needs more direct conversations about an individual’s future and the steps necessary to get there. One of the young adults mentioned that this activity was the first time he had to consider a plan B and C for his life and how to achieve those goals. Other’s said that this exercise was among the most beneficial portions of the training. The participants were asked what, outside of their studies, they are doing to achieve their goals. It helped open their eyes to the bigger picture, as well as force them to consider practical steps. The training helped the young adults develop plans of how to achieve these goals once they left the care of the Hogar.

We see this weekend as a significant step towards improved care for our young adults. We are excited to be consistently seeking improvements in the physical, emotional, and spiritual care for the children. We are committed to preparing the residents at the Hogar as best as we can to succeed throughout life.
Dear Friends and Supporters of AGC,

Today I will be going to the wake of a thirty two year old friend. He leaves behind a wife and three children. Everybody’s heart is broken, but yet we can go to a God who can be trusted even when life seems to be so unfair. My friend and his dad went to Honduras a few years back to visit the disenfranchised and marginalized. They went to love the children and to restore the children to themselves, to help make them whole.

That’s why we all go, that’s why we all support The Hogar; we want to help make a difference in the lives of these children.

Perhaps the biggest mystery, surprise, miracle is that when we go to the margins to make a difference in the children’s lives it turns out the children at the margins make a difference in our lives. None of us come home the same, we are made whole. My friend’s life was changed, the impact of going out in God’s name changed his life and the life of his family. Well done Bobby Gee. May God be Praised.

- Al Heerema

AGC 15th Annual Golf Open

Thank you to all 68 participants who came out September 20th to make AGC’s 15th Annual Golf Open in support of the children. This event could not be accomplished without the dedication and hard work from three volunteers that have been crucial to this event throughout the years: Michael and Debra Alch, and Phil Perzek.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pamela DeBoer           Paul Lagemstee
Allen Heerema            Tim MacKenzie
John Hiskes              John Pabon (not shown)
Abby Huizenga            Bob Venhousen
Jan Kamp

AGC has the highest rating Charity Navigator gives out.
Dear Lord,

I give you thanks for your great love manifested on the cross. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to live with the purpose of knowing you, loving you and serving you. **Because you did not leave me alone in your thoughts, rather you made me live to experience your salvation and yearn for eternal life at your side.** How do I repay the great gift you have given me? If you are the owner of everything, I do not have anything. If even my life belongs to you, then the only thing I can give you is my gratitude. Take it Lord, from my heart I thank you for your great love and mercy.

Thank you that in every moment that passes, that I live, I see your hand providing blessings. You fill me with your peace and your joy, this joy that floods inexplicably through my being, even in the middle of problems and challenges: **The craziness of your love.**

Thank you for calling me by name and preparing a role for me to participate in your dreams, that are now mine. Thank you for making me a Christian and allowing me to know your plan of salvation. Thank you for allowing me to see your provision through my brothers and sisters that are always here helping me, and supporting me in my needs. **I thank you for every one of the people that detach from what you have given them to give to me.**

Thank you for my brothers and sisters from All God’s Children whom you have called to join me in this project of love called Casayuda.

May You bless the All God’s Children team and all of the donors who have supported us.

Thank you God, unending thanks.

With Eternal Love,
Your Daughter Nelly
A young man, in his prayer gave thanks for the donors that have made it possible for him to have a place to live, an opportunity to study and the privilege of hearing the Good News that has changed his life. **He is grateful to God for each of you that have made this possible.**

One evening one of the older boys asked the younger boys, how many had gone to bed at night hungry before coming to the Hogar, many raised their hands. He then asked them to give thanks to God that He has sent people to love and care for them.

This afternoon about 4 boys ran up to me, “when do our ‘friends’ arrive”. For them, each of you that sponsors them, takes time to play with them, listen to them, or support them from afar, are their friends. They give “Thanks” to each of you that pay the price monthly to support them and to those who take the time to come to see them. They found in you, someone that honestly is interested in them. As one said, it is hard to comprehend, why would someone come from so far just to spent time with me.” They are thankful for your commitment.

Recently a businessman said “Thank You” for what AGC’s supporters have done for the children in Comayagua. “**It shames me that we Hondurans do not do much for our children and these people from the USA come and spend time and money to make the lives of these children better, what an example for us.**” Without all of your support none of these “Thank Yous” would be possible.

One of our young adults said “It is blessing for me to be able to thank God for the many things I have, primarily the family of All God’s Children and their unconditional support. I am thankful to be sheltered by my family in the Hogar Nazareth, my friends and, the donors from All God’s Children. Thank you to everyone for allowing us to reside in such privilege without deserving it. May God’s grace abound in your lives.”

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