The recent AGC annual golf outing wasn’t quite The Masters, but it had some similarities: beautiful weather, challenging holes, stunning landscapes, lightning fast greens, elite golfers (well ok, let’s just say 72 golfers). But what makes this recent event special in its own right is the cause of Hogar de Ninos that it promotes, and the many disadvantaged children it helps support. It was an enjoyable day for all who participated.

This ninth annual golf outing, like all of the previous, was not the product of an AGC golf committee. Nor was it brought about by any particular Board activity. Rather, each outing has come about almost exclusively through the stellar work of Michael Alch, who has chosen this event as one of the ways to demonstrate his devotion to the cause of the Hogar ninos. As Mike mentioned at the outing, “Many of us state-side have been blessed to be able to hold these children’s hands for only a short time, given the typically brief duration of our visits to Comayagua. Nonetheless we hold their hearts forever.”

So the thankless jobs of lining up dates and courses, signing up golfers, organizing foursomes, recruiting sponsors and donations, arranging for food and beverages, to mention only a few of the countless details, are all overseen by Mike, with able assistance from his wife Debbie, and other volunteers.

This year’s event raised over $25,000 for AGC. Thanks to all who participated, all those who volunteered their time, hole sponsors, those who donated prizes or items for auction. A special treat was a short address from Hogar grad Juan Francois (see the related article by Mike Jones) who thanked AGC for its support and thanked God for the 200 brothers and sisters he has been blessed with. He also summed up his first golfing experience with the comment “I thought this was going to be easy, but it’s really hard. I like soccer.”

Thanks Michael for another great event and for funds that will be utilized for the wellbeing of the Hogar children and staff. Next year’s outing is scheduled for September 26, 2014 at Pine Meadow, so reserve the date and start grooming your game now. And Mike as long as you’re planning for next year, we thought the pin placements on holes 5 and 13 were a little unfair, the mayo on the putting green was a bit heavy....

Dear sponsors, friends and members of the Board of Directors of AGC,

Receive a respectful greeting from Association of Hogar Nazareth, we hope God blesses you abundantly.

We are pleased to inform you that on August 10 the girls were taken to the military base Palmerola, and were able to enjoy a full day of recreation where we had prepared several surprises (movies, swimming pools and games). They were happy with the trip.

In the month of July we had the visit of Mr. Allen Heerema, and we were very happy to have him here with us. He came with a group of friends. We thank this group for taking all children to buy shoes. They are very grateful and the timing was perfect because their school shoes were already worn out. It is in these times when we see God’s mercy that waits for the right time when it is needed. Thank you.

On August 17 there was an ophthalmologist brigade in Hogar Nazareth, free exams, and lenses at half price. Those who needed to wear glasses were 7 girls and 6 boys, so we thank our benefactors for the purchase of these lenses that children were in need, and also to Mr. Allen that authorized the purchase of such lenses. Thank you.

The children are well. This month of September we had many parties and friends who have visited to celebrate on different dates the Children’s Day. All these experiences have helped them a lot. Our children and youth had piñatas, organized games, clowns, and enjoyed a snack together with pizza, soda, cake and lots of candy.

After that came the Independence celebrations of September 15, where there were parades of the kindergartens, schools and colleges. Our children and youth participated and played with great joy and enthusiasm wearing their uniforms and costumes related to the parades. The girls and boys who study weekends marched at night and did so with lanterns and it was very nice.

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." Mark 9:37
News of the Ninos page 2

continued...

Both children and youth are studying very much as they are finishing the school year; they want to pass successfully so we are supporting them so they can get good grades. They do their daily responsibilities as directed by their educators.

The first week of September a Dental Brigade came to San Benito Jose Hospital, where they gave special treatment to our children, Leonardo Zuniga, Arlin Espinal, Ana Bertha Nuñez, and Adelina Varela. Also they checked up all the children with special needs and they were treated with prophylaxis and fillings. The second week of September we had 3 cases of dengue confirmed, so there were 2 fumigation campaigns to prevent more dengue cases.

The girls and boys who will graduate this year have ended their professional practice (internships) and are completing their report. They are also preparing to pass their attitudinal exam required to enter college, they are Jenny Cristina Sanchez, Xiomara Benitez, Grenda Crisanto, Johanna Ramos, José Luis García, Henry Fabrizio Romero Garcia, Jaime Antonio Avila Ramirez.

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La Misericordia (The Mercy House)

On September 8 they were invited by the CRIC to the Villa Mar Water Park to celebrate the Children’s Day. They were all very happy enjoying the sweets and lots of food. They enjoyed the pool a lot, it was very fun and exciting.

The dental brigade from Hospital San Benito Jose served in a very special way to all the residents of Misericordia. It was a difficult job and we are very grateful to the doctors who took care of them. We are all very grateful to God that He has sent Dr. Luis Hernandez, whworks at Clinica del Valle. He has come to visit and care for our beneficiaries of Misericordia and promised to come once a month to give them medical services for free. Here is where we see the wonders of our Lord personified in the service of others.

In April Francisco spent much of a Saturday afternoon helping Margaret to plant colorful flowers around the edges of our back yard. That evening, at dinner, as we looked out the bay window over the back yard, Margaret and Francisco told us all they had done. I mentioned how beautiful it was and that with all the recent rain, the grass was now bright green adding to the color splendor.

“I know this word from class” Francisco said.

“What word?”

Grass

“Like the grass, it’s very green.”

“I don’t understand, like when’s really hard”

“The grass, out in the yard, like when it’s really hard.”

“I don’t understand, like when’s really hard”

“Like the grass, out in the yard, like when it’s really hard, you know, the grass, like when it’s really hard.”

Actually we didn’t know. And we all looked each other and smiled. What could he possibly be trying to tell us? No one could figure it out so we left it alone. Then the next morning my day started in a burst of laughter when Francisco came down and with a big silly I know-something-I-want-to-tell-you grin he proudly proclaimed “English grammar is very hard to grasp. It’s very hard to grasp.” And then he added, “And this is the p”. We were all missing the “p”. It’s not the grass that’s hard, its trying to grasp something that can be hard. He loved it. I think he enjoys bringing laughter and joy to others every day.

I love my daughters but growing up in a family with brothers I always wished I had a son. One of the things I love about this experience is my time with Francisco doing things my daughters never fully em-braced. On some weekends, Francisco and I will get on the bicycles and go for hours at a time exploring different trails – sometimes 30 – 40 miles. Late one afternoon in July we were coming home on the Great Western Trail riding side-by-side and I lamented how hot it was and how “I wish we were back in the shade”. He said, “Grass”.

I laughed. I explained. We both laughed. When you say it quickly the words sound the same. Learning English is difficult. I love this guy.

Francisco is still focused on ultimately returning to Honduras full time and using his English and education to get a good job so that he can help all of the others growing up at Hogar Nazareth. As he comes close to finishing the ELS program this fall, we are eager to see his final major English paper. We were surprised by his choice of thesis topic. I wonder how many natives of Comayagua, Honduras have ever written extensively about Abraham Lincoln. We are also hopeful that he will be admitted to Dominican University full time to begin classes in January. With his admit-tance there, we will be pleased to have him with us a while longer as he works to complete his college degree before returning to Honduras.

Of course, while Francisco has been learning English, we have all been blessed with the opportunity to learn Spanish from him. My wife and kids have each had many years of Spanish in school and can get by without much help. When in Comayagua, I get by with my hands and sign language. But now I am learning much more. And we are blessed by his presence in so many other ways. Thank you Francisco for sharing your joy with us, for your smiles always, for your fun-loving spirit, for your dedicated academic effort in be-ing sure that you get the most you possibly can out of your classes, for your everyday commitment to God and your faith, and for showing us how to live with joy and hope even in those times when life is difficult. Thank you also to Al Heerema and the AGC Board of Directors for all of their support in this adventure.

News of the Ninos page 5
Babies are well, growing every day. This year in May, June, and August we celebrated the first birthday to 4 girls, Emely, Keilin, Jeney and Len. They really enjoy their birthdays parties and the games between them are so much fun. The baby Genesis Yamileth, the girl with cleft lip, will have an operation in October with Operation Smile. We ask for your prayers.

We also have a new girl whose name is Kendy. She will have a baby in late October. All the girls go to church on Sunday and we have daily deviations at home.

We thank God because the girls have been very healthy, have had some with flu but nothing severe. Girls who have appointments with the psychologist have been coming and are stabilizing each day. These therapies help a lot in their emotional state.

The Divine Providence Project (The University Home) is moving forward every day with persevering youth who are struggling to fulfill their dreams. Nestor Daniel, Cristhoder Antonio, Jazielle, Angie Esther, Jeni Joneyli, have started their last long period for this year, We wish that they achieve everything they have planned for themselves mainly with God’s help.

Thank you very much Godparents, friends, benefactors and board. We value and appreciate the work that you do to offer the children and youth what they need every day.

We ask God’s great blessings for each of you and each of your families. You are all always in our prayers. Thank you.

God bless you, and receive a kiss and a hug in our prayers. Thank you and each of your families. You are all always a part of our family. We thank God because the girls have been working very well, and they make recycling things.

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From the children and the youth.

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