
Amigos de Honduras

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May 2017

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT Joan M. Larimore (San Francisco del Valle, 1986-88)
amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who have paid your yearly dues, we have a bank account of almost \$3000.00. With the money sent by members specifically for grants, we will soon have enough to donate \$1500 or more to one or more projects. And we have one proposal pending sent by Jorge Betancourt.

Let me bring you up to date on dues. We still have 35 members who are behind one to two years. Some members drop and forget to let me know, some just can't recall their due date. **REMEMBER-** it always appears on your mailing label. Special letters will go out to those 35 members in the May issue of our Newsletter. National membership is free but if you donate more you receive the World Review magazine. It is easiest if you send Amigos dues to the Treasurer but if you send your dues to national they are eventually transferred to Amigos.

For those of you who were in the 1986-88 groups and knew her please note that **Jeanne Younger** passed away in December 2016 Her

daughter, Mary, told me that she passed away quietly in her sleep.

2017 DONORS TO THE GRANT FUND

Many thanks to those of you who have donated to the Amigos de Honduras Grant Fund. Your Grants Committee (Loren Hintz, Judith Whitney-Terry, Suzanne Mills and myself) continue to look at potential grants. Please look in this issue for reports of funding projects and think of good future projects. Continue to email your requests to Joan at amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com

GRACIAS A 2017 DONORS:

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82)
ldhintz@bellsouth.net Thanks to folks who have shared news and articles. Remember if you send me something and don't see it in the newsletter, please send it again. It may have been lost in my thousands of emails I've saved. Anyone with news of a Florida get together or next year's plans for Oregon reunion, please share! While in DC in Feb. my wife and I visited our Senators' offices and talked to staff about supporting DACA (deferred action for undocumented immigrants who arrived in the US as children.) The Trump administration seems to be continuing Obama's policy on this issue. We also asked their support for the Berta Caceres Human Rights in Honduras Act. issue has news of two more Honduras related books. Please check them out. There are updates on projects we've given grants. Again I've collected some news from the region perhaps worse rather than better. **If anyone has some ideas** on reducing the violence in Honduras please share!

PC HONDURAS FAMILY HELPS AGAIN

As editor I am sharing the letter that everyone should have received via email from Steve Phelan or Fred Corvi. Carmen Mendoza and Lucy de Zuniga (PC Honduras staff)

assisted with some of the logistics. I volunteered to collect individual donations so money would not be wasted in wire transfer fees. Since March, 14 individuals have mailed checks to me and **\$1320 was transferred** to Lesby's account the end of last month. Others have sent money directly. (If you haven't sent money to Honduras be aware that it is a bit complicated due to the measures designed to stop money laundering. The recipient has to provide a physical address. This is a bit confusing in rural areas since many people don't have a street address.) **In case you can't locate the email info, here it is again:** Bank: Banco de America Central Honduras, S.A.; Address: Blvd. Suyapa frente Emisoras Unidas, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.; SWIFT/BIC = BMILHNTE; Beneficiary = Lesby Sabina Castro Zelaya, Account = 728 447 501 Address: El Hatillo, Kilómetro 8.5, Calle de Tierra, 6ª, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Recently Manuel wrote me and said "Me da mucho gusto en saludarte. Lesby no ha estado muy bien de salud desde hace 3 semanas, debido a cuadros infecciosos que la atacan frecuentemente, por su deficiente Sistema Inmunológico. Saludándote con mucho aprecio y aprovechando la oportunidad para expresarte reiteradamente nuestro agradecimiento por todas tus muestras solidaridad por la salud de Lesby. Te pedimos les expreses nuestro agradecimiento para los Voluntarios de Cuerpo de Paz que han contribuido tan generosamente. Un abrazo fraterno, Manuel."

I am Manuel Midence Bones and I need your help. I had the privilege to work at PC/Honduras

from January 16, 1974 to November 28, 1993. I worked almost 20 years in an institution that changed my perspective about life. When I became Associate Director of the Non-Formal Education sector it was like a dream come true because together with the Volunteers I would help many Hondurans learn to read. During that time I met exceptional Volunteers that cared about the integral development of people living in countries in development. Also, when working in the General Services department I understood that I helped the program to succeed when I made sure vehicles were in good condition and that the logistics of the department were under control.

I have a beautiful family, my wife Lesby, two sons Manuel and Ricardo, and Michelle my daughter. Unfortunately, on August, 2013 Lesby was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma (Bone Marrow cancer). She has received multiple chemotherapy treatments in Honduras with good response, but to recover completely she needs to receive as soon as possible an Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant. We need your economic support to pay for her transplant which will be done at the University of Navarra (CUN), Pamplona, España. The cost of the transplant is of EUR72,000 approximately US\$76,903. Unfortunately, the cost of the transplant in the United States was at least \$300,000.

I believe that Lesby deserves the support of generous people because, as a medical doctor with specialty in HIV/AIDS, she worked for 22 years as Head of the HIV/AIDS Program of the Metropolitan Region of Tegucigalpa. Lesby helped improve the health status and well-being of thousands of vulnerable Hondurans who have sick family members by

making them aware and educating them about HIV/AIDS and to follow healthy behaviors. This awareness saved the Government of Honduras millions of Lempiras in medical bills. She is also a very spiritual person very well liked in our community. We are obtaining loans and raising funds for the transplant but its cost is very high and we have already spent thousands of Lempiras on her ongoing treatment. Every donation will help us reach the cost of the transplant.

If you wish you can email a get well note to Lesby at lesby_castro@hotmail.com. It will give her comfort to know that people cares about her wellbeing. If you need additional information about her illness you can contact me at manmidence@gmail.com. Your compassion for Lesby's recovery will give her a real chance to win her fight against cancer. Thank you for your understanding and for reading this letter. Yours truly, **Manuel Midence Bones**

LOS PLANES LATRINE PROJECT UPDATE

Suzanne Mills (Olanchito, 2005-07) Our contact, Jhonny (Yonis) Raudales of AJARCO (Asociacion de Juntas de Agua del Refugio Corralitos), reports that he has bought and delivered all of the materials to the community. All of the concrete pads for the latrines have been laid. The casetas (walls and roof) are nearly finished for most latrines. Several latrines are complete (see photo). One latrine is being built at the church/community center. Another was planned for the school, but construction of an additional classroom has delayed latrine construction there. The remaining latrines are being built at homes closest to Santa Clara creek, which is not "clara" at all due to human waste contamination. The

community is on track to build at least nine latrines with money that Amigos originally budgeted for eight. Although at least 50 families remain without latrines, the community understands that acquiring funding for everyone is a process. Jhonny continues to encourage and accompany community leaders in their search for more resources. Amigos sent the \$1,000 grant via MoneyGram at the end of October 2016. Late last year and into early 2017, the community faced significant challenges in completing the project due to the rainy season. Muddy, impassable roads delayed transport of materials for weeks. Handmade adobe bricks for the casetas, the community's in-kind contribution to the project, were melted by unexpected rain as they laid out to dry. This caused considerable discouragement, but the community remade them and continued construction. When the latrines are complete, zinc laminate roofing will protect the adobe walls from weather.



The project encountered an administrative snag when Jhonny informed us that AJARCO leadership had reprimanded him for directly receiving the MoneyGram order. When Amigos initially inquired about sending the money to the AJARCO bank account in October, Jhonny told us that the names on the account were outdated. He believed he had the authority to ask Amigos to send the money to him because he was the project manager and was responsible for buying and delivering the materials in his personal vehicle. AJARCO leadership acknowledged to Jhonny the problem with the incorrect account information, but thought it would have been most appropriate to send the funds to their current treasurer. To clarify the miscommunication, the Amigos grants committee sent a letter to Jhonny to present to AJARCO, apologizing for any missteps and affirming our full faith that the project will be completed as budgeted. In our internal discussions, the grants committee decided that we had done the best we could with the information that we had at the time. We acknowledged the difficulty of sending money to Honduras and recognized that we have to trust our contacts and our instincts.

Jhonny thanks the Amigos on the part of the people of Los Planes. He sees the positive impact of the grant not only as improved waste management but also as motivating the community to work together. Local municipal officials also look favorably on the work the community has done, and the possibility exists that more latrines could be funded by the municipality in the future

PALISAL UPDATE Dale Schmitz (Yamaranguila 1967-68)

My wife Frances and I returned from our now customary two month visit to Honduras in February to April. I spent two weeks arranging and then helping to deliver training and tools to 24 new youth ages 15-24 at Colosuca in Gracias, Lempira. This year we with Tools for Opportunity utilized as trainers two Honduran young men we had trained a few years ago. This way we build capacity for trainers in Honduras, and save the funds that would have been spent to send two trainers from the U.S. and divert those funds into tool purchases. So I was the only gringo working with the training this year. In 2014 Amigos de Honduras gave a \$1,000 donation to Tools for Opportunity that is an all-volunteer organization based in Des Moines, Iowa. We train carpenters in Honduras and El Salvador, provide them tools that they earn after one year of meeting some requirements.

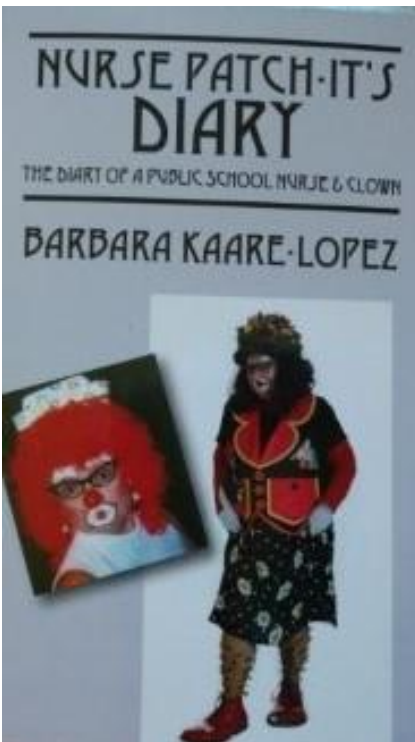


Above: Router training. Tools are "loaned" to the carpenters for one year, after which we interview each and determine whether they have met their three commitments of donating a project worth 40 hours of their time to their community, mentoring another person in carpentry for 40 hours, and planting 5 trees. Then the tools are theirs. All

twenty interviewed from our 2016 training have met those requirements.



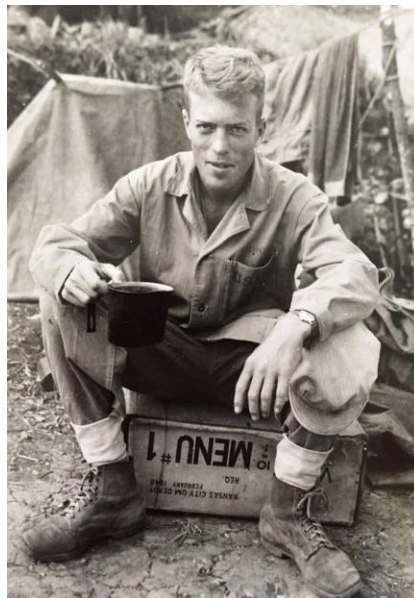
All were eager to learn. Some were involving in a carving class from Colosuca and are making beautiful works. Carving also adds beauty and value to some of the products they build such as doors and headboards for beds. We always need and welcome contributions. See us at www.toolsforopportunity.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/toolsforopportunity



NURSE PATCH-IT'S DIARY: The Diary of a Public Schools Nurse & Clown. Barbara Kaare-Lopez

This is the book that I spent 7 years, off and on, writing. I self-published it in August, 2016 with Outskirts Press. This book is mainly about being a Denver Public Schools nurse and why I became a clown, **BUT also includes 4 chapters about my life in Honduras as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1978 to 1980.** After training in Tegucigalpa, my sites were initially **Olanchito, then Tocoa, and lastly Trujillo.** The best way to buy my book is on **Amazon**, but if you live in the Denver area, you may see me hawking it at various Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Colorado events. IF you will attend the upcoming Peace Corps Connect event in Denver the first weekend in August, I will be present, either at a booth, or quietly hawking my book.

KILL THE GRINGO: THE LIFE OF JACK HOOD VAUGHN BY JACK VAUGHN WITH JANE CONSTANTINEAU.



This handsome young Marine is Jack Vaughn. Jack was Deputy Director of the Peace Corps under President Kennedy, then went on to be Director under LBJ. He had public service in the State Department and was stationed in several Latin American countries. Jack and his wife Margaret Leftie Vaughn attended our Honduras RPCV reunion in Tucson in 2008 and were among the first recipients of La Orden de Salva Vida. His memoir "Kill the Gringo" is coming this year. Jack is a great man, and it was a pleasure to host him and Leftie at our reunion.

Kill the Gringo is the wide-ranging, action-packed memoir of Jack Hood Vaughn, whose career in diplomacy, social advocacy and conservation spanned more than 25 jobs and 11 countries. A professional boxer during his college years, Jack joined the Marines in 1941, fighting in the battles of Guam and Okinawa during World War II. His rapport with people and facility with language led to a speedy rise in international development in Latin America and Africa where he drew the attention of Vice President Lyndon Johnson during his visit to Senegal in 1961. Three years later, President Johnson appointed Jack ambassador to Panama when violent anti-American riots there led to a severing of diplomatic ties.

As the second director of the Peace Corps, Jack presided over the largest number of volunteers in the organization's history and the delicate handling of anti-Vietnam fervor among its ranks. After his Foreign Service career, Jack led the National Urban Coalition and Planned Parenthood during the turbulent late 60's and early 70's. A rural development job in Iran ended dramatically with the 1978

revolution, and Jack turned his focus to the environment, advising the Nature Conservancy and founding Conservation International in 1987. Told with Jack's humor and humility, his stories reveal an astonishingly varied, lively and distinguished career that lasted 50 years and earned him the nickname Peasant Ambassador.

Rare Bird Books
Paperback, April 11 2017: ISBN: 978-1-945572-17-3

US \$17.95 | Memoir / Political
[\[PRE-ORDER\]: Kill the Gringo by Jack Vaughn](#)

Jack Vaughn served as director of the Peace Corps, ambassador to Panama and Colombia, and Assistant Secretary of State during the 1960s. After his diplomatic career, Jack moved to the forefront of the most controversial issues of the day, leading both the National Urban Coalition and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Forced to leave his job in infrastructure development in Iran during the 1978 revolution, Jack began the final phase of his career in conservation, becoming the founding chairman of Conservation International. A professional boxer and World War II veteran, Jack found himself in harm's way throughout his long career, from planes crashes to muggings and an attempted lynching. **Jane Constantineau** is Jack Vaughn's daughter. A graduate of Williams College and the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern, she lives with her family in San Diego.

MY 2016 SUMMER

VACATION: My Trek with San Rafael Boy Scouts through the New Mexico Wilderness
Peter Bauer (Pena Blanca, 85-88)

A crew of teenage Scouts and their leaders went on a life changing summer trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Philmont covers 214 square miles of vast wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to as high as 12,441 feet. During their trek San Rafael Boy Scout Troop 38 hiked 78 miles over 10 days. The group of Scouts and their advisors carried everything they needed to survive during the trek on their backs while hiking from camp to camp. They participated in backcountry programs along the way that included rock climbing, pole climbing and gold prospecting. The trek will include a conservation project where the Scouts learned and participated in the upkeep of Philmont's ecosystem. Along the trek, Scouts endured tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs, and often-inclement weather. "They may meet only one other group of Scouts on the trail in an entire day of hiking," according to Backpacker Magazine. "Even in the most crowded destinations, each Scout group camps in isolation, out of sight and sound of all other groups." The crew made what amounts to a Scouting pilgrimage with their trip to Philmont. **Philmont Scout Ranch** is the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure camp and the largest youth camp in the world serving nearly one million participants since 1938.

PEACE CORPS CONNECT DENVER

AUG 4-6, 2017 Peace Corps Connect is the Peace Corps community's annual conference hosted by National Peace Corps Association and its affiliate groups to connect, engage, and inspire our community. At this year's conference – **Partnering for Progress: Taking**

Collaborations to New Heights - we look forward to forging, celebrating, and building on the great partnerships of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the greater Peace Corps community. The Peace Corps Connect conference will feature a series of breakout sessions and workshops that address the Peace Corps community's role in impacting key U.N. Sustainable Development goals.

Friday, August 4 - Sunday, August 6, 2017 University of Denver (Colorado) <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/peace-corps-connect>

Friday, August 4, 2017 Affiliate Group Network Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 5, 2017 9:00 am - 5:30 pm: Peace Corps Connect Conference sessions
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Harris Wofford Global Citizen Reception
Sunday, August 6, 2017 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Peace Corps Connect Conference sessions will address one of the following:

Global Health: ensuring healthy lives for all ages worldwide.
Environment: protecting our planet and building resilient communities.
Economic Development: achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth.
Equality & Justice: promoting equality and empowerment of marginalized populations.
Education and Youth Development: enhancing opportunities to positively impact communities.

NPCA TO HONOR KELLY CALLAHAN with the 2017 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is proud to announce that the 2017 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service will go to Kelly Callahan in recognition of her tireless efforts over 20 years to the eradication of Guinea worm disease and the elimination of blinding trachoma. These two diseases are considered “neglected tropical diseases” and affect the poorest of the poor. NPCA will present the award during the annual Peace Corps Connect conference, August 2-4, 2017 in Denver, Colorado.

The eradication of Guinea worm, a preventable incapacitating waterborne disease that was once prevalent in developing countries, was the focus of Kelly's Peace Corps service. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Cote d'Ivoire from 1996-1998 Kelly witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of Guinea worm disease in the lives of her friends and community members. It was then that Kelly decided to dedicate her life to ensuring that “neglected tropical diseases” were no longer neglected. After her Peace Corps service and since 1998, Kelly has worked with The [Carter Center](#) in several African countries and in Atlanta, Georgia. Since that time Kelly has seen the number of cases of Guinea worm disease drop from an estimated 3.5 million to just 25 in 2016.

“Kelly Callahan deserves this high honor for her impactful public health career. Kelly's passion, commitment, and knowledge have helped to make the future brighter for millions of the world's poorest people who suffer from these terrible, but preventable diseases,” said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

A not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, The Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in

more than 80 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; and improving mental health care.

HONDURAN NEWS

Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82)



Surprise 40th wedding anniversary party for Tom and Nancy Chaplin in Columbus, Ohio. The Chaplins and Don Hanson were the first volunteers assigned to work at La Tigra National Park in the late 1970s.

Several RPCVs and NGOs have reported recently on the destruction of the Reserva de la Biosfera y Rio Plátano y La Mosquitia. Complaints were made to the US Embassy and to the Honduran Government. “Dear friends, I am pleased to let you know that according to the TV Canal 5- News Program prior to "Frente a Frente", early today a Military Operation has been launched in the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, to counter act all illegal activities both in the nuclear and the buffer zone. I believe that this operation is in response to the article published by RPCV Leon Kolanskewick and the letter written by our friend Jorge Salaverry. The immediate action taken by Ambassador Frank Almaguer and Dr. Jeff Landsdale to contact and share this concern with the highest levels in the government of Honduras and the US Embassy is highly appreciated. It is our hope that we keep each other well informed and that a private effort is started to monitor and evaluate on a

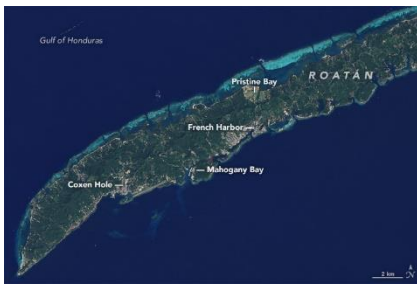
regular basis the illegal activities and conducted by an international watch dog organization using the media and modern technology. **Best regards, Jorge Betancourt”**

The streets of Los Llanos of Sta. Rosa de Copan are an art gallery of a Honduran Painter. This western capital is full of artists including Don Gilberto Ramirez also known in the art world as Gilberto of Santa Rosa.



At least 16 people died and 34 were injured in Honduras on Sunday, in a crash between a bus and a truck on the outskirts of the capital, officials said. The crash took place about 10 kilometers outside the capital Tegucigalpa on a road heading to the south of the country, said police transport deputy inspector Carlos Espana. **Reuters Feb. 5, 2017** Firemen in northern Honduras have found the remains of four teenage boys who were kidnapped on 31 January. The bodies of the victims, aged between 15 and 19, were found in plastic bags by the river Ulua in Yoro province. Their hands had been tied. The boys were kidnapped by armed men in a village 15 km from where their bodies were found. It is not clear why the boys - who worked as farm laborers and motorbike taxi drivers - were abducted. The Honduran authorities have not said whether the kidnappers demanded a ransom for their victims, EFE reported. An average of 11 people are murdered every day in the country, according to official figures. **BBC News Feb. 5, 2017**

The **Anti-Corruption Party (PAC)** has joined two other political parties LIBRE and PINU in an alliance for the next election in order to oppose the Nationalist Party and the incumbent president Juan Orlando Hernandez who is running for reelection. (The decision to allow reelection was very controversial) **Apr.9, 2017** This Tuesday with the help of Liberal Deputies, the ruling Nationalist Party approved changes to the Penal Code which will treat protesters in Honduras as terrorists. **LoUltimo Feb.21, 2017.**



Roatán is booming. Located along the southern reaches of the [Meso-American reef](#), Roatán has become a major destination for tourists, many of whom are drawn to its white sand beaches and plentiful diving and snorkeling opportunities. The number of people visiting the island each year has risen from about 900 in 1970 to 100,000 in 2000. By 2010, more than 1 million people were visiting each year. Much of the growth has been fueled by the cruise ship industry, which has more than quadrupled the number of ships arriving at Roatán ports since 2000. As tourists flock to the island, the size of the local population also has risen. In the most recent census by the Honduran government (2014), the population of the island was 109,000 people—four times the number reported in 2001. A preliminary analysis of Landsat data by [Cascade Tuholske](#), a geographer at the University of California, Santa

Barbara, shows that the built environment on the island increased by 300 percent between 1985 and 2014. “There is an interesting contradiction playing out on Roatán,” said Tuholske. “On the northern coast in the areas of Sandy Bay and West End, the island’s development has led to increased marine conservation awareness and the establishment of [marine protected areas](#). On the southern coast, the boom in tourism is causing increased ecosystem damage through the cutting of mangroves, sewage runoff, and increased garbage.”

Sonia Nazario, author of Enrique’s Journey, commented on recent efforts to reduce migration from Honduras. Instead of adding fire power, fencing and drones at the border, we must deal directly with powerful forces pushing people out of their home countries and toward the U.S. The majority of the border-crossers in the Southwest come from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — all three are among the most dangerous nations on Earth. The reason is simple, as one expert who tracks child migration told me: “When your house is on fire, you find a way to get out.” Enrique wanted to find his mother; today’s migrants are running for their lives.

Last year, I went to Rivera Hernández, the most violent neighborhood in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Bodies dotted the streets in the morning; six gangs brazenly exerted control. One day, according to local police, gangsters were casually playing soccer with the decapitated head of someone they had executed. And yet, Rivera Hernández shows clearly how positive change is possible. In 2014, the U.S. implemented pilot violence-prevention programs there, based on efforts in Los Angeles and Boston,

organizing courageous residents to counter gangs and bring about change. Outreach centers were set up where kids could find mentors, vocational training and help getting jobs, effectively cutting off the lifeblood of gangs: new recruits. Another program, modeled on L.A.’s Gang Reduction and Youth Development program, known as GYRD, used nine risk factors to identify children likely to join gangs. After a year of family counseling, they were 77% less likely than their peers to commit crimes or abuse alcohol or drugs.

The U.S. also went after killers. In 96% of Honduran homicide cases, no one is ever convicted. Witnesses know that if they testify, they’re dead. The U.S. helped fund the Assn. for a More Just Society, which investigates killings in Rivera Hernández and six other violent neighborhoods. They coax witnesses to testify, anonymously, cloaked in a black burqa. Now prosecutors are getting guilty verdicts in more than half of the homicides in these neighborhoods. In two years, killings in Rivera Hernández plummeted 62%.

These efforts are riddled with problems, and Rivera Hernández is still violent. But the data are compelling: In 2014, before these pilot violence-prevention programs took hold, 18,000 Honduran kids showed up at our border. In 2016, that number was almost cut in half. We must offer compassion for vulnerable children running from harm and work to reduce unlawful migration to keep more children and families safe in their home countries. **Apr. 23, 2017 LA Times**

Amigos de Honduras Membership Info

Use this form to renew membership or notify us of a change in address. Or, copy and give to a friend whom you think might like to keep in touch with Honduras and RPCVs. Other than your name, enter only the info that has changed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address _____

Peace Corps Info:

Years of service: from _____ to _____ Group # _____ Site(s) _____

Job _____

Post-Peace Corps Experiences (occupation, marriage, children, travels, interests) _____

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| | |
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| \$ _____ | |
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I would prefer to receive my newsletter in .pdf format.

the date on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership - please renew if you're due!



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