



COMITÉ PROGRESO PARA LA PROTECCION AL MENOR - COPPROME



1989 – 2019

**Celebrating 30 Years of Protecting the Children of
Honduras**

**Celebrando 30 Años Protegiendo a los Niños de
Honduras**

**Celebration by ~
Deborah D. Proctor**

**Contributors ~
Betzy Patricia Caballero, Shin Fujiyama, Mary Pergiovanni,
Katrina Villarreal, Rhonda Wicks & Alex Wolf**



COPPPROME

Comité Progreseño para la Protección al Menor

Es una organización civil de labor social y sin fines de lucro fundada en la ciudad de El Progreso, Yoro; el 24 de Junio de 1989 por un grupo de ciudadanos y Sor María Teresa González Hermana Educadora de Notre Dame, (HEND). Obtuvo su personería jurídica el 11 de Junio de 1993 y registrada bajo el No. 60 en la Dirección de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia (DINAF). Número de registro DIRRSAC 2004000213.

Su objetivo principal es la protección a la niñez en vulneración de derechos por medio de los proyectos establecidos para llevar a cabo su labor.

Esta fundación actualmente brinda servicios a la niñez en vulneración por medio de los siguientes proyectos:

1. Hogar Providencia
2. Centros de Investigación Escolar (C.I.E.S)
3. Apadrinamiento Externo

Hogar Providencia - Donde se provee albergue, alimentación, educación cuidados integrales y cariño a 40-45 niños, niñas y jóvenes en edades de entre 2 a 18 años. Por lo general son huérfanos de padres y madres con enfermedades terminales o han sido abandonados. En el home, para la atención integral de los niños y jóvenes se brindan servicios en las áreas de salud mental, salud física, servicios odontológicos, formación académica, educación especial, actividades recreativas y formación artística. La formación de valores dentro de un ambiente de respeto, apoyo y afirmación es básica dentro de la metodología de atención con la cual se ha comprometido: la terapia del amor.

COPPPROME

Is a nonprofit, civil organization of social work that was founded in El Progreso, Yoro on June 24, 1989 by a group of citizens and Sra. Maria Teresa González Sister Educator of Notre Dame.

COPPPROME obtained legal status on June 11, 1993 and registered under no. 60 in the Directorate of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (DINAF).

COPPPROME's mission is the protection of children and their rights – this is accomplished through commitment to the orphanage as well as to the projects they carry out in the area.

COPPPROME currently provides services to children through the following projects:

1. Providence Home
2. School Research Centers (C.I.E.S)
3. External Sponsorship

Providence Home -

This is where shelter, food, education, comprehensive care and love are provided to 40-45 children and teenagers between 2 and 18 years of age. They are usually orphans or their parents are unable to care for them and have thus abandoned them. In our COPPPROME home, the children and teenagers are well-cared for - services are provided in the following areas: academic / school training, special education, mental health, physical health, dental services, recreational activities and artistic / music training. The formation of values within an environment of respect, support and affirmation is based on our core value of “the therapy of love”.

Centros de Investigación Escolar (C.I.E.S)

- se brinda ayuda en tutorías, refuerzo escolar, actividades recreativas y educación a niños de barrios socialmente vulnerables (marginales). En su mayoría hijos de madres solteras que trabajan y por eso los niños quedan solos en sus casas. A los centros asisten un promedio de 50 niños diariamente de lunes a sábado, se apadrinan a 92 niños y jóvenes de forma permanente en este proyecto. Además se brinda apoyo con alimentación, actividades formativas para los niños y los padres, medicina y transporte, útiles, uniformes escolares, un regalo de cumpleaños y un regalo de navidad, este programa está diseñado para brindar oportunidad de superación y esta ayuda se brinda hasta que el niño finalice sus estudios universitarios. Este es un proyecto iniciado en el año 2002. Estos centros actúan como espacios de protección porque los niños permanecen en ellos mientras sus padres trabajan fuera de la casa. Los logros alcanzados son extraordinarios en cuanto a la mejora en el rendimiento escolar de los niños que asisten, en su formación humana y desarrollo personal.

Apadrinamiento Externo - este proyecto ayuda con útiles escolares y uniformes a niños de familias en extrema pobreza y que están en alto riesgo de estar en la calle. Con esta ayuda se evita que los niños abandonen la escuela para trabajar o simplemente porque no tienen los materiales necesarios. Además se brinda apoyo con alimentación, actividades recreativas y formativas para los niños y los padres, Medicina y transporte, reciben un regalo de cumpleaños y un regalo de navidad, se les brinda oportunidad de superación dentro del programa hasta que el niño termina la universidad. Se atienden a 47 niños entre 2 a 18 años de edad. Este proyecto va encaminado a evitar que por razones de vulnerabilidad social de la familia los niños sean expulsados a la calle en búsqueda de su sustento y el de su familia.

School Research Centers (C.I.E.S)

- this project was started in 2002 and is a community assistance program where tutoring, recreational activities and education for children from socially vulnerable and marginal neighborhoods are provided. Most of our children come from homes with single mothers who work and leave their children alone at home. The centers are attended by an average of 50 children daily; 92 children and young people are sponsored permanently by this project. It also provides support with food, training activities for children and their parents, medicine and transportation, school supplies and uniforms, and a birthday and Christmas gift. This program is designed to provide the opportunity for improvement and help is provided for the children to finish their school studies. These centers act as protection and encouraging spaces because children remain in them while their parents work outside the home.

The achievements – both human and personal development - are extraordinary in terms of improving the school performance of the children who attend.

External Sponsorship - this project helps with school supplies and uniforms for children from families in extreme poverty who are at high risk of dropping out of school and being on the streets. With help from this program children do not need to leave school to work or simply because they do not have the necessary materials. It also provides support with food, recreational and educational activities for children and parents, medicine and transportation, and they receive a birthday and Christmas gift. They are given the opportunity to participate in the program until the child finishes the university. 47 children between 2 to 18 years of age participate in this program. This project is aimed at preventing children from taking to the streets in search of a livelihood due to their family's social vulnerability and poverty.

Amigos de Los Niños –

nos apoya con el pago de salarios a empleados que laboran en la institución, proveen proyectos para mejoras de infraestructura, pago de vivienda para niños que salen de COPPROME y no cuentan con un lugar donde establecerse mientras consiguen un empleo.

Hearts2Honduras (H2H) - apoyo en educación con uniformes escolares, Zapatos, libros escolares, apoyo con becas de estudio universitario para los niños que culminaron sus estudios de secundaria y quieren continuar estudiando.

Honduras Children's Project (HCP)

nos apoyo las necesidades educativas de COPPROME, incluidos materiales didácticos y útiles escolares, salarios de maestros y administradores, así como becas para adultos jóvenes que han terminado en COPPROME pero no tienen los medios financieros para asistir a una universidad. HCP apoya a estos niños con una beca para que puedan asistir a la universidad.

Pequeños Internacional Amigos

Este grupo viaja a Honduras 1-2 veces al año y ayuda a apoyar a los niños en COPPROME tanto médica como dentalmente.

Promasa - empresa líder en el mercado nacional de productos de Aluzinc y acero galvanizado, ubicada en la ciudad de San Pedro Sula, Ellos nos proveen el pago de la energía eléctrica.

Students Helping Honduras –

esta organización construyó el salón de clases en 2008-2009.

Friends of Los Niños –

supports COPPROME with the payment of salaries to employees who work in the institution, provides projects for infrastructure improvements, and helps with payment of housing for children who leave COPPROME and do not have a place to settle while they get a job.

Hearts2Honduras (H2H) – supports the education at COPPROME with school uniforms, shoes, school books, and support for university scholarships for children who finished their high school studies and want to continue studying.

Honduras Children's Project (HCP)

supports the educational needs of COPPROME including teaching materials and school supplies, teachers' and administrators' salaries, as well as providing scholarships to young adults who have finished at COPPROME but do not have the financial means to attend a university. HCP supports these children with a scholarship so that they can attend university.

Little Friends International

This group travels to Honduras 1-2 times per year and helps support the children at COPPROME both medically and dentally.

Promasa is a leading company in the national market of aluminum, zinc and galvanized steel products. They are located in the city of San Pedro Sula and pay the electric power for COPPROME.

Students Helping Honduras – this organization built the school building at COPPROME in 2008-2009.

Friends of Los Niños was founded in 2004 by a group of individuals from North Texas to support the lives of children in need in Honduras. In 2007, Friends of Los Niños was introduced to Sister Teresita by a family court judge and were invited to bring a group of volunteers to visit the home and their external programs. In 2009, the first team of mission volunteers arrived one week after the big earthquake. That group left Honduras a week later with the kids of COPPROME in their hearts and a willingness to help support the program in a new way. Soon after Friends of Los Niños started the Padrino Program, which now helps support the salaries and health insurance of all the staff, along with supporting the transition of young adults into university or trade school.

Friends of Los Niños works closely with the COPPROME administration and Board of Directors to improve the lives of the children and working conditions of the employees. In recent years, Friends of Los Niños has started a Christmas party for the employees and their children to say, “Thank you” for their love and care of the children at COPPROME. Friends of Los Niños also supports the employee of the month bonus and recognition program. This organization is happy to support COPPROME in shaping the lives of these young children to create positive futures for them and for their community.

COPPROME has had its share of ups and downs over the years. One of the biggest challenges came when COPPROME’s largest funding source redirected their contributions to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake occurred that devastated the Haitian island. The next few years were extremely difficult and very challenging times - COPPROME had to pay their employees with credit to the local supermarket, so they could feed their families. This is when a stronger collaboration and support arose from a group of non-profits from North America - Friends of Los Niños, Honduras Children’s Project, and Hearts2Honduras - to help COPPROME financially and to education the children at COPPROME. These non-profits worked closely with House of Friendship along with many, many individual contributors and churches to meet the needs of COPPROME.

With the retirement of the Roxana, the head administrator for many years, a new administrative team was put into place in 2017-2018. With this change, fresh energy has been infused into COPPROME – enthusiastically taking it into the next 30 years!









Hearts2Honduras

Rhonda Wicks and her son, Shelton, fell in love with the children of COPPROME on their first visit to Honduras in July 2010. That year they spent 10 days there and even stayed at the orphanage. The children would dribble balls for wake-up calls at 5:30 am and Rhonda would take Joseph – the youngest one there at the time - into her room and snuggle with him. They both knew from that week forward that their lives would be forever changed by these amazing children!

Rhonda returned with her husband in November 2010 for her 50th birthday and, after he met the children, he totally understood her passion. They decided that God wanted them to adopt Gabi and Gabriel to complete their family. Gabi and Gabriel were too old for the US to allow an adoption in the states, so they went to the judge in Honduras and got custody there. Shortly thereafter, Rhonda came home and started raising money for food and education for the COPPROME children.

Hearts2Honduras was founded the following year and has faithfully been bringing teams and raising money to help cover the costs of educating the children, providing English classes and other needs that occur. Shelton chose to move to Honduras after he graduated from college. He lived in Progreso for three years taking care of Gabi and Gabriel and getting the H2H ministry started from the ground up. H2H prays that because of this investment in the children of COPPROME, their futures will be brighter and that they will be able to "break the circle of poverty" in their own lives and the lives of their future children. Oh, how H2H loves COPPROME!!





Honduras Children's Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the education of the children at COPPRIME Orphanage by providing them with an educational after-school program and by supporting the public elementary school they attend.

Honduras Children's Project's (HCP) story started 28 years ago in 1991 when Rob and Debbie Proctor were newly married and happened to hear an Episcopal priest talk about his work in a Honduran orphanage. This night would be a turning point in their lives. Having no children of their own yet, they decided to sponsor a child. Over the next 14 years the sponsorship kept going, education and training was completed, they had two boys, and they always wanted to visit Honduras.

In 2005 another fateful moment occurred when after a series of events at work, Debbie was invited by Mary Pergiovanni (see Little Friends International) to accompany her on her next mission trip to El Progreso, Honduras.

One thing leads to another, like-minded people gather round, and the Proctors – Rob, Debbie and their two sons, Charlie and Davey - were introduced to Sor Teresita and COPPRIME. Each year the four of them would spend some time with Sister Teresita as well as with the children at the orphanage. After a few years Charlie and Davey pointed out that the COPPRIME children, about half of whom have no known family members and the other half come from such poor families that they could not feed nor school them, only wanted to be loved and that the only way to break the cycle of poverty was to educate them. So, eight years ago in 2011, Honduras Children's Project was founded. HCP's mission is very concise and clear and is "to educate the children of COPPRIME Orphanage". Since then HCP has added nine employees – teachers, teaching assistants and administrators. In November 2017, six of our children graduated from high school and went on to university or trade schools – the first in many of their families to even learn how to read or write. Our non-profit organization has sent four other children to college, one who graduated a few years ago. As Davey noted, the value of an education is intrinsic in the gift - the more the student puts into the gift, the higher its value becomes.

In addition to the teaching personnel, Honduras Children's Project provides school supplies and uniforms for the children at COPPRIME. In support of the children's former elementary school, Honduras Children's Project has purchased 40 desks, 20 fans, a color multifunctional printer, a whiteboard, and numerous school supplies. In support of the children's current schools, Honduras Children's Project has provided financial support to build a wall surrounding the school as well as other needed maintenance projects. HCP maintains close ties with the children and our staff by visiting COPPRIME 3-4 times each year.

Honduras Children's Project has several annual fundraisers - an annual spaghetti dinner, selling chocolate-covered bacon at the Durham Fair (a local Connecticut fair) and hosting an annual Golf Tournament (*Swing for Honduras*). The mission of educating the COPPRIME children would not be possible without the incredible help from our numerous volunteers and supporters and for this we are very grateful! Over the eight years that Honduras Children's Project has been educating the COPPRIME children, the culture has been transformed from one of daily survival to one where it is now "cool to be smart". Our children are all reading and writing and slowly but surely realizing their dreams.









Little Friends International – “supporting the people they serve on their mission trips”

Mary and Ed Pergiovanni went on their first mission trip in 1991 to Jamaica. A few years and several mission trips later, Little Friends International was founded. During their first trip to Honduras in 1996 with Ruth and Danny Castro, Ed and Mary met Sister Teresita – through Nancy Kiely - and were amazed at the work Sor Tere was doing, especially with the Nutrition Center.

As this team of dentists and later medical personnel got to know Sor Tere and the work she was doing here, they brought many supplies to Honduras, including school supplies, tuition assistance, funds so patients could go to a medical or dental clinic, food for the COPPROME children, wheelchairs, hearing aids, dentures and even seeds to grow vegetables to feed the boys at the farm. Little Friends International always brought medicines and dental supplies for the patients they served as well as for the children at COPPROME.

In 2012 this team started going to Honduras as a smaller group to do medical and dental brigades with Sor Teresita – traveling by small van into the mountains and surrounding villages. Around this time they met a nurse on Roatan who had started a clinic from her kitchen table 20 years previously and gave Mary Pergiovanni, Nancy Kiely and Debbie Collier the idea to start a small clinic of their own that would serve patients year-round. In 2015 Clinica la Amistad opened in Los Olivos and is now open two days a week year-round and cares for the poorest people who come from 30 surrounding communities. Donations for the clinic come not only from Little Friends International, but from many other donators, including their church members.

Little Friends International’s latest venture is with 20 children in the neighborhood of la Barracon. Under Diana Delgado’s direction, the purchase of school uniforms, shoes and other school supplies enabled these children to enroll in and to attend school. These children are thrilled to be in school, and they love their teachers. Continuing their education will be key to getting them out of poverty. Their neighborhood is incredibly poor, as these kids and their families live in an abandoned wooden building without any sanitary facilities. They walk through a riverbed to get to school climbing up and down the steep riverbanks, their uniforms looking the worse for wear, but they are very happy kids.

There is always someone who needs some help. With the help of many, many generous people over the years, Little Friends International has been able to help some folks on a regular basis, mostly by hearing about them from Sister Teresita and the Honduran people they have worked with, and by meeting people in need through the clinic. There is a grassroots network of Honduran people who want to help others and they let Little Friends International know how they can also help.







Students Helping Honduras

A brother and sister in college had their eyes opened wide during a mission trip to El Progreso, Honduras in 2004. A few years later in 2007 Shin and Cosmo Fujiyama founded Students Helping Honduras. This organization specializes in giving college students and young adults the opportunity to travel to Honduras – to see what life is like in this country while building schools and other needed buildings for the poorest of the poor communities.

Shin and Cosmo were introduced to Sister Teresita on one of their trips. When they visited COPPROME, they recognized the need for an educational building so the children could learn and study after school. Students Helping Honduras organized students in the US, bringing them to COPPROME to build the school building on site in 2008-2009.

Students Helping Honduras now helps our COPPROME graduates attend university and happily watches over them as they study and graduate with their degrees.



