

Honduras Literacy Project
Rotary EClub San Diego Global
8/1/2016

Honduras has the worst gang epidemic on the planet. Each year, thousands of children join gangs like MS-13 and Mara 18. Honduras is also the 2nd poorest nation in the western hemisphere, where 66.2% of its people live in poverty. With access to quality education, which can lead to economic development, this grant aims to provide the Honduran people with the means of upper mobility.

By the end of 2016, the non-profit organization Students Helping Honduras (SHH) will have built 32 schools throughout northern Honduras in rural villages who lacked an appropriate a school structure. Working alongside this successful project over the last three years, one of our club members has, on her own, conducted a community assessment pointing to a lack of learning in the schools and so she began a teacher-training program, aiming to increase educational outcomes for the students who attend these schools by empowering their teachers.

Using this program as a stepping stone, from December 2016 to December 2018, our VTT Global Grant project will provide professional teachers, including learning specialists, and educational materials to train local Honduran teachers in culturally sensitive literacy skills and they in turn, after extensive supervision, will teach other teachers. One third of our local club members in the US are affiliated with education. Besides the VTT members going to Honduras, our club members are committed to volunteering in this project, bringing extra curricula materials to the children, broadening their lives about science and geography. The Host Rotary Club, El Progreso, will provide local transportation and possibly housing for our VTT teachers as well as active support of the training program, advertising this project in the region as Rotary

The drop out rate from primaria (elementary school) in Honduras is over 50%. The environment in schools is not conducive to learning. These drop outs join gangs and become runners for the larger drug cartels. Others who drop out are expected to work in the fields, along like their illiterate parents, continuing a subsistence living. This grant, modeled after Rotary's Guatemala Literacy Project's proven program, will target training teachers of grades K-5. Most of the Honduran teachers have a little more than 6 years of schooling themselves and do not know how to teach and engage students.

As a result of this grant the students will want to stay in school, not join gangs and their parents will see the value of learning as they bring home materials to teach their parents how to read. Parents and the community will understand that it is possible for them and their children to so have a better life through education and will engage in learning basic skills themselves.

This grant promotes a positive systemic change and is aligned with our club vision and mission of changing the world, one step at a time through empowerment. The process of teachers teaching teachers underlines sustainability measures. Under resourced communities will be able to support basic education and literacy themselves through

this model.