

Merry Christmas my dear friends!

Global Warming and the environment is the topic of the newsletter for this year. As you know my friends, I live in the middle of the rainforest. For a long time now I have seen how the environment is changing in this area due to multiple factors. What can we do? I will tell you how we can help slow down the destruction of the ecosystem in the rainforests of the world, especially in our Little Amazon in Honduras, La Mosquitia.



THE COMMUNITY OF MOCORON HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT



Plans continue for the construction of a hydroelectric facility. Preliminary studies must be completed before it can be built. The Norma I. Love Foundation believes that is necessary to have a clean and renewable source of energy. A hydroelectric plant in Mocoron that will serve the community as well as other areas of La Mosquitia can help diminish some the effects of global warming and will be helping to create a more sustainable way to live in our environment.



Norma and Julissa, a baby toucan that she rescued.

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**The Norma I Love
Foundation is a
Non-profit organization
501 (c3).
TIN: 75-2473456**

EDUCATION

Education is one of the most important objectives for the Norma I. Love Foundation. We start preparing the little ones in our special school called FEREMA.



FEREMA was founded by one of the presidents of Honduras, in memory of his son who was killed by a gang in the 1990's.

The children learn how to develop their motor skills with animated toys, books and games. They learn how to speak their own language as well as Spanish and English.

We plant the seed of love for learning so that they can be examples to other children. Then, others seek out the opportunity to be in our little FEREMA School.

The Foundation, with the help of many friends that live in different areas of the USA and Honduras, have been able to fulfill this great work of education with the indigenous people of La Mosquitia.

These children are our future and they will be the ones that will pave the way for generations to come.



HEALTH

Filters donated by "Rotary of Texas"

Most of the sicknesses that we see in this part of Honduras are caused by contamination of our water sources. One of the main problems is the unsafe water that the children and adults are drinking. Now more than ever the awareness about pollution in our rivers needs to be addressed.

Trash, plastic bottles and raw sewage are being dumped into the rivers.

Because of sewage in the river we see lots of intestinal diseases in the villages such as diarrhea, parasites, dehydration and dysentery.



Our special friends, the Rotarians, are aware of this problem and have given aid by donating sand and water filters to different communities in the region. Still there are hundreds of people that need purified water. We hope that more families can have filters in their homes this next year.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Volunteers instructing the children of Mocoron in local Biology to care for the animals, the plants, and all their natural surroundings.



Volunteers from the National University of Agriculture of Catacamas Olancho, with a Program of Biological Education, have come this year to help and instruct the children of Mocoron and other villages about biological education.

The children are learning how to

take care of the flora and fauna through hands-on coaching and study. We hope that these opportunities will bring more awareness to them of the

precious beauty they have in their own backyard.

Preservation is a necessity in La Mosquitia. We have the most beautiful birds, like the Esmeralda Hummingbird, which is an endangered species. Green macaws and toucans, along with many other fascinating species create biodiversity in our rainforest ecosystem.

University volunteers are also teaching the many different uses of the sustainable natural resources. The people are seeing results of global warming appearing as a result of deforestation using slash-and-burn techniques.

The university students are raising the awareness of the population of different farming communities of Mocoron with the ability to adapt and confront the issues of global warming.

The people are now experiencing the impacts of environmental effects from the large losses of forest due to deforestation and poor management in this zone. With the help of university volunteers, they are now developing a plan to better manage the pine and broadleaf forests.

Each tree is very important for water storage and water is one of our most important and vital natural resources for all living beings.



USAID donates latrines to the community of Mocoron

The majority of the sickness in children and adults is from contamination of the river by fecal matter from humans and animals, so USAID had a solution.

The gift was 100 latrines so that every family would have one in their home. After 3 to 4 months of use the families can use the waste as a fertilizer on their plants, on their farms. This is a win-win for all by teaching the people to use organic composting and improving the river water quality.

Thank you once again, USAID for helping Mocoron.

Our Mocoron river is the primary source of our water which we rely on for life.



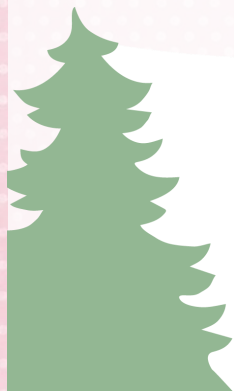
Volunteers

Thank you to all who serve and help the children of La Mosquitia.

In collaboration with the Norma I Love Foundation, Engineer Alejandro Vega and his forestry equipment specialist Óscar Márquez, brought equipment and instructed the people of Mocoron on operation for day-to-day use of the tools.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints graciously provided 23 cases of peanut butter for the children of La Mosquitia. The single adult group-Latter Day Saints in Service led by Elaine Weary donated 16 boxes of school supplies, hygiene and toiletries, toys, clothes, and household items.



Dr. Tom Brian and Send Hope have made it possible to receive all of the donations from Texas as well as dental assistance and rice for the children.



Thank you to The McDonald family for their generous donations that have provided school supplies, toys, and medical and hygiene supplies.

Thank you to Gigi and Peter Nicholson for your continuing support to our college student-Roberto Garcia.

Thank you to Scott Hendricks and the Rotary Club of Arlington for helping the children enjoy Christmas parties in their villages.

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous and supportive to the children of La Mosquitia and The Norma I Love Foundation. You are a blessing more than you will ever know.



Goals for 2017

A continuation from 2016...

- A. Hydro-electric project
- B. Vocational School
- C. Health and Sanitization
- D. Galvanized Silos
- E. Seeds to plant rice, beans, and corn
- F. Help the co-operatives to advance with their mahogany plantations
- G. Start a recycling initiative
- H. Reforestation and planting of trees all around the villages
- I. Cacao Plantations
- J. Acquiring gardening tools for the labor in the cacao plantations
- K. Lap top computers
- L. Solar batteries

Needs of The Norma I Love Foundation

- A. A better built home/office in Mocoron with cement and blocks
- B. 4x4 Toyota diesel truck
- C. Cyclone wire fence
- D. Remodeling of the Computer Center (painting, updating the restrooms, new chairs and desks, and Ventilator fans.

Monetary donations for The Norma I Love Foundation

Pay Pal:

Log in to Pay Pal account, click pay or send money, type in email- calosRH@gmail.com type in amount you are donating, add note:

For Norma I. Love Foundation, and click send.

Personal Checks

payable to:

The Norma I. Love Foundation

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To end this newsletter I would like to relay a story told by Patty Gómez; an indigenous woman from La Mosquitia, Mocoron.

I would like to begin my story by describing a little bit of my everyday life. I'm a single mother with 3 children. As a very young girl I got pregnant and the father of the child left me even before my son Jose was born.

I work very hard every day and go to the river to get 7

buckets of water for a school where the teacher pays me a dollar a day. I also wash her clothes. My other 2 children help me at home with the cooking and cleaning in my little house. I send my 3 children to school and then I go into the rainforest to plant my yucca, bananas, and get wood to use in my clay stove. I feed my chickens, gathering whatever I can for them. If I am lucky and have something to feed them, I can have 7 or more eggs a day. I give some to my kids and I am able to sell the others as a little business to help me buy salt, sugar and butter.



When I was young, my grandmother would tell me a story about her hens. When they laid their eggs they took special care of them for several days and they kept them very warm. Once they hatched the mother hen would watch them for a while longer until the first strong feathers came out. Then little by little the hen started letting them go on their own to survive. Mothers are like that; sometimes it is very hard to realize that I have to do the same with my 3 children. I worry about their health and if they will always have enough to eat; their education and if they will learn skills to help them go beyond the rain forest; and their future living conditions in the environment we are creating for them right now.

I see our lands being taken away by many "terceros" (other people from the cities who are coming into La Mosquitia to exploit our indigenous lands). Mostly they slash and burn to put cattle everywhere and they are doing it in a forceful way. So far the government is not doing anything about it. Environmental issues are a real concern for us. Our soil is not as fertile as it was a few years back and our river is not as clear and clean as it used to be. This makes me wonder; what will be the future for our younger generations?

Throughout the years the women have become more outgoing. For them, there are no barriers that can stop them from progressing in their lives. Now there is more equality in our society. There's a saying, "There's always a great woman behind every great man." Now there are more women representing their countries as presidents of a nation, presidents of big corporations, and superintendents of large school districts. These women care about the future for their families; as mothers and grandmothers they wish to protect the environment for the children.

For the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

God has promised us wonderful things and his manifestations will fill the planet in which we inhabit. Humanity will start to see the knowledge that is given to us by the glory of God. My wish for all is that we will be ready to hear what the Lord has to say. Blessings to you my friends.

Aisabe,
Norma I Love