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This Issue

VisionCatcher Trip Success
In Their Own Words
project clean h2ope

Featured Child



Jonathon Emilio
ReyesCastro
(child #168)

Smiling despite his family's struggles. Jonathon's father is a diabetic and drug addict, who no longer is with the family. His step father tries to find work to buy food for the family of six that lives in a small one-room house but it can be weeks between finding a truck driving job. Because of the lack of work and income, it is difficult for Jonathon to attend school and further his education. Jonathon remains faithful and attends church regularly.

VisionCatcher 2011 Trip A Success

On June 21, fourteen men and women both novice and experienced mission-goers embarked on the second annual VisionCatcher trip to Sapadril, Honduras to assist in meeting the goals of Give2GiveHope. Over the course of 11 days, team members witnessed the dire living conditions and heart-wrenching needs of the Honduran people through a variety of experiences and helped to share some kindness and give some hope.

During their stay, the team also got to know many of the children who live in the area as they visited homes and spent time playing soccer and other games with the kids. Many lifetime friendships were formed between the team and the Honduran children and volunteers.

One of the purposes of the trip was to enroll and update children in the G2GH sponsorship program. During the designated registration day, the team worked along side local volunteers and quickly realized the enormity of the need as families poured into the church to be registered. Over 500 children were registered for inclusion in the sponsorship program. Heart-breaking stories abounded from starving children scrounging for food to a brother and sister who had been abandoned by their parents. Fortunately, the latter children were taken in by a generous but equally poor neighbor, who brought them to the registration day. We're so thankful that both of these children have already been sponsored in the last month!

Over 400 children are still waiting for sponsors. To learn more about our child sponsorship program, visit our website www.give2givehope.org.

To view photos from our trip, visit our facebook page [HERE](#).

In Their Own Words

Here are some thoughts from our VisionCatcher 2011 mission-goers in their own words.

"Visiting the school was really cool. It was a real eye-opener to see the school in action, and then to see the teacher driving the students to and from school on top of that! What a job description!"
~ Louise

Join Give2GiveHope and help to fill Jonathon's life with hope? You can do so by clicking [here](#)

Get involved with Give2GiveHope!

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["Bag of Hope"](#)
[Last Supper Fund](#)
[Project Clean H2Ope](#)



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Thank you to our new sponsors!

We are thrilled to welcome our new sponsors. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge their partnership with us and give them a huge THANK YOU! God bless all our sponsors for making a huge difference in the life of a child in need!

- Donnie & Angie Brandt
(Ringgold, Georgia)

- Stefanie Krapohl
(Pleasant Ridge, MI)
(2nd child)

- Warren & Susie Nowicki
(Saginaw, Michigan)

- Carmen Russell
(Saginaw, Michigan)

- David & Susan Wachowiak
(Saginaw, Michigan)

- Nancy Wallen
(Westland, Michigan) (2nd child)

- Ken & Melissa Hayes
(West Branch, Michigan)
(5th child)

- Associates of St. Mary's



"What an overwhelming day! Child registration day drained every emotion out of me that day. Here we hundreds of children and parents waiting in the sweltering heat in a small church building for hours just in hope that their child would get food. You could see how happy they were when they knew they were getting

a pair of flip flops and a tooth brush. It broke my heart seeing those children and hearing their stories. Some of them have no mother or father. Some of them are very sick yet here they are filled with hope." ~ Mary

"Overall, it was a phenomenol experience. Extremely grateful to have experienced this as a family. It made returning home and sharing with others much easier and fun." ~ Susan

"The moments shared with the kids and having time just to 'be' with them and learn about them and showing an interest in them and their families were my favorites. Showing them that we care about them as people and taking time to love them... it makes such a difference." ~ Jennifer

"Being a sponsor of two children, I always gave my \$60 monthly donation and thought 'What a nice thing that I am able to help them get food.' Never once (I am ashamed to say) did I sit back and think about the time, effort and hard work that is put into going to the market, preparing and distributing the food. It takes up so much of their time and I am so thankful that we have the volunteers to help." ~ Mary



Mary and one of her sponsored children, Axel.

project clean h2ope: 32 buckets installed, more slated!

We are excited to share the news that our VisionCatcher 2011 team was able to install 32 Hydrad bio-sand filters in Honduras! These families now have clean water to drink that will help to keep them healthy and strong and able to learn and work.

Installing the filtration systems proved a challenge for the team given the location of the mountain-side homes, limited space in most family's homes and the sand consistency in Honduras. The team spent many hours "washing" sand to remove the fine particulate so the system would allow water to flow through while removing bacteria, parasites and impurities. The team was extremely grateful for the hard-working, volunteer helpers who helped to carry the 100 pound bags of sand up the mountain to

of Michigan and AHIS (Saginaw, MI) and St. John's Lutheran Church (Au Gres, MI)



Mary, Jennifer and Susan cleaning sand.

homes that were unreachable by pick-up truck. "Working along side the older boys on this project was probably the most memorable part of the trip for me," explained Phil. "Seeing the looks on people's faces when we were installing their filters made climbing all the hills and sweating worth it." Local volunteers will continue the efforts to

install more systems as they are funded in the future. Families were trained on how to use and maintain these health-improving buckets so they will be useful for many years.

The filters that were installed are, pardon the pun, just a tiny drop in the bucket to the needs of the families in the village and surrounding area. We continue to collect funds for additional water filters and are hoping to fund several more pallets.



If you would like to join us and help fund one of these life-giving systems so children and their families can drink water without fear of disease, you can fund a bucket for \$100 or a share of a bucket for \$50. For more information or to donate to project clean H2Ope, [click here](#).

A note from our President - Impacted by VisionCatcher 2011 (Again)...

When I started Give2GiveHope two years ago, we had information on 90 children. I anticipated that we'd have maybe 50 more children come to our registration day last year in 2010 - our first year of 're-registration' - and was overwhelmed when 200 new children showed up. This year, I thought I'd be more prepared and took enough supplies for 150 additional children - thinking that maybe our total number of children in the program would top out at maybe 450ish. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed, once again. We now have information on approximately 580 children... 280 new children came to our registration day!

During registration day, I was overcome with grief and heartache several times as I came face-to-face with the enormous needs of the children and the sheer number of the needs represented. I saw a father, who could not walk well, struggling to climb up the stairs in the church we do our registration in. In his arms, he carried his little daughter who was smiling because she had just received a toothbrush and a new pair of flip flops. This man had walked miles and miles to our location and would have miles to walk back to where he came from up rugged mountainous roads, carrying his daughter, limping on one leg. It would have been a difficult task for me to do even with two, good working legs. And he did all of this just for the hope that his daughter might be sponsored ... for the sheer possibility that maybe someone would choose his baby girl and she would be able to have food, medicines, and hope. The desperation of the situation overwhelmed me and brought me to tears and I sat there in the church with the chaos of children and parents swirling around me and I had a heart-to-heart with God about how the needs are so great and I alone am not able to meet them.

After I had regained my composure (mostly), I went to check on one of our stations where one of our translators was going over the 'rules' of the program with the parents of the children. She turned to me and said, "Ken, these two children here have been abandoned by their parents and this lady is a neighbor who is trying to care for them. Can she sign the forms so they can be part of the program even if she's not their legal guardian?" ... another wave of grief swept over me. How can both parents just discard these two helpless children - leaving them to figure out how to feed

themselves, how to protect themselves? What must those children be feeling? Fear? Despair? Worthlessness? It was just unimaginable for me to even think about! Of course, my immediate answer was "YES!" (with a cracking voice).

I'm still working through the things I saw and heard there and trying to get my mind around things like this. I'm also learning that I will probably never become "immune" to my Honduras experiences and that no matter how much I think I'm prepared, I'm probably not completely ready to be faced with situations that are so dramatically different from my life here in the US (where we have soup kitchens and homeless shelters and unemployment and Medicaid/Medicare and places like St. Mary's where people can turn for help and government assistance programs) There, when you are abandoned, there is no Department of Human Services to step in to put you into foster care. When you are hungry there are no food stamps to take to the store so your belly doesn't ache. When bad people come to hurt you, there is no police protection.

It's just such a different world than we live in.... for all of the problems in America today, we are truly a very blessed people! While we cannot wave a magic wand and end the poverty and suffering, I know that we CAN make a difference in the life of each and every child who is sponsored through our program. I am so thankful for all our donors and sponsors who are joining with Give2GiveHope to bring hope to these children and doing what they can to make change lives - one child at a time.

Ken Hayes
President, Give2GiveHope

We want to hear from you...

Drop us a line at e.Newsletter@give2givehope.org and let us know what you think about our new e.Newsletter. Our goal is to keep you updated on what's happening with Give2GiveHope and let you know what we've been up to. If you have an idea or suggestion for our e.Newsletter, please send Andrea an email so that we can help make this an enjoyable read and keep you anticipating our next update!

Want to read more? For past editions of our e.newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our website.

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