



September 25, 2007

Dear Friends of Lunches for Learning,

It is hard to believe that nearly 3 years have passed since Lunches for Learning served its first meals to approximately eighty kids at the Andrea Gonzales Elementary School in El Amatillo, Honduras. Little did we know that the program would grow so rapidly to include 12 schools and more than 850 kids as a result of our faithful donors and the never-tiring work of the volunteers who manage this program!

Each time I travel to Honduras as the Lunches for Learning representative, I am humbled by the genuine outpouring of gratitude from the various communities our program has impacted. The school principals show me improved and increased attendance records, the teachers say the nutritious meals have helped to enhance the learning process, and the sense of community in the school neighborhoods has grown stronger as the people work together to prepare the daily meals for the kids. I only wish more of Lunches for Learning's faithful donors could experience first-hand the impact of their giving. It is truly overwhelming at times.

Even though the experience has been so positive, our journey through the growth of this organization has not been without its trials. As if the language barrier, the physical distance, and cultural differences were not enough of a challenge, the significant growth in the sheer number of kids we feed across the rural geography necessitated the strengthening of our in-country management structure. To this end, we have more clearly defined the roles of the Honduran staff and we have created and implemented a new position. As of June of this year, Lunches for Learning hired a person by the name of Fernando Ortez to be our in-country District Supervisor.

In his role as District Supervisor, Fernando is responsible for visiting each of ten schools on a biweekly basis (our General Manager, Roxana continues direct supervision of two schools along with her many management duties). During these visits, Fernando continues to build good-will with the various communities as the local face of Lunches for Learning while he collects reports and documentation from the school principals and teachers, compiles them and sends them back to the management team in the United States for analysis.

We believe the District Supervisor position is key to the future growth of the Lunches for Learning program and we are motivated now more than ever to continue our diligent efforts. During the course of this year Roxana has been sought out by nine (9) different school principals who had heard about our program. They came from all over Valle District. Each principal presented Roxana with a written petition asking for their school to be considered for participation in the Lunches for Learning program. The petition contained not only a written statement from the school principal, but each letter also included the signatures of every parent in the community, vowing to support the program to the fullest by preparing meals or doing whatever is asked of them, just so their kids could have a regular meal.

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Unfortunately, Lunches for Learning was not equipped to integrate these schools into the program for the 2007 school year due to staffing and funding issues, but we are working hard to ensure that none of these nine schools has to be turned away in 2008.

In Honduras, the '07 school year ends in mid November and the '08 school year starts in mid February. We are presently developing plans and budgets for the '08 school year that include expanding to provide lunch to children of some of the schools that have petitioned for our help and we are relying on your continued support. This is your program; we welcome you're suggestions, comments, or questions as we lay the foundation of the '08 school year plans.

Siempre su amigo,

Ron,
President, Lunches for Learning



I can tell you from personal experience that receiving a petition such as this one is an uplifting experience because you know that what L4L is providing is truly significant. Receiving the petition also breaks your heart because this petition represents a group of hungry students that L4L cannot help today. Ron