

March 6, 2007

Friends of Lunches For Learning

Dear Friends of Lunches For Learning,

Good things continue to happen with the L4L program. The '07 school year began in Valle District, Honduras on February 8. L4L is providing a school lunch to students at 12 very poor rural elementary schools in Valley District. L4L is now feed 820 elementary school students. In 2005 L4L started the school year feeding 84 elementary school students at one school; during the 2006 school year L4L increased the number of student to 570 at 8 schools; in 2007 we are, again, increasing the size of our program.



As you know, each lunch consists of legumes (for protein), grain (for carbohydrates), a daily vitamin and a glass of milk. Vitamins have always been a major cost item. A friend of L4L guided us to an organization that will provide vitamins at half the previous price; vitamins are simply another operating cost; they are no longer a major cost item.

There is an organization of doctors in El Salvador who operate a free clinic. These doctors obtain medication from pharmaceutical companies and donate their time to the clinic. Their organization is named Con-Salud. The President of Con-Salud met with me during my recent trip to El Amatillo. Intestinal Parasites (common intestinal worms) are a prevalent condition among poor children in Latin America. Con -Salud believes that feeding poor children in school will encourage poor children to stay in school which Con-Salud believes is the way to raise these children above the poverty level. Con-Salud has offered to provide parasite medicine to all the children at the elementary schools where L4L provides a lunch. The children will go to school parasite-free and be fed a balanced meal. Our combined efforts well benefit the children much more than either program by itself.



Lunches For Learning

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Dear Friends of L4L (Continued)

In order to continue growing, L4L must expand name recognition. The Board of Directors and Executive Committee have challenged ourselves to increase awareness of L4L among the community. You can help in this effort. If you know of a civic, social, professional, church, or other group or organization that is seeking a speaker for a function, please inform that organization that L4L would like an opportunity to present our program to the group. If you know of a local radio or television station or newspaper that is seeking an interesting local interest story, please put them in touch with me or any L4L Executive or Board Member. Bear in mind that we are all volunteers so we need sufficient lead time and may not be able to accommodate some dates; but we will certainly try.



We have had two exciting and rewarding years and look forward to another. With your continued support L4L will continue to facilitate the education of poor rural elementary school children in Honduras by providing a balanced lunch each school day.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Siempre su amigo,

Ron