



May 26, 2006

Dear Friends of Lunches For Learning,

The 2006 school year in Valle Province, Honduras is finishing the third month and the L4L program is furnishing lunches as scheduled.

The Board of Directors of L4L consists predominately of seasoned small business owners/operators or managers of corporations. They understand the process of developing a budget that highlights, and directs attention to, problem areas; that monitoring progress of budget items will point to problem areas before the problem becomes insurmountable. Building a realistic and detailed 2006 budget was given appropriate attention by all and was finally approved at the April L4L Board Meeting.

The budget is based on feeding 425 students in 7 poor, rural elementary schools. After Board approval Clark, L4L Corporate Secretary requested that I provide a detailed list of member school. I have the information; some in hard copy, some in electronic form that I have collected over time and committed to provide a single unified list.

Upon completion, I reviewed the list for accuracy and found there are 8 schools and 500 students! I was stunned/confused; I have visited every school and met each principal (Directora). I have been very careful to maintain sufficient on-site review to properly manage growth.

If you look at the last school on the list (Policarpo Paz Garcia) "no se visito (was not visited)" is written after the name. During the ride between schools our manager, Roxana, and I discuss most of our L4L business, through an interpreter (my Spanish is not yet good enough to carry on detailed conversations). As it turns out, during one of the conversations Roxana referred to a very poor school that she wanted to add. I thought she was referring to the future and said she should add the school to our (future) list. Roxana was referring to our (present) list and she added the school.

My first reaction was to send Roxana an email and explain that there was a misunderstanding in translation and that Policarpo Paz Garcia elementary school must be taken off the list since it is not part of the approved budget. I could not do it.

Upon review of the budget, we are on track with contributions and a little below budget on costs. The children at Policarpo Paz Garcia became among the chosen two weeks previously, by mistake. How do you, now, stop feeding hungry children while there is money in the account? I started canvassing the Board and Officers of L4L. Without exception, everyone agreed that we should continue to feed the school children that ended up on the list by mistake and we'll worry about possible cost overruns during the third and fourth quarters of the year. I will keep you posted.

So the Board approved budget accounts for 7/8 of the schools (and children) now on the list and 1/8 got on the list by mistake. Pastor Randy Jones maintains that while the Board of L4L may have approved a plan for 7 schools, it is clear that this is not a "mistake" and L4L is intended to feed the children at 8 schools. Possibly, we're not supposed to get too comfortable. In any case we have some work to do so we will go about doing it.

Siempre su amigo,

President, L4L



Lunch For Learning
Program at various elementary schools
In Valle Province, Honduras
April 2006