

# INROADS

A Periodic Newsletter from Lunches for Learning, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2015

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year marks ten years that Lunches for Learning (L4L) has been dedicated to providing lunches to elementary school chidren of rural Honduras. Our ten-year track record has kept countless kids in school, thereby paving the way for these kids to enter the workforce as literate individuals with hope for a brighter future. Over the past ten years, L4L has expanded to feed more than 1,500 students, year after year, a nutritious lunch every school day and is now positioned to grow exponentially in the future.

As I look back over those ten years, several things stand out in my mind but perhaps the most rewarding is that Lunches for Learning has accomplished its goals year after year with an all-volunteer organization. After working alongside most of the original members of the L4L team for these past ten years, I can honestly say that there is no better group of volunteers who demonstrate their commitment to our mission daily, working tirelessly

towards our goal of breaking the cycle of poverty in rural Honduras.

Although our strong volunteer culture has served us well over the years, we know it is imperative that we build an even stronger organization. The Board of L4L has spent much of 2014 and the early months of 2015 developing and executing our strategic vision. Key to our future growth is our



initiative to strengthen our organization by hiring our first operational support employee, which we hired in March of this year.

With a stronger organization, it will be possible to feed kids into the long term future. And even though the number of kid's lives we have impacted is significant, our work is just beginning. There are many children and schools waiting to be "among the chosen" as one school princiapl described as she made her appeal for her school to be added to our program. With all of us working together, we are changing lives and making a difference -- one child at a time!

Sempre su amigos, Ron Hicks, President Lunches for Learning, Inc.





# Student Spotlight

Juana comes from a home of very scarce resources. Her family is desperately poor and could not feed the children. Juana entered school in 2007 and was malnourished and very sickly. Because she attended a L4L sponsored school, she received milk, rice, other food and vitamins that caused a major improvement for her and all the children attending the school. Juana's health began to improve as soon as she entered school and began receiving a nutritious meal through the Lunches for Learning program.

Juana was determined to do well in school. After graduating from 6th grade, she took advantage of a training program to become certified as a Teacher's Aide in the preschool program that exists at the school Juana herself attended. Juana is now a paid Teacher's Aide who supports herself and helps her family.

All of us at Neuva Honduras School are very appreciative of the immense help that you bestow upon us with the Lunches for Learning program.

Excerpts from a letter written by Principal Jose Alyandrino Avelor of Neuva Honduras School located in the community of Junquillo.

#### The dedicated team of volunteers who made Hearts for Honduras a HUGE Success!



From left to right: Katherine Simons, Terry Taylor (back), Craig Simons, Lisa Carlisle, Theo Kyserling, Kay Love, Jim Coyle, Sam Chonts (back), Steve Stroud, Carla Michaud, and Kristin Ballou

### The POWER of VOLUNTEERS

By Terry Taylor, L4L Board Member and Roswell Rotarian



When good people with compassionate hearts and giving spirits get together, good things happen. Some of those good people happen to be Roswell Rotarians who have been involved in the Lunches for Learning effort for the last three years, making numerous trips to Honduras. Their giving spirit led a group of Rotarians to organize and host a fundraising event in February 2015, appropriately called Hearts for Honduras.

Last August, Rotarian Chris Archer, president of Talk of the Town Catering and Founders Hall in Roswell, GA approached fellow Rotarian Theo Keyserling with an idea to organize a fundraiser to benefit the children of this impoverished region of the world. Both Theo and Chris have visited the remote region of Honduras where L4L operates with Roswell Rotary and, like many, they were touched by the need to help the schools in the L4L program. Chris offered to donate the use of Founders Hall for a night as well as donate all of the food and drinks for a fundraising event.

With a donated venue, drinks and food in hand, Theo sprung into action putting together a committee including Co-Chair Terry Taylor. "My experience in organizing a charity event like this was very limited so watching Theo and the rest of our volunteers work together as a team for the benefit of this humanitarian effort was invigorating," said Taylor. "The group of volunteers who worked on the event came with many skill sets. They organized a marketing campaign which included a website, printed promotional pieces, a video and all of the fine details for a fun-filled night." The event took place on Friday, February 13 and was a Valentine-themed dinner with a live band and dancing. The goal was to raise enough money to feed kids at least four schools for a year. It takes only \$150 to feed a child in Honduras a school lunch for a year, but to feed four entire schools was a great stretch goal. Through the efforts of many individuals and local businesses in north Fulton, GA this team was able to exceed their goal and raise enough money to sponsor FIVE schools for an entire year!

### L4L Launches New Website

Lunches for Learning is excited to announce the launch of its newly designed website full of fresh information and historical content. Many of L4L's volunteers have been working together to improve the organization's website under the leadership of Kay Love, Chair of the Lunches for Learning Marketing Committee.

The new website is robust with success stories of the many children's lives that have been impacted by L4L, a photo gallery of pictures taken during our many Vision Trips, archived newsletters, school sponsor information and other key details that will keep our donors, volunteers and prospective donors informed and up to date on the exciting things happening in the organization. The new website will also make it easier to:

- Sign up as a recurring donor or school sponsor
- Learn about upcoming Vision Trips and Events in support of L4L
- See how your donations have made a positive impact in the lives of children



#### Meet Mary Lou Monaghan, L4L Operations Administrator



Mary Lou Monaghan joined Lunches for Learning in March of this year as part of our strategic vision to stregthen our organization by adding operational support to our volunteers. Mary Lou has over 15 years of association management experience with expertise in marketing, communication, organization as well as a passion for helping others.

Mary Lou will be working closely with all of L4L's donors, volunteers and board members on a regular basis. One of her main goals is to develop sistent communication flow, which will add a new dimension to L4L. With

and maintain a consistent communication flow, which will add a new dimension to L4L. With her skills and contributions to the success of our organization, she will help enable us to expand our reach in Honduras.

When she learned of this opportunity, ML says "I knew in my heart that I was meant to fill this position...and I am looking forward to working with the strong volunteers and supporters of L4L. Together, let's bring this outstanding organization to the next level."

# Wine and Dine in Wonderland

By Linda Browder, L4L Board Member and Montgomery Capital Rotarian

The Montgomery Capital Rotary held their annual fundraiser at Jim Scott's Gardens, a privately owned garden in Dadeville, Alabama on April 24, 2015. The weather was perfect, and the Gardens were absolutely beautiful with many trees and shrubs in full bloom.

Approximately 200 members and guests toured the James M. (Jim) Scott's Gardens. The lakeside gardens are located on Lake Martin (Alabama) and they are both amazing and spectacular. After touring the gardens, the guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and wine at the barn while placing their bids on the silent auction items. There was a large assortment of donated items



from Montgomery, AL area businesses including a gorgeous tailored suit from The Locker Room, jewelry, several restaurant gift cards from places such as Garrett's, Firebirds, spa & beauty items, gift certificates from Reinhardt Lexus and many more items. The auction concluded at 6:30 p.m. when dinner started.

The event was an overwhelming success with the Rotary Club raising over \$18,000 from ticket sales, sponsorships and the silent auction sale. The proceeds from the event will be donated to Lunches for Learning and Central Alabama Easter Seals. The proceeds given to Lunches for Learning will be used to continue to support the lunch program at the school in Honduras adopted by the Montgomery Capital Rotary Club and to build new latrines for that school.

A wonderful time was had by all at the Wine & Dine in Wonderland fundraising event, and it was a true success by every measure! Special recognition must be given to President April Wise and President Elect/Fundraiser Committee Chair Christine Smith for the outstanding job they did and the tireless hours they devoted to this event!

# One VISION TRIP. . . and you're HOOKED!



In March 2015, Lisa Carlisle and Kay Love, both representing the Roswell Rotary Club, and Rev. Nancy Lane of Roswell

United Methodist Church, visited Tres De Octubre (Roswell Rotary), Juan Lindo (Kay Love Family) and Manuel Bonilla at Las Tablas (RUMC) with the L4L staff of Jessica Gonzales and Fernando Ortiz. Both Lisa and Kay are veteran visitors of L4L sponsored schools, and they introduced Nancy to the program and to their newly sponsored school at Las Tablas. Roswell United Methodist

Church stepped up to sponsor the largest school in the program with more than 130 elementary students in attendance.



Lisa reported about the enormous improvement in health and brightness she witnessed in the students at Las Tablas since her last visit. Jessica noted that these kids have begun to engage in music and singing, bringing a new level of joy to the community.



Kay reported, "As we arrived at each of the schools, we were greeted by happy kids with bright smiles and hugs for everyone.

It is evident the impact that Lunches for Learning has on the kids and the community as a whole by the turn out at each school by the community to thank L4L for all they do. Each time I visit, I come away with a renewed sense of purpose and gratefulness for having the privilege to be a part of such an important program."

For more information about our upcoming trips, contact Mary Lou Monaghan at lunches4learning@outlook.



P.O. Box 2146 Roswell, GA 30077-2146 Phone: 770.873.2305

E-mail: lunches4learning@outlook.com

# Join us on an upcoming Vision Trip!

- · October 14th-18th and
- November Graduation TBD

email lunches4learning@outlook.com for details

## PLEASE HELP!

Lunches for Learning is a nonprofit 503 (c) corporation that exists to help break the cycle of poverty by providing nutrition and nutritional supplements to the children in rural, public elementary schools in the Republic of Honduras. Established in 2004, incorporated in 2005, and a registered nonprofit in Honduras in 2008, Lunches for Learning provides a daily meal for students by utilizing the cooperative efforts of individual contributors, corporate sponsors, and the government of Honduras.

Please select the giving level that is right for you and give today. Then, simply return this card along with your tax deductible

donation made payable to Lunches for Learning, Inc. Or, if you prefer, log onto our website at www.lunchesforlearning.org and click the "Donate Now" button for a one-time or recurring donation. Also, please provide us with your contact information so we can keep you updated on how your donation is working to help break the cycle of poverty in rural Honduras.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 feeds one child lunch for a year

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \$1500 feeds ten children lunch for a year

City \_\_\_\_\_\_ \$5000 feeds an entire small school for a year

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_ \$7500 feeds an average school for a year

\_\_ \$10,000 feeds a large school for a year

Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_