
Amigos de Honduras

Vol. XXVI, No. 2

May 2019

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT Joan M. Larimore (San Francisco del Valle, 1986-88) amigosdehondurasjml@gmail.com

Can you believe it? How rapidly the years have disappeared! Our bank balance is \$4320.40 (after our most recent grant of \$1000). We have about 200 paid members. And so, it is with mixed emotions that I hereby resign the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for Amigos de Honduras as of May 31, 2019. It has been a delightful journey and one that I wholeheartedly believe in. At age 90, I am now ready to begin a whole new phase of life. I shall, of course, remain a member! And congratulations to your new officers. What can I say except... Adios por todos!

EDITOR'S CORNER

Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82) With this issue after working for more than twenty-five years, Joan has passed the torch to not one but at least 3 RPCVs to take over her jobs with Amigos de Honduras. I'll miss our letters, phone conversations and emails about membership, grants, crashed computers and newsletters. **Thanks Joan!** Mil gracias por todo. Enjoy your 3rd Retirement and Happy 90th! **Brant Miller** has been sending out the PDF of the newsletters to members and is also retiring from that job. Thanks! **Fred Corvi** and his volunteers continue to track down lost RPCVs.

Steve Phelan (Stephen.d.phelan@gmail.com) has been compiling the super data base of all Honduran RPCVs and staff.

These members of Amigos de Honduras have volunteered to help. **Steve Phelan** will send out the pdf newsletters and help with keeping track of membership. **Terri Salus** (terrisalus@gmail.com) will be the contact for National Peace Corps Association and will help initially as treasurer. She has some ideas to simplify the job. **Brenda Sims Crumpacker** kbc.olympic@gmail.com will help mail newsletters and keep up with membership.

The **Grant Committee** needs someone to volunteer as coordinator which was done by Joan. We also need RPCVs to think of projects that we can help fund. Also need some folks to help create a webpage. Many people continue to use the Honduras PC Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209604190/> There are also several closed Facebook pages for various training groups and reunions.

I plan on continuing as Newsletter Editor. I think it is important to continue to produce a paper copy that is mailed out to those who want to receive it. Eighty percent of our members opt to have their newsletter mailed. A few people continue to share current events with me that I compile and add to. Also there some

folks who share articles. But, please share memories and stories while in Peace Corps, recent trips, adventures and news. Honduras and the border continues to be in the news. Note we have 2 articles by RPCVs that volunteered recently on the border. We also have a volunteer opportunities in Honduras. No one has volunteered to compile the obit information that Fred Corvi has compiled. Again email me, write me, call me or Facebook me if you have any questions, want to volunteer, ideas for grants or have articles to share. 919-933-8987 Facebook: Loren Hintz email: ldhintz@bellsouth.net 804 Kings Mill Rd Chapel Hill NC 27517

USAID ASSIGNMENT IN HONDURAS

NPCA has partnered with NCBA CLUSA to recruit qualified RPCVs for select USAID Farmer-to-Farmer assignments in Honduras. Project assignments are in the horticulture, coffee, and co-op/small business development sectors.

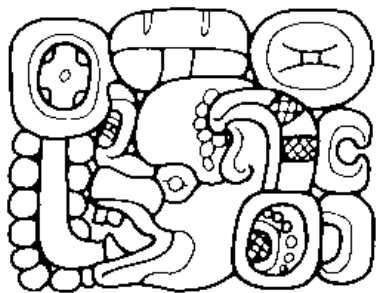
Marketing and Branding Project APROLMA is a women's association working in the coffee value chain. The assignment will focus on outlining a branding strategy focused on APROLMA assets (organic products and women-led production) to differentiate them from local competitors and create marketing materials that follow coffee marketing trends (i.e. storytelling focused on coffee

origins) in cooperation with the local staff. The materials developed should be designed in a way that can be used in a variety of situations, such as expos, trade shows, and social media. The volunteer is encouraged to take pictures of its producers to highlight the role of women in coffee and catch attention of potential buyers with this approach.

Marketing Strategy Project

COCABEL is a coffee cooperative dedicated to production, processing, and marketing high quality coffee. It is managed by a young generation of community leaders who have taken over the responsibility of all the coffee processing and expand its operations. This assignment will focus on building a branding strategy and revise/update the marketing plan alongside the local staff and co-op leaders taking into account the co-op's current operations and business situation. The marketing plan should include strategies to access new local and international markets to minimize the dependence of a single buyer.

To apply, please send your resume, cover letter, and references to Cooper Roberts, International Programs Coordinator, at croberts@peacecorpsconnect.org. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive updates about upcoming assignments, email service@peacecorpsconnect.org. And don't forget! If you're not already a member, join Amigos de Honduras!



PEACE CORPS CONNECT 2019 Npca

Join us on June 20-22, 2019 at [Peace Corps Connect 2019: Innovation for Good.](#)

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current and former staff, applicants, invitees, and friends of the Peace Corps from across the country will gather in Austin, TX to connect at the intersection of creativity and impact. Meet fellow Peace Corps community members, mix with local change makers, and learn about creating a sustainable impact on your community. These two and a half days will be full of expert panels, interactive sessions, and a whole lot of fun.

VOLUNTEERING AT PASTORAL CENTER'S MARTYRS' HALL IN EL PASO Barbara Kaare- Lopez, Olanchito, Tocoa & Trujillo (78-80)

It began with an email I received from the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Feb. 21, 2019, listing Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities. El Paso was listed first. An article was cited, written by The Most Reverend Mark Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, Texas. The title was "El Paso Bishop Calls for RPCVs to Help with Asylum-Seekers". He stated his cousin, a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV), suggested that he write to us. Yes, we have heard about the crisis at the border. We have heard about the separation of children from their parents. We know that our President wants to build a WALL to keep THEM from crossing over. But what is the truth why THEY are coming to the U.S.?

And what is the reality of what is happening at the border?

The Bishop stated in his article...."the majority are fleeing unendurable levels of violence, instability and the resulting economic collapse in their home countries, especially the three nations that make up what are known as the Northern Triangle of Central America, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala." (Severe poverty, especially in parts of Guatemala, is forcing struggling families to leave so they can feed their children (Annunciation House). We RPCVs from Honduras know that due to the violence in our ex-country, Peace Corps pulled out in 2012.

He asked for volunteers to be able to stay for the minimum of one week. Speaking Spanish is a great asset, but it is not required. Housing and meals are provided. You may be sorting clothing donations, cleaning, making contact with sponsor families, driving families to the airport or bus station, doing Intakes with the new arrivals, or making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Oh, when I later met and spoke with The Bishop at the Pastoral Center, he was "down to earth", and simply introduced himself as Father Marcos. He thanked me for coming to volunteer.

Two of my amigas from Denver's Returned Peace Corps Volunteers group, Barbara Johnston, Nepal, and Marty Lordier, Niger, also traveled to El Paso the last week of March. We stayed at the casita in the St. Charles Complex, where we all had our own twin bed, and volunteered at the Pastoral Center, which was housed in this complex. Actually there were two other RPCVs volunteering at the Center while we were there, who also answered the NPCA call to volunteer in El Paso. They were Dao Thach, Nepal, and Sherry Fine, Jamaica.

Eina, one of the two Site Coordinators, gave us a history and overview of how these Hospitality Centers are functioning. Ruben Garcia is the founder of Annunciation House. He began to take refugees in from the street over four decades ago. There are a total of 15 shelters in El Paso, Las Cruces, NM and Albuquerque. Five houses are open 24/7. Volunteers operate them all. The number of migrants/refugees who are coming over to El Paso now averages from 500 to 700 people per day. Some refugees are being housed in budget hotels.

The Pastoral Center could fit 100 cots in the main room. Women sleep on the left; men sleep on the right. The Center is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. when the lights are turned off. The goal is to provide hospitality, for one to four days usually, but then move people out to their destination in the U.S. They do NOT want them sleeping on the streets. (The evening of Oct. 26, 2018, 125 refugees were released to the streets in downtown El Paso). The mantra of Annunciation House has become, "Not one refugee to the street."

Per the Annunciation House info, "upon arriving in Juarez, the Mexican border city across from El Paso, refugee families cross the border in one of two ways. Some climb the border metal fences that separate the two countries and end up being detained by Border Patrol. Others walk into Ports of Entry, turn themselves in to a Custom and Border Protection officer, and ask for asylum. However these families cross, they end up in the custody of Immigration."

The Guidelines for Volunteers stated a variety of Do Not's, as "Do not wear short or low-cut blouses", (NO worries about me wearing anything

low cut at my post-menopausal age). But the ones I wish we did not have to obey were the, "Do not ask the guests any personal questions; do not take pictures or videos of our guests." There were some "oh so cute" kiddos I would have loved to have taken pictures of. There were one of two shifts we could work, which were 7 AM to 2 PM, or 2 to 10 PM, although one could leave earlier on the afternoon shift if "all was quiet." Either the Shift Coordinator, or a volunteer, spent the night so someone was at the center with the refugees. I volunteered on the 2 to 10 PM shift.

During my time at the Center, usually two buses would arrive sometime in mid-morning to mid-afternoon. After the refugees would disembark from the Prisoner bus, they walked to the Main Room in the Pastoral Center, where they were welcomed, given instructions on how to proceed, and given a cot number. (We were able to enter one of these empty prisoner buses that had cages on some of the windows). They would then go downstairs, get a snack, complete their Intake forms, then proceed to Transportation where volunteers would call either their family or friend cited on the Immigration form to arrange for transportation. IF there were health concerns, they went to see The Nurse, who was either myself or Barb J. that week. (I am not sure who would see the refugee/patient when there was no health care provider on site). After being checked out, they would go to the huge clothing room to get one pair of clothing and a blanket, and then go take a shower and were told to discard their old clothing. Lastly, we would serve them a meal while they sat exhausted, thirsty, and hungry.

One evening, we were told the bus would arrive between 6 to 7 PM. No

bus. We waited. The bus finally arrived, with Father Marcos aboard, at 9:40 PM! That night, we were instructed to only feed the refugees, do the Intake, and give them a blanket. Some saw The Nurse. While serving these exhausted folks, a few told me they had not eaten in three days; one man told me he had not eaten in 10 days!

So what was my main duty? Being a retired Denver Public Schools nurse, I often volunteered in the make shift clinic, where many over the counter medicines had been donated, or perhaps bought. My first day "shadowing", I was given a less than 5 minute orientation as to how the clinic operated by a retired nurse, who then had to leave to help a patient. There I was, nursing the best I could with such a short introduction to the clinic.

So did I learn anything about these migrants/refugees? The following are some of my encounters with these folks. When I would ask the patient, "how long have you had your, e.g., headache, or cold, or cough?" I heard answers by a couple folks, "oh for 2 or 3 or 4 days. I had to sleep on the rocks under the bridge." (**Migrants that were awaiting processing were held in temporary fencing underneath the Paso Del Norte Bridge in El Paso. Denver Post, 3.31.19.**) I saw a few children who were either wheezing, or had an uncontrollable cough. When I asked if they had Asthma, and had brought their medicines with them, the parents would state, "Yes, he has Asthma. We brought the medicines, but the Migra (Immigration) threw it away in the trash!" A woman from El Salvador told me how her husband beat her and broke her arm. He had died, and now she came to the U. S. "por ser pobre" (for being poor). A number of patients complained

about how cold they were in Immigration; it was like a “hielera” (ice box). They were given a Mylar aluminum blanket for warmth.

“Usted es un animal y una bestial Vuelva a su país!” a Honduran man was told by Immigration. I had to turn around in my chair so he could not see the tears that almost fell out my eyeballs when he matter-of-factly told me his story. I had heard stories about the mistreatment of these refugees, but to have Immigration tell someone, this man, “you are an animal and a beast! Go back to your country” was unbelievable.

I was able to receive assistance from Dr. C., a Mexican doctor who is based in El Paso. A prescription was written for Tamiflu for a teenager who had a 104.9 degree fever, two patients received their prescriptions for either Inhalers or a liquid Albuterol for their Asthma, and the 5 year old Quiche speaking boy from Guatemala, with a week old deep gash in his forehead that needed stitches, received a prescription for an antibiotic. Yes, we volunteers went to the local Walgreens to fill the prescription, and yes, we paid for the medicines.

For me as a now retired pediatric nurse, I was startled to see a number of miserable looking children, crying at times, coughing, runny noses, lethargic, but mostly without a fever and usually having normal breath sounds. I was worried about them. But the next day, after a shower, food, water, and sleeping on a cot, not rocks, most of them looked healthy, no longer miserable kiddos. I also saw a number of children, many Indigenous from Guatemala, who were so short, sometimes appearing many years younger than their stated age. Many of those kids’ teeth were riddled with cavities.

The following are a few random observations. Shoelaces were removed from the refugees’ shoes at Immigration. Why? **Glen Blumhorst**, President of NPCA, also went to El Paso to volunteer. He volunteered at Soluna Hospitality Center. His article, “The Reality in El Paso and What You Can Do”, appeared online. He stated the shoelaces were removed “to thwart running”. I saw men, and women, wearing “ankle bracelets”, or GPS monitors. Glen also wrote regarding volunteering, “Many teams at Annunciation House are short-handed, working 12 hour shifts, seven days a week. An all-volunteer workforce lends to frequent chaos, a sense of disorganization, and stressful moments...” Yep, I complained a number of times about being given different instructions on how to perform certain duties, as how many peanut butter and jelly sandwiches we give a refugee who will be traveling 3 days on a bus to their destination. “Give one sandwich per day.... no, give one sandwich per refugee, times 3 times a day, times the number of days traveling...” At least they got their sandwich.

And Yes, I did whine the Sunday when our Afternoon Shift Coordinator, told everyone in the cot room, “Go see The Nurse If you want medicine before bedtime!” Two hours and 27 patients later, Barb J. and I finished seeing all of our patients. Some needed medicine; others did not. I was so tired, that when I looked at someone’s travel paper, in the top left hand corner, it stated El Tornado as the person’s bus station from where he would be leaving. I read it and thought it was the patient’s name.... The Tornado! What a name!

And Yes, I was inspired by some of the refugees. When I saw a refugee

who returned to the Center, after being driven to the bus station, I asked why he had returned. The ticket was wrong. I asked him if he was mad. Matter-of-factly he replied, **“A veces Dios tiene otros planes para nosotros”**. Yes, sometimes God has other plans for us, but I still would have been mad. He was not.

Dennise, a California volunteer, drove refugees to the bus station. One of the refugees asked her if he could “bendecirla”, or bless her. She said yes. He was one of the 1,000 folks who slept below the bridge. Their coyote (smuggler) had been traveling with them, boarding the buses, taking care of them. But before they boarded their bus to Juarez, he asked them to give him all their money and cell phones, for security. Then he did not board their bus! Goodbye money and cell phones. But one of them was still so grateful, he wanted to bless Dennise.

Marty heard a story about a woman who had a small shop in San Salvador, El Salvador. She had to pay either her landlord, or perhaps an “impuesto de Guerra...gang protection” fee. (Loren Hintz wrote about this impuesto in the Nov. 2018 Amigos de Honduras). The fee was increasing \$50.00 every two weeks. She told him that she could not afford to pay this fee anymore. He replied, “If you don’t pay me, I will kill you and your family!” They left for the U. S. the next day.

These refugees need our help, or money, or other donations as clothing and toiletries. They need us to be their advocates. **How will you help?** “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me” Matthew 25:35-6.



WHAT I DID ON MY PASTORAL CENTER 7-2 SHIFT

Marty Lordier RPCV Niger 1. Making breakfast (which usually wasn't provided by a church) for 50-70 refugees at the center with another volunteer: It included going into the "cooler" and seeing what leftovers there were from dinner. For breakfasts we heated up mashed potatoes, browned ground beef and onions, scrambled eggs, heated tortillas in the 1 microwave, added water and oil to dehydrated shredded potatoes and fried them, got milk and cereal out, had one of the refugees make 'avena' which is a hot cereal/drink made from oats, water and sugar. One morning we served leftover rice, beans and cereal. We made giant urns of coffee. I felt good and useful when I was making and serving food.

Arrival and Intake all done by hand, no computers: After a busload of refugees had arrived at the center, they were led out of the prison bus (where they were locked in "cells") by an armed ICE agent in a single file. The refugees were released to the center. One of the main volunteers would welcome them and tell them where they were and what our process was. They would be led in prayer; which honored each person and gave respect and dignity to each one.

2. Intake: The refugees would be led downstairs. They would wait on chairs and take turns coming to the intake person. The intake people worked in Spanish. We would write down their names, relationships (e.g. father/mother & daughter/son) country of origin, ages, their A number from their paperwork from

ICE, and their sponsor's name, address, phone number and how they were feeling. I would always welcome them again.

3. Clothing: With some of the refugees as volunteers and other El Paso volunteers, we would oversee the refugees as they were given shoelaces, toiletries, diapers, one complete set of new, clean clothes, shoes, a jacket, underwear and a blanket. There were mountains of pants and shirts and the people always asked if they could have more than 1 set of clothes. We had to say no because there would be 500-700 more people coming through that week. It was in the clothes room that I learned when the Border Patrol picked up the refugees and "gave" them to ICE, ICE would confiscate their shoelaces, baggage, medicines, inhalers and had taken off the cast of a woman and taken her splint! I felt angry at and ashamed of our government and sad for the refugees.

4. Making peanut butter sandwiches for travelers: Most days some El Paso volunteers and refugees would make sandwiches for the refugees traveling by bus and plane. We made an assembly line starting with 10 loaves of white bread, maybe 5 of the largest jars of peanut butter, 10-20 jars of jelly, and plastic sandwich bags. The El Paso volunteers and refugees would then have another assembly line of assembling snack bags for the travelers. They would get 4 dry good snacks (chips, granola bars, fruit snacks, cheese and peanut butter crackers), cookies and a plastic bottle of water for bus travelers. These would be stored in large plastic Ziploc bags in a huge box marked Bus Snacks and those without water bottles would be put into plastic bags and a different huge box marked

Airplane Snacks. When the refugees got their tickets and a chauffeur, we made up the snacks with 2-3 peanut butter sandwiches per person per meal and put them into cloth tote bags with their names on them. Snacks were picked up as the refugees went out the door to be transported to the bus station or airport.

5. Working the phones mostly done in Spanish: Once the refugees had been "taken in", El Paso volunteers called the refugees' sponsors to either ask the sponsors to buy the bus or plane reservation or get the confirmation number of the bus or plane ticket for their refugee. There were 4 cell phones that were in constant use. Once we had all the information from the sponsor, we put that info up on the "daily" traveling board, called all over for chauffeurs and then informed the refugee when they were traveling, how and to guard that piece of paper with their information with their life!!! I felt good when I could talk with the refugees and tell them they were traveling. They usually smiled and sometimes cried.

6. Chauffeuring and accompanying refugees to the bus station: Often times the chauffeurs would be the El Paso volunteers who had cars or vans. We would install car seats as needed, get the refugees, their snacks, their bags and go. At the Greyhound station we would go in with the refugees to the ticket counters with their confirmation numbers and get their tickets printed out. We'd explain where they were going, what it was like on the bus (restrooms), how long it might take, how to change busses, etc. They would find other refugees that spoke Spanish and we would leave them to await their bus. At the El Tornado bus station the refugees were immediately "taken under the wing"

of one of the bus station workers who spoke Spanish. The refugees would be whisked into a white-washed steel building with a high roof, ceiling fans, folding chairs and a TV. It looked like a movie set! I felt so relieved and glad when we could say ‘Adios’ to those travelers.

At the El Paso International Airport, we would do the same routine to leave with the refugees: Car seats, snacks, small tote bags, refugees. We parked the vehicle at the short-term parking and went in with the travelers. We stayed and waited until they got their ticket at their airlines. We explained what the process was, the refugee had to show their ICE documents at the ticket counters and be issued boarding passes. We accompanied the refugees down to security and asked to see the supervisor, as these refugees had to go through special security as they had no US ID except for the photos that ICE had taken; then hugs, tears and ‘Adios’.

However, the last day as I was flying back to my home, I accompanied a mother and child refugee through security to the gate. When they were taken through security, they had to remove all the blankets, clothing, shoes, etc. to go through the “photo X-ray” machine, the bags are gone through item by item. If the El Paso volunteers forgot to tell the travelers that they could only bring 4-ounce bottles of toiletries onboard, the TSA guards would throw away bottles of shampoo, conditioner, water, etc. It took about 45 minutes to go through security. I had to translate some of the time. Finally, we got through the security and walked to the airline gate. There was another refugee and his 4-year old son that we knew from the Pastoral Center. The 2 parents could talk, I watched the 10-month old baby as the mother finally had a chance to go

to the restroom. I noticed when the gate attendant announced the flight, she only said it in English. Again, hugs, tears and ‘Adios’ to the refugee woman and her baby while the refugee father, his son and I boarded the plane to Denver. The last time I saw them the father was holding his tired son and asking questions of a gate attendant how to change planes in Denver! I was proud of him!

Overall, I felt that I was useful and helpful to the refugees and the volunteer team at the Pastoral Center. I was tired as we sometimes worked 12-hour days and then ‘burnt the candle’ at both ends.

The easiest way to donate is via: <https://annunciationhouse.org/> for detailed info read this pdf: https://annunciationhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CurrentVolunteerNeeds-18_MAR_2019.pdf

NEWS OF HONDURAS Compiled by Loren Hintz (Olancho, 1980-82.)

Jon Henes 4.28 In 2015, in the hallway of one of the floors at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and, after hearing of Ramiro’s annual visits to poor villages in his childhood home of Honduras, we decided to start a foundation to help communities in Honduras. We called it the Foundation for Education in Honduras, or FEIH, and, at first, we had the simple idea of building schools. We would, in fact, build schools—assuring a classroom for each class of students and replacing the dilapidated and unsafe structures that currently existed—but we would also provide filtered water, ventilation, fans, a playground, bathrooms, desks, chairs, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and supplies. We worked with each community to have local artisans make the shoes,

desks and chairs. Two years ago, we had the idea for a soccer tournament.

Each school announced with enthusiasm that the boys were ready to play. The girls, on the other hand, would cheer. FEIH responded strongly. Girls would not be the cheerleaders; girls would be leaders—playing, competing and learning equally. This was confusing to the schools. In Honduras, sports are for boys not girls. FEIH challenged that culture and told the schools if they wanted the soccer tournament, then each school would field both boys and girls teams.

The soccer tournament was an unqualified success. It started with a parade down the Main Street in **El Progreso, Yoro** to the stadium. The girls and boys marched down the street with pride, holding their schools’ banners. At the stadium, the announcers from the professional soccer team called out the action from each game over the loud speaker. The children—boys and girls—competed all day in the mud, playing hard and having so much fun.

Montaña de Vida May 2 at 3:55 PM Hi Loren, I hope all is going well. Things have got tougher here with the US pulling its funding from the northern triangle countries. We had just successfully obtained a USAID grant and then it got pulled even though we had signed a contract! Some of that money was going to help expand the Junior Ranger program so we are now back to a minimalist model but are still going to do it. Montaña de Vida (Editor Note: Montaña de Vida received an Amigos Grant of \$1000 for the Junior Ranger Program.)

El Herald 4.3 the Choluteca River which has caused major flooding during the rainy season. Has been

unusually dry. Trucks can now cross it without using the bridge. Many communities are at risk due to reduced water supply.



Laborrights.org 3.27 Due to their continued anti-union violence, Fyffes was de-certified by Fair Trade USA in December. Now, with the termination of their Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) membership, Fyffes has further lost credibility in the public eye. Fyffes is named in complaints at the International Labour Organization and under the U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement, but none of this has been enough to get Fyffes to stop union-busting.

Honduran farmworkers are counting on us to increase the pressure on Fyffes so that they can organize freely and bargain for dignified wages and a safe workplace. **Please stand in solidarity with Honduran farmworkers by helping build the campaign pressure on Fyffes.** [Click here to speak out on Facebook.](#)

Fox News 4.29 Trump orders asylum overhaul, including new fee for applicants. The Trump administration last year rolled back an Obama-era expansion of potential asylum justifications, which extended protections to those alleging domestic abuse or gang-related attacks back home. The White House and DHS officials did not immediately respond to questions about how much applicants might be forced to pay in asylum fees, and it is unclear how

many families fleeing poverty would be able to afford such a payment.

The Guardian 4.19 the Honduran transgender woman who was detained in a US immigration facility for seven months after being granted asylum has been released after a legal challenge. Nicole García Aguilar was freed from the Cibola County detention facility in New Mexico on Wednesday night, a week after lawyers filed a habeas corpus writ challenging her unjustified prolonged detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice). García's ordeal, which included several stints in solitary confinement, highlights the ongoing arbitrary detention of asylum seekers under the Trump administration, which has triggered multiple legal challenges. García, 24, fled Choluteca in southern Honduras in early 2018 after surviving a violent attack and receiving death threats which police refused to investigate.

Wall St. Journal 4.7 In the World Bank's Doing Business report, which measures the ease of entrepreneurship in 190 countries around the world, Honduras ranks a grim 121st. And in crucial benchmarks, even lower. In ease of "paying taxes" Honduras ranks 164th; in "resolving insolvency" it sits at 143rd. The country ranks 153rd in ease of "getting electricity," largely because crony politics protect an entirely undependable energy infrastructure. Power generation in Honduras is mostly in private hands, but transmission, distribution and the last mile belong to the state-owned National Electric Energy Enterprise, which performs dreadfully. Guillermo Peña, a Honduran entrepreneur and chairman of Fundación Eléutera, a public-policy think tank based in SPS, stated that using the company's own public announcements his

organization counted 5,538 hours of rolling power outages in the country in 2018.



Ginger Comstock NY/HELP had a very successful trip to the mountains of Honduras, where we are working with the Tolupán people around La Laguna, near Yoro in northern Honduras. The group worked with our partners there from March 7 -17. Projects included the Sewing Academy, which is giving new skills to the women of the tribe. Connie Frisbee Houde initiated this program, and we were fortunate to find that one of our friends in La Laguna, Aracely Garcia, was a trained seamstress. Aracely taught 11 women in the first class, and now these women are teaching 34 others in seven of their home villages. To enable this, NY/HELP bought foot-powered sewing machines last December. Aracely is supervising the program, visiting each village to teach and assist. NYHELP has been working with the local schools since our inception 30 years ago. A Centro Básico for grades 7-9 was constructed in Mataderos several years ago. This served students who lived on the mountain, but students from the valley 1000 feet below had trouble getting to this school. So we are working to build a second Centro Básico in the lower villages.

Amigos de Honduras Membership Info

Use this form to renew membership or notify us of a change in address. Or, copy and give to a friend whom you think might like to keep in touch with Honduras and RPCVs. Other than your name, enter only the info that has changed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address _____

Peace Corps Info:

Years of service: from _____ to _____ Group # _____ Site(s) _____

Job _____

Post-Peace Corps Experiences (occupation, marriage, children, travels, interests) _____

Make check payable to Amigos de Honduras: Mail to Joan Larimore, 2334 Sunset Avenue, Enumclaw, WA 98022

05-19

Amigos de Honduras :	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
NPCA Supporter (Basic FREE):	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Amigos, NPCA & another group:name of other group	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras:	
\$ _____	
Total Amount Enclosed: _____	

I would prefer to receive my newsletter in .pdf format.

Aviso: the date on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership - please renew if you're due!



Amigos de Honduras
c/o Joan Larimore
2334 Sunset Avenue
Enumclaw, WA 98022