

# OYE el Cambio

## Hear the Change...

*"Sometimes with all of the things you hear, you don't always know what to think. OYE teaches you how to understand and analyze situations. It also gives you freedom – in thinking, in being creative, and in believing in yourself."*

**-Sandra Fiallos,  
OYE Scholar**



## Honduran youth take El Progreso by storm!

Now nearly 9 months into their 2011 scholarship, OYE youth scholars are having a larger impact on their community than ever. In the past three months alone, OYE's scholars have carried out a massive, citywide sports tournament that impacted over 1,500 youth, local fundraising initiatives, writing and designing the forthcoming edition of *Revista Jóvenes* youth magazine, and mural paintings.

The work of OYE youth does not stop there. Over the past three months, OYE scholars have worked closely with several international volunteers, who have offered a series of interesting and useful capacity building classes that have provided OYE scholars with new tools such as survival skills, yoga, English, and creative writing that they can utilize in and outside of the academic setting.

OYE youth are more committed than ever to taking control of their lives, becoming leaders, and being change-makers in their communities. We invite you to take a look at what the young leaders behind this inspiring youth organization have been up to recently.

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## Did you know?

Nearly 97,000 Honduran youth drop out of school each year so they can work to support their families.



## COPA OYE 2011

Under the extreme heat of the blistering Honduran sun, the annual COPA OYE sports tournament took place throughout the months of June, July, and August. The tournament kicked off with an opening ceremony in early June during which all 15 participating teams representing over 200 youth filed onto the field to music and announcements over the loud speaker. OYE's youth coordinator Iloany Ochoa, who was fully in charge of this year's tournament, addressed the assembled athletes, specifying the rules and regulations of the tournament and offering positive comments to all youth present on the teams and in the bleacher-packed audience. The ceremony came to a close with a round of fireworks and a dance performance by Wagabari Buitti, a group of Garifuna youth from Cayos Cochinos and institutional partner of OYE. The soccer games began with a fun match between the Garifuna youth and OYE staff and friends. However, the real matches between youth took place over the course of three months and offered impressive displays of soccer at its finest.

The purpose of COPA OYE is to create a space that allows students and local youth to express themselves through sports. This was the first year that OYE ran both soccer and volleyball tournaments. The games drew large audiences, bringing in over 1,500 youth who watched the games. It was a tough competition, but the winning soccer team for young women was Club Galaxy, which won its last match against Club Atlas with a score of 5-3. The winning soccer team for young men was Sardineros, which won its last match against VANAGEJT with a score of 6-5.



Writers from OYE's youth magazine learning creative trips from writer and OYE staff member Michael Solis.

## OYE Writers Get Creative

The youth of *Revista Jóvenes* youth magazine began a capacity building workshop in creative writing with OYE staff member Michael Solis. The first of an 8-week long workshop began with a focus on the art showing versus telling in creative writing, in which OYE writers reviewed examples to learn the differences between the two writing techniques. During the second half of the workshop, the youth began writing their own stories, selecting from three prompts: 1) a dialogue between two people who dislike each other, 2) an email that someone sent but later regretted, and 3) the description of an object of personal importance. In the coming weeks, the creative writing workshop will provide OYE youth with the tools necessary for writing their own narratives and stories, as well as improving their craft through review, constructive criticism, editing, and dialogue.



# OYE Volunteers Making a Difference

Hear directly from volunteers who have left a positive footprint in El Progreso, Honduras

## Jackie Krizovensky, American University

“While many students told me that they receive English instruction in their schools, the quality is not great, and most times they do not learn the concepts behind the language. Hearing this made me realize that OYE scholars needed a new program, and I knew that OYE was the best way to introduce the language. As coordinator of the program, I planned the curriculum, evaluated the students, made the lesson plans, and taught the classes. While it was a lot of researching and trial and error on my part, at the end of my stay I really felt like I had accomplished something. Students started to remember the phrases I had taught them and could formulate simple sentences. Hearing them speak in English, even if it was just a few sentences, made me realize that teaching is my calling, something I may have never realized if it were not for OYE and its special *becados*.”

## Coty Mayo, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

“I would highly recommend working with OYE to others simply for the experience of living in a developing country and being able to see first hand and be a part of what is being done to facilitate change. During my time at OYE, I carried out a survival skills training workshop with approximately 30 OYE youth and helped the magazine, sports, and art programs with varying projects. I also appeared on live TV singing and dancing with OYE volunteers to “Born This Way,” which was a once in a lifetime experience. As a fairly quiet person, even in my own language, I think the biggest challenge for me was stepping forward and using the Spanish I did know to make friends and accomplish my goals as a volunteer. The greatest reward came from communicating with the scholars and staff, either for the purpose of having a conversation or working together to complete a task.”



## Michael Solis, Communications and Volunteer Coordinator

“The opportunity to offer yoga classes for OYE scholars and their families, OYE staff, and volunteers has been a phenomenal way to share a healing and therapeutic practice in El Progreso. Many OYE youth are grappling with serious issues including family disintegration (with many having parents or other family members living in the United States), financial struggles, and stress related to violence and the country’s security situation, among other issues. Yoga provides a channel for OYE youth to come together once a week with their families to partake in exercises, stretching, breathing, and meditative techniques that result in reduced stress and improved health. Now, the yoga classes have expanded to include youth from Proniño, an organization that serves Honduran street children. I love getting to see the positive impact that yoga has on the individual and community levels.”

## RACE 4 OYE, Ana Luisa Ahern, Co-Founder

“Following the success of three marathon runners who sponsored OYE in 2010, a new fundraising initiative called RACE 4 OYE has been born. RACE 4 OYE provides an opportunity for athletes to “race” and raise money for OYE’s scholarship program. Most recently, OYE scholars, staff, and friends ran in the San Pedro Sula Marathon and raised over \$6,000 from more than 80 donors. For more information on how you can Race 4 OYE, please email us at [oyehonduras@gmail.com](mailto:oyehonduras@gmail.com).”

## OYE Scholar Spotlights



*By Jackie Krizovensky, OYE Volunteer*

Sizing her up for the first time, many might underestimate Jarly Yanes based on her tiny stature and petite frame, but speak to her and you will find that she is far more than she seems. She is intelligent and determined; she knows what she wants and what she needs to do to get it. She cares about [Honduras](#) and its future. She is a leader among her peers and serves as a true role model in her community.

Jarly wants more than your typical 22-year-old. She wants to create change in her country and learn more about the system in hopes of changing it. OYE helps her do this. Through OYE Jarly is able to learn the importance of [leadership skills](#) and continue her [education at the university](#) in San Pedro Sula. At OYE she serves as the coordinator of the radio program [OYE El Ritmo](#) and can be described as a mother figure for many of the *becados*, or [OYE scholars](#). She always has time to listen to their problems or educate them in some way.

Jarly has come a long way from the girl she was when she first walked through OYE's doors. She is on her way to achieving her dreams thanks to the values and opportunities she has acquired at OYE, which she calls her second home. She has friends and she has a purpose. As a university student she is challenged by her classes, as well as by OYE. Some of her accomplishments within the organization include the fact that her thesis on the political affairs of Honduras was chosen to become a [capacity building](#) class for other *becados*. While her situation is difficult and money is tight, Jarly has learned to make the best of what she has, not only for herself, but for others who depend on her as well. It is easy to see that she is persistent, reliable, and part of the glue that holds her family together, at home and at OYE.



### Sandra Fiallos

Four years ago when Sandra was only 12, her life was already defined by hardships. Her father's mental illness had relapsed, which left him unable to work. The responsibility of supporting Sandra's family of four fell on the shoulders of Sandra's mother, a seamstress whose monthly income was less than \$100. Sandra and her sister supplemented her mother's meager wages by begging, which Sandra hated having to do when all she wanted to do was finish high school.

Now, 18-year-old Sandra is not just a high school graduate, but a student of information technology at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. A stellar student with an insatiable appetite for learning, Sandra credits OYE for keeping her on the educational path at a time when she was so close to veering off of it. Because of OYE, Sandra now has a large friend group of inspiring young people and is an active participant of OYE's capacity building programs. Her favorite part of OYE has been confronting some of the harsh realities that her peers face. She broadcasts her thoughts and ideas on [OYE El Ritmo](#), OYE's radio program, which she has been involved with since the program's inception. A powerhouse OYE scholar with a promising future and a commitment to her community, now Sandra is the one in charge of her life path.



# Become a part of the OYE family...make a change!

Your support has carried us through times of political turmoil to allowing us to grow our scholarship program. When we started, we only had the resources to provide 5 scholarships a year. But thanks to people who believed in the untapped potential of the youth of El Progreso, we have grown into a multi-faceted youth development organization that now supports 91 scholars per year.

By making a gift to OYE in 2011, you can have a tremendous impact on our ability to offer more scholarships and enhance our leadership development programs for Honduran youth.

Remember that your scholarship support is just the beginning. Each scholarship liberates OYE youth from the destructive path of gang involvement, violence, and drugs and allows them to focus on their education and development. The challenges that Honduran youth face today are not new, nor are they easily solved. However, OYE is helping develop a generation of leaders who are equipped with the tools and education necessary for making a difference. **Be a part of the change!**



To make a donation to OYE, checks can be made out to "Organization for Youth Empowerment" and sent to:

Organization for Youth Empowerment  
3351 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington, DC 30010

You can also make secure online payments on our webpage at [www.oyehonduras.org](http://www.oyehonduras.org).

