

## December 2022 Project Update

By Nicola Lawson. UK Manager & Trustee

### Learning

Thanks to your support over the last few months 1578 of the poorest children of Honduras have been in our care at our Sisters of Mary schools in Tegucigalpa and Amarateca. The autumn months have been busy and productive now that they finally have the chance for an education and a proper childhood.

Your support for our appeal goes directly to the provision of food, healthcare and medical supplies and all the vital educational equipment and teaching that will help these children to learn.



*Garcia with one of the Sisters of Mary*

Thanks to you, the boys and girls are growing into confident and enthusiastic young adults able to make the most of every new opportunity. They are keen to learn everything they can, hopeful for their future and excited to challenge themselves against their colleagues.

On the left is Garcia. In November, he won second place in the National Math Olympiad – competing against boys from the whole of Honduras. **What an amazing achievement and only made possible with your kindness and support!**

### Playing and the freedom to enjoy a childhood

The freedom to play and to experience the joys of childhood are also a vital part of the boys and girls' time with us at our schools.

All the children, especially the newest grade 7 students, have used the last few months to make new friends and form lasting bonds with their classmates. They have developed new hobbies and passions and spent time playing sports, which is so important for their physical and mental health.

Both the girls and boys have had wonderful success. The under 13s boys' basketball team became regional champions and the girls won first, second and third place in the athletics competition!



## **Focus on Employment**

The Sisters work hard to cultivate relationships with future employers for the children and arrange a period of on the job training prior to them finishing school. This significantly helps recruitment rates.

Over the last few months the final year girls and boys have been introduced to new potential employers and have thoroughly enjoyed a period of work experience, getting ready for future employment and a productive future.

Students in our Boystown Amarateca enjoyed several months' work experience. The boys have been learning how to install solar panels and been apprentice training in auto mechanics at Toyota. Their time at school has prepared them for the skills needed in these roles and the companies report that the students are fast, efficient and reliable.

When they finish school, these boys can look forward to a good job and a brighter future – thanks to you.



Learning to install solar panels – On the Job Work Immersion for our Boystown students – November 2022

## **The impact of your gift**

Our work with the Sisters of Mary is about ensuring the children have all the skills they need for future employment. With a stable job, the children can become financially self-sufficient and they can begin to help their families and members of their local communities.

As the children complete school and move into work they begin to use their new independence to help their siblings with access to education and their mothers and fathers with access to better living conditions and healthcare.



(second left) One of our newest students at the Girlstown Tegucigalpa  
Thanks to your gifts she now has a place at our school and looks forward to a better future for herself and all her family shown here.

The impact of your support is seen in the high rates of recruitment we see for our children, their improved lives and the number of other impoverished lives which are touched by their support – we call this the multiplier effect of our work.

Over the last few months we have worked closely with our alumni from these schools to begin measuring this impact. We can show that once they complete school, our children are well placed, highly motivated and active in providing practical support for their families, sometimes generations of their families, giving them a better, poverty-free life, extending the impact of your support many times over.

Your gifts make this transformational, poverty relief work possible – providing a brighter future for the world's most impoverished boys and girls, their poor families and communities.

**Thank you!**