

## Village Update

*Nuevo Amanecer, Honduras*



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Veda and Gloria are the community's health promoters, chosen by the families in Nuevo Amanecer to go through a three-year training in community health sponsored by MAP International. With just three workshops under their belt, they have assumed their jobs with professionalism and commitment. After having demonstrated their knowledge in their own daily hygiene habits and clean surroundings, now, together with the community, Veda and Gloria have begun the first community-wide clean-up campaign in homes and communal spaces. They have also already done trainings in self-esteem with the men and women in Nuevo Amanecer.

### Community Organization

The arrival of seven families from an urban group living on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula, previously known as El Limonar, has encouraged a pleasant atmosphere and increased participation in productive projects. Though living in the city for ten years, the new families are very happy to decide to return to their farming roots in the countryside. The new families bring a high level of organization and teamwork, important as they begin planting their plots and offering a good example to the rest of the community.

The new families are also getting to know the leadership in Nuevo Amanecer, and the community has restructured leadership to fill vacancies and give new families a chance participate in the process. Existing committees in the community include the Health, Production and Vigilance committees.

The community has identified their vision, mission and values on which they want to base their development. They have identified three values for their life: Honesty, Faith in God, and Respect. Additionally, supplies needed to begin a brainstorm session on forming the community's statutes and regulations have been secured. The new statutes will guide the families through various issues regarding community activities in Nuevo Amanecer.

Community participation has improved, contributing to the identification of needs and solutions for the wellbeing of the community. The families reflect on challenges and propose solutions. Some villagers that have been less active are now expressing opinions and generating ideas that benefit the whole.

### Housing and Infrastructure

Materials were purchased to build temporary housing for the new families, and are currently in the construction process. Construction on permanent housing will begin next season. Each

permanent dwelling has a latrine and an efficient cook stove and new families will be given materials to build their own latrines and stoves as well.

Agros staff and the community are working with the Department of Water for rights to eight additional water connections for the new families. They are also negotiating to improve the water system.



### **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Through use of improved technology practices in their fields, the families have been able to increase productivity of their corn and beans. This harvest has guaranteed food security for the families, as well as income. A second contract for 2,500 pounds of bean seeds over seventeen acres with the Direction of Science and Technology (DICTA) has been established with the community due to the high quality seed they have been producing.

Agros continues to provide agricultural loans. With these financial resources, 7.4 acres of plantains were planted and an irrigation system was installed. The families are very happy about the progress and hope to earn incomes for their families and repay the land. The families due for their first land payment the beginning of next year will pay with profits from the plantains and bean seeds harvested November-January. The families also plan to expand the irrigation system.



Environmental preservation initiatives are in place in Nuevo Amanecer, including reforestation and eliminating slash-and-burn techniques.

Some families, as part of the security offered by having their own home, began to raise hens to produce eggs. Another family began to raise pigs to generate additional income. They also plan to begin a livestock-fattening project. Other economic initiatives include small business to sell plantain and hibiscus products, and marketing surplus corn.

## **Community Education and Training**

Parents are currently inquiring about scholarships for children who graduate from elementary school. They are also working to enroll the new children in the community in school.

The leadership in Nuevo Amanecer and Agros staff supports healthy conflict resolution by facilitating structured mediation and accompanying those with family and marriage problems. Alcoholics' Anonymous sessions have also begun, with four families participating.

Study groups and spiritual retreats are planned in Nuevo Amanecer and a pastor visits the community weekly during worship and celebration times. The families also proposed the need for Catholic pastoral accompaniment, and already a delegate has been identified.