

Village Update

Nuevo Amanecer, Honduras



2225 4th Ave. 2nd Floor, Seattle, WA 98121
[p] 206.528.1066 | www.agros.org

Marquez and his family arrived to Nuevo Amanecer in June 2008 from Los Bordos, the bordering slums outside of the city of San Pedro Sula. Jumping right in, Marquez began planting corn, beans and rice, and getting involved in the community activities. Despite being a newer addition to the village, Nuevo Amanecer voted him as President of the community due to his interest in the people, ability to serve, hard work, dedication and commitment. His strengths lie in agriculture and with the help of his wife, two sons and daughter-in-law, he has already been able to plant 2.5 acres of plantains. Marquez and his family are grateful to be happily living and working together in Nuevo Amanecer.

Community Organization

The community is integrating new families from Los Bordos like Marquez's interested in trying a new way of life. This quarter, two of those families were not able to fully adapt to living in the country and decided to move back to the city. The move was made without any problems and meanwhile, the rest of the families from Los Bordos are adjusting well to the change in lifestyle and feeling at home in the community.

A large part of creating a self-sustaining, thriving community is selecting strong, local leadership and providing development

trainings and opportunities. Nuevo Amanecer's leadership has recently been reorganized and its members are gaining respect from the rest of the community as they develop, contributing to positive coexistence among the families. Leaders have received training to resolve conflicts, establish rules, regulate finances, and provide training in various topics such as sexuality, gender, health, hygiene and nutrition to the rest of the families.



Sustainable Economic Growth

Nuevo Amanecer continues to receive technical training from Agros staff and partnering organizations such as EDA in the

production and commercialization of basic grains and other profitable crops such as plantains. This quarter, 1,200 pounds of rice was harvested and 7.4 acres of plantains have been planted. With loans from Agros, the families are planning on planting an additional 9.8 acres of plantains as well. To support the irrigation needs for these fields during the dry season, two reservoirs of water were built. The families are excited to see the results during the harvest in February and hope to generate income for their families as well as repay their productive and land loans.

Some families have taken initiatives in raising livestock such as chickens or pigs to generate extra income. Over 60 birds are housed in the new chicken coop.

Women in the community have been involved in making profits as well. Not only are the women helping their husbands in the fields, but they are also organizing themselves to bake bread and donuts and grow Jamaican Rose, a hibiscus flower used to make beverages. The participating women are selling these products to help contribute to their families' incomes.



Community Education and Training

Following the example of their leadership team, families in Nuevo Amanecer have been active in campaigns to keep their community clean and free of garbage to prevent environmental contamination and improve health. The families are also learning to eat a healthier diet by incorporating new foods such as meat and eggs to their normal intake of corn, beans, and rice.

Two of the women in the community are being trained by local health organization MAP to become community health promoters. The pair recently finished their third workshop and has already used what they learned to help other members of the community. Once the promoters complete their training they will be able to provide medical attention for minor ailments and injuries in Nuevo Amanecer so that families do not have to make lengthy visits for help.

Though the students are out for vacation, the parents of the children who attend the nearby school are busy in the process of negotiating scholarships this quarter.

The members of Nuevo Amanecer are actively involved in small study groups and enjoy going on spiritual retreats. Presently, a local church leader is visiting and speaking to the people about spiritual formation. The men in the community have also been able to gather weekly and partner with a local men's group that offers mentorship and leadership training.