

Sueños y Sonrisas Ministry
Sponsorship and Support Proposal
Barrio Buenos Aires
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Please describe the nature of this ministry:

Sueños y Sonrisas is a legally recognized NGO that serves as a community resource center for an entire slum village outside of the capital city of La Paz, Honduras. At our Resource Center, named Sueños y Sonrisas, the 100+ families can go to church services and become members, be fed a meal, receive a shower, wash clothing once per week, be served clean drinking water for their family, and also receive an education.

Does this ministry have a vision/mission statement?

The mission of Sueños y Sonrisas is to reach the socially and economically disadvantaged and unreached population to feed, clothe, educate, and provide gospel-inspired truth to the people, growing and changing the impoverished generations.

What is the vision for the future of this ministry?

The Resource Center, when construction is complete, will have a church building, bathrooms and showers, a kitchen and dining room, 3 classrooms for children, a conference/meeting room, and 2 job-training rooms. The church will contract a pastoral team to lead the community in full-time ministry and shepherding. The kitchen will serve one meal a day (mid-day) for all 100+ families. The bathrooms and showers will provide clean water, sanitation and bathing facilities for the people. The classrooms for the school-aged children will have contracted teachers to offer Spanish, Math, English, and Bible classes. The training rooms will offer job-training and career-ready courses for people ages 16+, learning local trades and how to discover entrepreneurship opportunities.

How long has this ministry been in existence?

The building and construction of Sueños y Sonrisas began in 2017. The Honduran government donated a portion of land to a local Evangelical Church to use. The Pastor of this church signed for the land. The Pastor and his church have never started a project or done anything with the land, but agreed to let a few church members do so. This was the platform that took a dream and is turning it into a reality.

Please describe the needs of the ministry (financial, teams, resources, training, etc)

- 1) CONSTRUCTION TEAMS - willing and able bodies to help with the construction finishes of the building
- 2) FINANCIAL - our #1 priority is to finish construction of the building. Then the incoming missionary financials can provide salaries for a Pastor, 2-3 teachers, and the funding for the soup kitchen to feed the village once a day. We need resources to provide an industrial stove for the kitchen.
- 3) CLASSES - The classrooms and teachers will need educational resources i.e. curriculum. Lastly, we will need resources for training for job-training classes.

Explain how this ministry is effective at doing what it exists to do.

Because of the individuals and missionaries directly involved in this ministry (our core team or Board of Directors) Sueños y Sonrisas is effective at consistently working through the construction phases, feeding the families on the ground, and prayer walks through the village to reach all of the families. Currently, as each trip allows (2-3 times per year since Covid) we feed, clothe, provide clean water, VBS for the kids, church services for the adults, and continue as much construction as possible. We also take fundraised money and are able to hire local bricklayers to further the project while we are not there on ground.

What markers do we use to evaluate the ministry at its effectiveness?

- 1) Prayer walks and in-home evaluations, and invitations for evangelism and relationship building
- 2) Weekly attendance of villagers to church services
- 3) Local community tithing to Sueños y Sonrisas
- 4) Training of villagers to lead prayer walks and build prayer groups

How is reaching the lost a high priority for this ministry?

In terms of "the lost" being Honduran citizens, they are living in extreme poverty and are socially isolated and economically lost. We believe and know that our ministry reaches them at the highest priority. In terms of "the lost" spiritually, our missionaries are choosing a life-long relationship and partnership with the spiritual development of this community.

How is making disciples a high priority for this ministry?

We are developing a program for men and women to be trained in Apologetics and Theology, so that they may disciple and lead their own families first, then serve in the church. The cultural generational shift will go from a Catholic-based understanding of God to the relational and evangelical Christ-centered understanding of Christian living and a biblical perspective of Jesus.

Explain how the ministry works with local churches in the field.

In Honduras, there is a 88%+ predominantly Catholic presence and manner of living, thinking and doing. However, the local evangelical churches are similar in structure and theology. There is a head church and they have daughter churches. Sueños y Sonrisas is not a partner to a local church simply because no church has adopted/partnered with the project/ministry. This is based on financial reasons and politics.

What are some of the challenges this ministry faces?

Currently, our challenges are having/funding the rest of the construction phase of building the project to completion. Our team is small, so we are praying for growth and wisdom in who joins our ministry. We are praying for a pastor, and that the Lord will provide a full-time missionary on-ground.

What else you should know about the heart and history of this ministry.

In 2017, the first Mission team came down for one week from a church in Minnesota and built the first wall. Only 3-4 weeks worth of mission teams came down and spent time on the construction of the project up until the 2020 pandemic. Since the summer of 2019, all mission teams have stopped coming and financially supporting the continuation of this ministry. In March of 2019, God spoke to me directly while I was there leading the last mission team from my school, Christian Academy. The Holy Spirit imprinted on my heart to become a full-time missionary in that location, serving the community and directing Sueños y Sonrisas. I have since returned 4 times and spent 7-10 days during each visit. Because of a few faithful donors and support, please go to the website that I created documenting the progress of this ministry. You will see for yourself. This is only possible because God does what he says he will do.

What is my role and responsibility with this ministry?

I do a bit of everything involved. I use PR and communicate with everyone involved. Since I speak fluent Spanish, I am able to bridge any communication gap. I oversee the process and progress, offering my advice and resources. I help the local Hondurans hold up their commitments while I am not physically present. I assist in the hiring of local laborers, making sure that they understand our expectations. I network with everyone and build awareness in the community. The village people know who I am. They trust me because I keep coming back. They trust me because they see my commitment and follow-through. They are seeing the project come to life, and they invite me into their homes. I am praying fervently for business growth and wisdom and that our small team grows so that I am able to delegate some of these responsibilities to other strong team members.

I fly 3x a year, more or less, to oversee, manage, preach, teach, buy materials and do the physical labor to continue this project.

What accountability do you have set up for yourself?

- 1) I am trying to partner with a local church / Graceland is my home church, to have pastoral and missionary-minded accountability and leadership. However, I make no decisions until speaking with the 2 Hondurans that are my partners, and there are 2 other team members living in Southern IN / KY that I speak with regarding these decisions.
- 2) I work with a local Financial Advisor. He gives me much wisdom and advice, and is helping me to build a Board of Directors and business plan. I run almost everything through his brain as well.
- 3) Our ministry has a bank business account at Indiana Members Credit Union. It is for business only. All financial transactions are shared with everyone involved to ensure trust and accountability.

Is there a leadership succession in place?

Yes. Letty Ferrari is our Honduran Director (legally named President) of the project. Everything must be discussed and approved by her. Luis Carlos Martinez is our Honduran Engineer and designer of the project, who is the Project Manager overall. He is very wise, trustworthy, and makes very smart decisions with money, time and construction. Lyndsee Hawkins (me) is the legal representative (USA) and missionary. She is the co-director of operations, PR and outreach. Kendall Kerberg and Jackie Napper are the other two volunteers involved in the ministry that are eager to help when and where needed. They are included in many decisions as well.