



News From Norma



Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends from all over the world, wishing you the best from Mocerón, the tropical forest of La Mosquitia. I have not forgotten you my friends; many good and disappointing things happened in the year 2017 and I could not send you my annual newsletter. I got very sick and I have been having problems with my knees and I have had difficulty walking. I had to leave Honduras and look for a good specialist. Despite all the illnesses and other issues, the Foundation continues to work on our three main objectives: Education, Health, and the Environment.



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Volunteers of the Norma I. Love Foundation

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Education

Education is the number one goal on our list. We firmly believe that education is the key to the future generations; to become more independent and to develop their abilities.



The superintendent for the schools in Gracias a Dios is very interested in having more workshops on better methods of learning that include writing, reading and math. The foundation serves the School District, providing educational materials and technology through the use of computers, data show demonstrations, solar energy, and a small library.

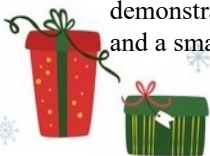


Ferema CEPREB de Mocerón

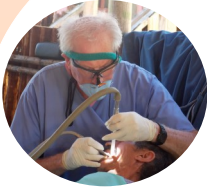
It was founded in 2005 in Mocerón by Carolina Maduro and her staff. Our little children from 3 to 5 years old enjoy every afternoon learning their foundational skills. We have a certified teacher and volunteers. An incentive payment of lps. 10,000 (\$ 416.66) a year. We are hoping the staff of Ferema from Tegucigalpa will return to La Mosquitia. Our little children are very happy and intelligent. The Norma I Love Foundation helps the school 100% with

educational supplies, sporting equipment, snacks, and many other items. We asked Carolina Madura, daughter of former President Ricardo Maduro not to forget about us.

During the last 20 years of being in Mocerón, we have educated more than 650 children who have learned to speak their native language of Misquito, Spanish and some English.



Medical Care



Health is another priority of the Foundation. Unfortunately we are so far away from civilization and

forgotten by our government, our health issues are worse than ever. Our volunteers are not able to come like they did a few years ago. Due to political issues and other matters, traveling to La Mosquitia has gotten very expensive. We are so thankful for our hard working American and European friends who have spent their vacation time serving us.

Our most recent volunteers, three dentist, two from USA and one from Honduras. This is a letter from Gayle Ritter (Medical volunteer from MEDICO) about their trip: "I relaxed for awhile but here is my synopsis of our week in Mocoron. This village actually was doing OK due to presence of Norma Love and her Foundation primarily being responsible. Norma is an extraordinary woman and runs her small operation like the Peace Corps. She has improved their medical care, vaccinations, education, and most important serves as a trusted figure of this

region and village as an important moral and civic leader. Not only does she do all this but she is one darn good host. Wonderful dormitory setting in beautiful square. We hired six cooks and servers and they did a wonderful job with the food we bought at stores (Four!!) in Puerto Lempira. As sometimes is the case, we acquired a bunch more people to feed as the week went on. Three nurses from the health department jumped on our trucks right from the beginning. This was probably Norma's clout at work. They spent their days seeing any villager who wanted to be seen for medical care. They were helping in the dental area quite a bit and were appreciated by all. We hired Ursula, a young mother of two, to be an interpreter for Mosquito. She did ok.



We used two trucks to get out to Mocoron. Norma's old one along with Osiris's friend and his truck. One flat tire of course. We were lucky we hit a dry week and the road was in good shape for the shape it was in!

Could be a struggle with fresh mud and bald tires in the future. We did a ton of dentistry in three and a half days. All three dentists worked through measured surges that Norma kept coming. We



actually finished this small village and the small hamlets in the two-three hour walk vicinity. Keith and I think this is an area Medico hits every other year. People really appreciated our presence in Mocoron. They even had a one hour show they put on for us collimating with Rob and Keith running a limbo contest and all the Medico people" dancing in the streets". All the dental equipment operated well and we were very productive. I made the decision to expand our original team of Keith Rojek, Gayle Ritter and myself to five. Major Chuck Barton and Dr Margarita Funez DDS. where added about three weeks before we left They were invaluable to say the least to help round out team. I picked up \$500.00 each for their trip fee that Medico sometimes



extends to native Honduran Thank you for that courtesy both expressed how grateful they were to be able to serve on another Medico team" the foundation is very grateful for the words of the voluntary doctors, we thank them very much for all the work they did during the time they were with us".

Forest Prservation



The environment has changed dramatically in the last year, which has changed the way the indigenous plant their crops. The season have reversed and has negatively influenced the agricultural projects.

With the help other organizations, CLIFOR from Germany and GOAL from Europe, the villagers have learned new methods of planting their grains and developing better skills for future, with the hopes that many families will be able to have great success with the cacao bean which, is in demand in Europe.



Our Hydroelectric project continue on; once the bank accepts all the information they need, we will start this unique project that will make a huge difference in all our lives. Having electricity 24 hours a day will be the start of a new era in the rainforest.



The bees of Mocorón

MOMANASTA, the Women Organization in Mocoron is trying to get ahead with one of the best projects that they have had in awhile. The bees, our own misquito bees from our rainforest are giving us a new hope for prosperity. With the help from CLIFOR and GOAL



We got the materials, supplies and technicians to show the women how to build their own business. Since learning all the technical parts of how to manage the bees; feeding them, getting the honey, packaging it, and selling it in the city markets, some profit has helped the women to prosper and realize that if they continue working hard, they will become women who can provide for their children as well as teach them this trade.



The bees also have a positive impact on the forest; bees are helping nature with pollination, which improves the natural regeneration process of the forest and keeping it healthy.



Volunteers

Each year, the foundation receives many good people who are willing to help in the Mosquitia. This year we were blessed by:

- Volunteers for the Hydroelectric Project



- MEDICO Norma Love and volunteers from Austin, Texas



- Arm Forces of Auka



Dr. Tom Bryan (Send Hope) helps the babies with malnutrition. He sends nutritious food that the foundation distributes.



- Women Org MOMANASTA With Apicultura and the bees (GOAL)



- Beto helped by Peter and Charlene Nicholson; he will be graduating December 15 as an Environmental engineer.



- Kevin Cruz: Student from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, of Tegucigalpa. He is supporting the foundation while performing his professional practice. He was able to stay with us for four months.



- Rotarians from Arlington, Texas helped La Mosquitia by distributing 1000 water filters to different villages.



Academica America de San Pedro Sula: Thank you for the thoughtful gifts they provide for the many children of La Mosquitia.

- CLIFOR: Built the FINZMOS office.



Thank you to all of our Board Members from Arlington, Texas and Honduras, Central America for your dedication in serving the children and parents of the La Mosquitia Rainforest. Thank you to my unforgettable friends from USA and Europe for your continuing help to the Norma I. Love Foundation for more than 25 years.

*With warmest regards,
Norma I Love*

