

Together, we can make a difference.

There are many ways to give:

- **Automatic monthly giving through your checking account** is the most sustainable and easy way to provide ongoing monthly gifts to support the students in Honduras. For \$38 a month, or \$450 annually, your donation provides a child with an entire year's worth of education, including books, supplies, transportation, uniforms, housing, and after-school support. Gifts of less than \$450 are combined to provide as many full scholarships as possible.
- **Online** at [www.shouldertoshoulder.org/Education/Local Scholarships](http://www.shouldertoshoulder.org/Education/Local_Scholarships)
- **Workplace Match or Stocks**
- **Mail** – a check can be sent to our accountants at:
Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc.
c/o: Pohlman & Talmage CPAs, Inc.
3445 South Dixie Dr., Suite 200
Dayton, OH 45439
Write "Scholarship Program" on the memo line

\$38/mo

For \$38 a month, or \$450 annually, your donation provides a child with an entire year's worth of education, including books, supplies, transportation, uniforms, housing, and after-school support.

Please provide us with your current information and include with your donation. ¡Gracias!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check enclosed. **Please make checks Payable to Shoulder to Shoulder.**

Please charge my American Express, Discover, Mastercard or Visa. (circle one)

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

¡Gracias!



Shoulder to Shoulder SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

December 2017

I hope you are enjoying the holiday season and finding time to spend with your family and friends. If you have children, like me, it's definitely nice to have a break from the routine of school. In Honduras, where the school year runs from February through November, it's an especially exciting time of the year for students given the long winter break. In the midst of the activities and overall hustle and bustle that the season brings (which hopefully has been reduced a little by the advent of online shopping), it's also a time to reflect upon 2017 and plan for the New Year.

Feliz Navidad

In that light, I'm really pleased to share some exciting news about Shoulder to Shoulder's scholarship program. As a result of your generous donations, we were able to support 130 students in the program during the recent school year, which is a record for us. Thank you! We saw 28 students achieve their dream of obtaining the equivalent of a high school diploma. These are students who would otherwise be working in the fields or serving as maids, with very meager earnings and really no hope of ever advancing in society.

This past summer, my family and I visited Concepcion, Honduras, which is my hometown. My three daughters, ranging in age from 10-15, seemed to enjoy their annual visit more than usual as they re-established connections with girls in the village and made new friends. As with all parents, we have dreams and aspirations for our daughters and want them to reach their full potential. As we interacted with the community, I couldn't help but think that if the tables were turned, my daughters would now be old enough to be maids or on the verge of ending their education. That's a sobering thought, but it makes me thankful for my circumstances and also appreciative of Shoulder to Shoulder and its many generous donors to the scholarship program.

(continued on next page)

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We spent one day at the local high school in Concepcion and had the opportunity to meet and interact with several students in the program. Each one had a unique story of how the program has given them hope and has motivated them to work hard and achieve. We also talked to the teachers about their performance, and the feedback was very positive. Most of the students in the program, despite economic and social disadvantages, are performing at the honors level. Besides receiving school supplies and uniforms in the program, students also receive training in different areas (studying techniques, self esteem, character building, team building, leadership, community development etc.). They have so much potential, and it's rewarding to see them take advantage of the opportunity.

The students are also extremely thankful. In our conversations with them, the word "Gracias" is repeated over and over. A letter from one of the students, Arnold Antonio Mendoza, sums up the sentiments of the students in the program:



I send you a special greeting, thanking you for the help that you have provided for my studies. It is a huge privilege to continue in the program toward my diploma. I have difficult times and challenges, like everyone, but with a good attitude and the help of God I am able to move forward. I am the son of a single mother, and my dream is to graduate and be able to help her. From the bottom of my heart, I am infinitely thankful for your confidence in me."

– Arnold Antonio Mendoza, Student

Gracias

As we look toward 2018, we are excited about the new school year starting in February. We hope to fund scholarships for even more students this year, with 140 being our initial target. We serve students in five remote communities, and we are also considering adding 2 more communities to the program. We've seen the impact of the scholarship program on students, families and communities. It's powerful.

As you reflect on this season of giving, we would greatly appreciate your continued support of Shoulder to Shoulder's scholarship program. \$450 will fund an annual scholarship for one student, and smaller donations will be combined to support as many full scholarships as possible. Our overhead expenses are extremely minimal — your dollars will go directly to support these students.

Thank you so much for impacting the lives of so many students in Honduras through your generous donations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With great appreciation,

Fide Gehner

Fide Gehner
Scholarship Program Coordinator, volunteer
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513.307.5048



130

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28

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