



## SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, INC.

Association Hombro a Hombro

Santa Lucia, Intibucá, Honduras

[www.shouldertoshoulder.org](http://www.shouldertoshoulder.org)

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Wayne E. Waite, Esq., Board President

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1 South Main Street, Suite 1800  
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December 14, 2015

## *Graduation at Instituto Héctor Orlando Gómez Cisneros Madgalena, Intibucá*

At this high school we have just one graduate: José Milton Mejía Nolasco, graduating in Information & Technology. He was also recognized as a member of the soccer team and one of the team's best players.



HS Principal



The school principal said that Milton had been one of the best and most well-behaved students. She said that despite the fact that his father had rejected him completely when he left for the US, he never lost his good morals and that the experience actually motivated him to push forward and fight for his degree.

As Program Coordinator with Shoulder to Shoulder, I'd like to add that working with these students is the most gratifying experience that I could have, especially when the students continue to be motivated despite the setbacks they have experienced. With this program and Shoulder to Shoulder, they have found an opportunity to help make their biggest dream a reality.

Thank you very much to the donors, to the people who have helped look for funds for this program, to the administrators that come from the US to help here in Honduras, to the teachers and other collaborators that have offered their time without expecting compensation. Thank you to everyone in general who without knowing these students have given them their time, talents, grace, and funds.

In the end, the result is unforgettable – a huge smile on the faces of these students as they hold their professional diplomas.

Damaris Quintero, Program Coordinator, Honduras



Damaris

## Graduación at Instituto Departamental Santo Tomas de Aquino Camasca



At this high school we are very happy and privileged to celebrate and congratulate four of our scholarship students graduating in Information & Technology. These students come from families with very limited financial resources. Therefore, without the generous support from U.S. donors and Shoulder to Shoulder, they would not be achieving their dream of obtaining a degree and becoming part of the work force in this remote region. They had to overcome so many challenges, but never gave up. They are such an inspiration to many other students in this area. We are so proud of them!

Denis Ramos, María Ramos, Deylyn Yanory , María Vásquez



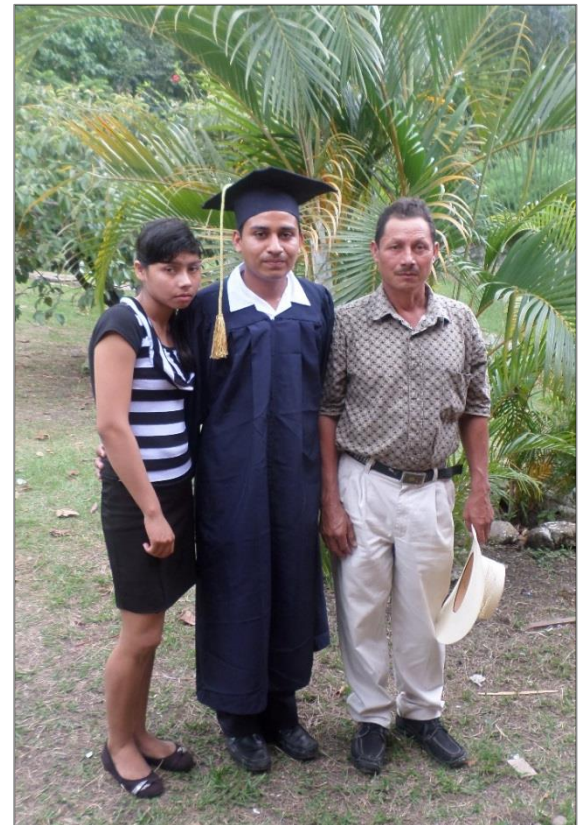
We also celebrated Jr. High graduations. These students hope to have an opportunity to continue three more years in high school in order to obtain a degree in information technology. Congratulations to (not all in the picture):

Carlos Javier Lemus Del Cid, Gelda Ernestina Díaz Laínez, William Edgardo Gutiérrez Santos, Ada Argentina Gómez Vásquez, Manuel De Jesús Herrera, Carolina Yamileth Ramos Díaz, Ana Lucia Orellana Mejía, Alba Aidé Sánchez, Belky Yesenia Bautista Díaz, Lidia Yadira Martínez Martínez, Elida Yamileth Laínez Guevara.

We are very proud of our 7th and 8th grade students. They finished the 2015 year strong. Although they face challenges everyday (walking long distances, not always having all the resources needed available, limited school supplies, lack of nutritional meals, etc.), they always give their best at school.



## Students from Camasca





Camasca, Intibuca , Honduras , November 24, 2015

Dear Sponsors of Shoulder to Shoulder Scholarship Program,

Special greetings, wishing you all the best in your lives, and may God continue to bless each of you every day.

On behalf of all the scholarship students benefiting from Shoulder to Shoulder Scholarship Program in Intibucá, we want to express our most sincere gratitude for such generous hearts willing to help so many of our young people. Your donation is providing an opportunity to many low income boys and girls to further their education from 6th to 12th grade.

Thanks to your support, we have a chance to see firsthand how this opportunity changes so many young lives. Once our students graduate with a HS diploma, they can obtain jobs and eventually enroll themselves in long distance or university level weekend programs. We've also seen how our graduates are able to help their parents meet their needs. They also provide financial resources so that their younger sibling can further their education, especially children of single mothers. This is a program where we have to wait at least six years to harvest fruit, but it really leaves profound footprints/traces in their lives and their families.

Once again, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of our donors. We have not met some of you in person, but we know that God has written your names in a special place, He will always blessed you with health, safety, and financial resources. I want to leave you with this saying.... THOSE WHO GIVE TO THE POOR, GIVE BACK TO GOD AND ARE NOT LEFT EMPTY.

I wish you the best in 2016.

Respectfully,

Profa. Iris Villanueva

Volunteer Scholarship Coordinator, Camasca



## Graduación at Instituto Concepción de Guarajambala, Concepcion



Congratulations to Neiby Merary for obtaining a teaching degree from one of the best teaching schools in Honduras. Her childhood hasn't been easy, she faced so many challenges, but never gave up. She didn't have a mother for moral support, but Neiby always knew that she would send angels from heaven to help her. She is the first lucky member of her family to be able to graduate.

Neiby sends greetings and many thanks to everyone who contributed to her scholarship. Six years ago, STS gave her an opportunity to continue in school beyond sixth grade. Thanks to your generosity she was able to successfully reach her dream. She wants to dedicate her diploma to her family, friends, teachers and especially our STS sponsors who put trust in her. She didn't want to disappoint them!

Thank you much.  
Sincerely,  
Neiby Merary, Elementary School Teacher



We also had eight additional students graduating in Concepcion.



- ✚ Dania Concepción Ramos, obtaining a HS Diploma in Electricity. A highly motivated young lady. She didn't have much support from her family. During the last six years, she worked part time and attended school in the afternoons.
- ✚ María Fátima Orellana Castro, obtained a Teaching Degree from one of the best teaching schools in Honduras (La Esperanza, Intibucá).
- ✚ Lesbia Suyapa Márquez, graduating in Information Technology. She has been in the program for six years. Walked to school 45 minutes in the morning and 45 in the afternoon.
- ✚ Elmer Danilo López graduating in Electricity.

- ✚ Jhonal Alejandro Torres Mejía, graduating in Electricity.
- ✚ Estenia Vásquez Pineda, she has been in the program for six years.
- ✚ Enrique Mauricio Arévalo, graduating in Electricity.

## Scholarship Program in Santa Lucía

Several of our students from Santa Lucia were acknowledged for Academic Excellence!



## Your Donation Makes a World of Difference

Your contribution will help us make sure that one or more of our 100+ scholarship students in 2016 will have all necessary books, supplies, transportation, uniforms, housing, and after-school support. For \$38 a month, or \$450 annually, your donation provides a child with an entire years' worth of education, including books. Gifts of less than \$450 are combined to provide as many full scholarships as possible.

Continued support can be provided by donating on-line at [www.shouldertoshoulder.org](http://www.shouldertoshoulder.org) or by check sent to our accountants at:

Pohlman & Talmage CPAs, Inc.  
3445 South Dixie Dr., Suite 200  
Dayton, OH 45439

Please write: "**scholarship program**" in the memo line

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. Please feel free to email [scholarship@shouldertoshoulder.org](mailto:scholarship@shouldertoshoulder.org), [fideg@shouldertoshoulder.org](mailto:fideg@shouldertoshoulder.org), or call at (513) 307-5048 with questions.

With Great Appreciation,

Fide Gehner

U.S. Scholarship Program Coordinator (volunteer)