



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, INC.

*Association Hombro a Hombro
Santa Lucia, Intibuca, Honduras*

www.shouldertoshoulder.org

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1 South Main Street, Suite 1800
Dayton, OH 45402

Wayne E. Waite, Esq., Board President
Richard Buten, Ph.D., Chief Financial Officer

November 18, 2015

Shoulder to Shoulder Scholarship Program Update

Dear Scholarship Program Sponsor:

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update about the Shoulder to Shoulder (STS) Scholarship Program in Honduras and to thank you for your past participation in this important program. This educational program has been in existence for many years, as we serve students throughout the area of Intibucá, where our clinics and healthcare sites are located.



We are very pleased to inform you that several of our scholarship students will be celebrating their graduation this month as the Honduran school year is coming to an end. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to sponsor 106 students this year of which 14 will be graduating in November. They will be receiving a three-year degree (equivalent to a HS diploma in the U.S.) in areas such as: computers, community development, nursing, teaching and small business development. This will enable them to apply for salaried jobs and eventually help themselves, their families and community. Without Shoulder to Shoulder's commitment and your generosity, these students would never have had a chance to pursue their dream of continuing their education beyond sixth grade.

We have so much to celebrate this year. Besides celebrating graduations in the communities of Camasca, Concepcion, Magdalena and Santa Lucia, we also are very proud of our three students attending the university in Tegucigalpa. Marleny is finishing her third of a five-year program in nursing; Jose is in his second year of nursing. Mirna is in her second year of a four-year program in business administration. These three students were carefully selected and given the rare opportunity to continue with their education at the university level. They come from very poor families and without such generous support from a sponsor in the U.S., they would be stuck in the cycle of poverty.

This past summer, my family and I spent three weeks in Honduras, mainly in the areas that STS serves. Our lives were once again touched by the conditions and lack of basic needs people face on a daily basis. Due to safety concerns in the country, international aid has been reduced or gone away entirely as have other sources of income such as manufacturing and tourism. The unemployment rate is very high, and the possibility of obtaining a job almost becomes a dream for many. The opportunities for young people, especially in this rural, once very isolated area, are so limited. Various parents, teachers, mayors and local community leaders asked

me about the scholarship program. They are very concerned that so many students aren't able to continue their school beyond sixth grade. Without furthering their education, so many will be forced into "survival mode," trying to earn a menial living as housekeepers or field workers.

As my children played soccer in the town square, I saw much love and care from the local children toward each other and mine. The children didn't mind sharing the only small bag of water (you can buy it in bags) they had. There is so much sense of community, people wouldn't mind sharing with us the last bit of food they had saved for their next meal.

When we returned back to the U.S., it was time for back to school shopping. We made several trips to the local stores trying to find the perfect color or design of school supplies, a nice backpack, stylish clothes and shoes, etc.



Scholarship students receiving

I was quickly reminded that in some parts of Honduras, children don't have these options. They can only afford one pencil or pen at a time. Paper is purchased as individual sheets, markers, glue and colored pencils are a luxury items; kids may have to wait until mom sells her chicken or eggs in order to buy even basic school supplies.

As you know, a program without funding cannot continue, and as we look ahead for the 2016 school year, our financial position is not strong. Many students will be at risk of losing scholarships as a result. We need you, our committed donors, to come through. We are grateful for your faithful

support. We hope for a very positive response so we can bring cheer and hope to our students as we let them know that they can continue in the program next year.

We have also included some testimonials from current students in the program, which demonstrate the impact it has on their lives.

Thanks again for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With Great Appreciation,

Fide Gehner

US Scholarship Program Coordinator (volunteer)

fideg@shouldertoshoulder.org, scholarship@shouldertoshoulder.org

cell -513-307-5048

Your Donation Makes a World of Difference

Continued support can be provided by donating on-line at 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.



Gracias!!!

Queridos(as) Donantes de Hombro a Hombro

Le doy gracias primeramente a "Dios" por ser una de las jóvenes becada de Hombro a Hombro durante 6 años de mis estudios, esto me ha servido de mucha ayuda porque soy una de las jóvenes con escasos recursos no tenía de como seguir estudiando no contaba con el apoyo de mis padres por que me abandonaron cuando yo tenía 12 años y gracias a Hombro a Hombro me dieron una beca para continuar mis estudios y me siento muy contenta de que yo podría seguir estudiando ciclo Común y la carrera que me gustaba que es Bachillerato Técnico profesional en Contaduría y Finanzas en este año 2015 me voy a graduar y obtendré el título de Bachillerato Técnico profesional en Contaduría y Finanzas se lo dedico a todos los que integran y apoyan de Hombro a Hombro y donantes y mis queridos abuelos gracias a ellos ya soy una profesional para trabajar y apoyar a mi familia me siento muy agradecida con todos los que me apoyaron porque no hay nada imposible para estudiar.

Dios les
Bendiga
Siempre

Siempre

Estaré muy

Agradecida con
Hombro a Hombro

Dear Donors of Shoulder to Shoulder:

I give thanks first to God to be one of the youth receiving a scholarship from Shoulder to Shoulder during six years of my studies. This has been a great help to me because I am one of the youth with scarce resources to continue studying, and I could not count on help from my parents because they abandoned me when I was 12. Thanks to Shoulder to Shoulder who gave me a scholarship to continue my studies, I feel happy because I have been able to continue studying.

I am in the last year of high school and in 2015 I will graduate with a technical degree in Accounting and Finances. I dedicate myself to help Shoulder to Shoulder and donors and my dear grandparents because thanks to them, I am (going to be) a professional to work and help my family.

I feel very appreciative of all who have helped because nothing is impossible if you (continue to) study.

God bless you always. Forever I will be very appreciative of Shoulder to Shoulder.

Querida Donante *

Espero que se encuentre bien de salud y a lado de su familia que Dios la Bendiga y derrame muchas bendiciones hoy mañana y siempre

El motivo de tomar papel y lapiz es para darles las gracias por el apoyo de la beca de Hombro a Hombro que me ha servido de ayuda durante mis 6 años de estudio, y es la persona que quiero y la admira mucho por el esfuerzo que ha hecho para apoyarnos con una beca a cada joven que la necesita, que con mucho agradecimiento la tomamos para nuestros estudios. En este año 2015 me voy a graduar y obtendré el título de Bachillerato Técnico Profesional en Contaduría y Finanzas, este título se lo dedico a mi querida donante y a mis abuelos que son las que me han apoyado constantemente para ser una profesional y poder trabajar para apoyar a mi familia y continuar mis estudios en la universidad a sacar una licenciatura porque con esfuerzo y apoyo todo se puede. Tengo 18 años vivo con mis abuelos y dos hermanos que los aprecio mucho mis clases favoritas son las matemáticas, etc. en este último año de mi carrera me ha ido muy bien en mis estudios y he puesto todo mi esfuerzo para siempre dar lo mejor. Estas son mis pocas palabras me quedo agradecida con el apoyo que me brinda durante mis estudios y estoy muy orgullosa porque ya soy una profesional y lista para trabajar y me gustaría verla por última vez mi querida donante la quiero mucho hasta pronto

Muchas Gracias Por su Apoyo

Dios la Bendiga Siempre

De: Estenia Vásquez Pineda

Dear Donor:

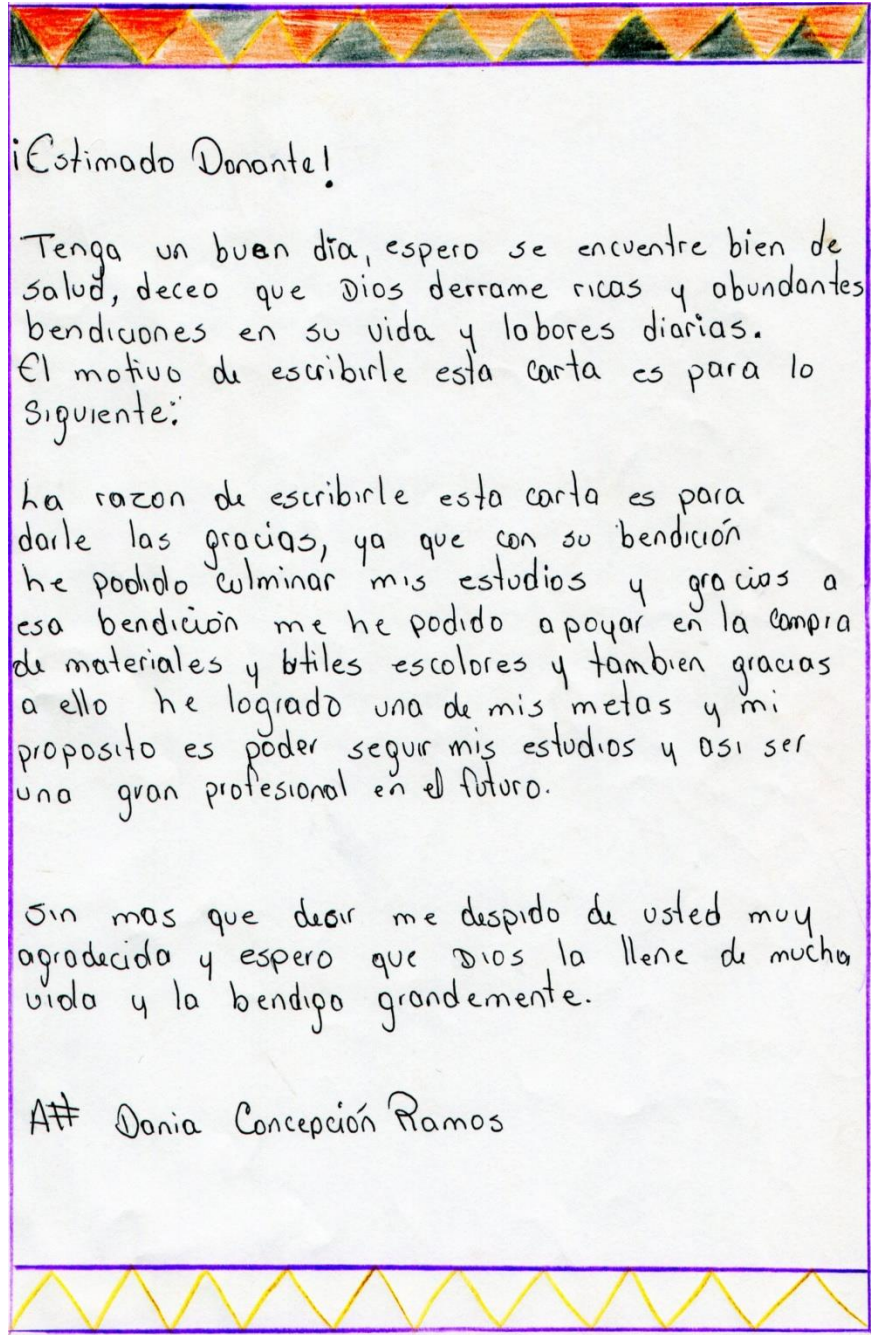
I hope that this finds you in good health at the side of your family and that God blesses you with great blessings today, tomorrow and forever.

The reason for this note is to give thanks for the help from the scholarship from Shoulder to Shoulder. This has helped for 6 years of my studies and I want to thank you for the strength you have given to every student who needs it. With your help I will graduate with a degree in Accounting and Finances. You dear donor and my grandparents have helped me constantly to become a professional and be able to work to help my family and continue studying in the university to get a licensure (=associates degree) because of your help.

I am 18 years old and live with my grandparents and 2 siblings. I really like my classes but my favorite is math. This last year of my career (studies) has been my best.

These are my few words to tell you I remain appreciative of your help in my becoming a professional offered to me through my studies.

I am proud and would like to see you my dear donor. I love you much. Until then...much thanks for your help. God bless you always. From: Estenia Vasquez Pineda



¡Estimado Donante!

Tenga un buen día, espero se encuentre bien de salud, deo que Dios derrame ricas y abundantes bendiciones en su vida y labores diarias. El motivo de escribirle esta carta es para lo siguiente:

La razón de escribirle esta carta es para darle las gracias, ya que con su bendición he podido culminar mis estudios y gracias a esa bendición me he podido apoyar en la compra de materiales y útiles escolares y también gracias a ello he logrado una de mis metas y mi propósito es poder seguir mis estudios y así ser una gran profesional en el futuro.

Sin más que decir me despido de usted muy agradecida y espero que Dios la llene de mucha vida y la bendiga grandemente.

A# Dania Concepción Ramos

Esteemed donor:

Have a good day; I hope this finds you in good health. My wish is that God pours out rich and abundant blessings on your life and your daily work. The reason to write is for the following:

The reason to write this letter is to give you thanks, and through your blessings I have been able to finish my studies. And thanks to this blessing it helped me in the purchase of school materials and texts and I have reached one of my goals and my purpose is to continue to become a great professional in the future.

Without more to say, I take my leave of you but say that I am thankful for you and hope that God fills your life with rich blessings.

Sincerely, Dania Concepcion Ramos



For the 2015 academic year, within the towns of Magdalena, Concepción and Santa Lucia, 60 scholarships were awarded:

- 15 in Magdalena
- 30 in Concepción
- 15 in Santa Lucia
- 43 in Camasca
- 3 University in Tegucigalpa

These scholarships are provided to students who have proven academically that they wish to succeed in their educational efforts. They are students with few economic resources to afford education past the obligatory years of government-paid schooling. Every effort is made by our committee in Honduras to invest scholarship funds wisely in every decision made for student beneficiaries. “Thank you” for every precious donation that you make for our students.

We would also like to acknowledge Academic Excellence of students from Magdalena and Santa Lucia:

- ❖ Maria Vlaney Ramos
- ❖ Jessika Esmeralda Marquez
- ❖ Lillian Hayde Cedillo
- ❖ Maria Yolanda Martinez
- ❖ Jessica Lorena Sort

Thank you again for your generous support!

