



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, INC.

Camasca, Intibucá, Honduras

www.shouldertoshoulder.org

YEAR END REPORT: 2020

STAFF:

We could not do the wonderful work we do – without the dedication of our staff!



Board Member, Richard (Dick) Buten visiting Honduras (Sept 2019)



Laura Failla Manship
Executive Director



Mariela Rodriguez
Assistant Director



Edel Andino
Information Technology Director



Minsis Ramos
Coordinator Educational Advancement & Finance



Ana Gisela Ramos
Director Nutrition Program



Sandra Diaz
Assistant Nutrition Program



Gustavo Meza
Coordinator Brigades



Iris Giron
Community Development Coordinator



Nely Vasquez
Educational Advancement Assistant



Damaris Quintero
Coordinator Scholarships

FINANCES:

Balance of bank accounts on 12/31/2019: \$280,199. Balance of bank accounts on 11/30/2020: \$322,752. (12/31/2020 Financial statement has not yet been received.)

Budgets have been made for 2021 for all programs. All programs will end 2021 in the black – except for Robotics, which is still carrying the deficit from the international robotics competition in 2019.

	Surplus/Deficit as of 12/31/2020	2021 Budget	Expected funds in 2021	Surplus/Deficit
Brigades	23,242	25,000	12000	10,242
Nutrition	49,410	45,000	6,000	10,410
School construction	4360	4,000	0	360
Bilingual School	25,670	29,000	10,000	6,670
CREE	2,291	195,000	200,000	7,541
Robotics/STEM Center	-14,388	35,000	35,000	(14,388)
	90,585			20,835

NUTRITION:

The Chispuditos program ended in early 2020. This was due to two reasons: 1) Mathile no longer wanted to support the program and 2) Due to coronavirus, the border between Guatemala and Honduras was closed (Chispuditos is produced in a factory in Guatemala).

A new nutrition program was started in November 2020. It is named: **Hens Hatching Hope: Un Huevo Cada Dia**. Local women are recruited to raise hens and eggs. 400 families are given vouchers for free eggs. StS pays the hatcheries for the eggs. The program is located in 20 communities in Colomocagua. We are working with Dr. Ana Palacios (formerly of Mathile) who is now a professor at Indiana University. She obtained IRB approval of the project. We have a control group of 200 families in Concepcion (who do not receive the eggs).

The annual budget for HHH is \$50,000. We had recurrent donors who were supporting our Chispuditos program via monthly contributions on Global Giving. Fortunately, they all continued their support of the new program. Since November, we have raised \$17,000 via Global Giving. We have enough funds to run the program until the end of the year study (January 2022). We will continue to raise funds throughout 2021, with the hope that we can continue in 2022.

BRIGADES:

We were only able to host 4 brigades in 2020, before the pandemic struck. The last brigade was OSU in March 2020. All 2020 brigades were cancelled. The on-going costs to keep the Brigade program running are Gustavo's salary and truck expenses. We have kept Gustavo on salary, and he has been providing transportation to our other programs (Guachi & Pinares Community Development; Scholarship Program; and Education programs). All brigades have been cancelled for the first 6 months of 2021.

Two of the Affiliates (Brown and VCU) fully fund a Community Development position. The funds they provide, and the subsequent expenses, are in the Brigade account and budget.

Year:	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Travelers:	185	139	140	47	?????

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Fidelina Gehner has continued to run this program and has managed to keep it healthy and strong. The budget for 2020 was \$37,000. Although many supplies were purchased in Jan and Feb of 2020, they were not used. Those supplies have been saved, and that allows the 2021 budget to be lower. Fundraising for this program has been a challenge, so in December, Fide worked with Laura to set up a fundraising program in the GlobalGiving platform. The program is named: **Education Beyond 6th Grade: Dreams Can Come True.** \$125 was raised in the first few weeks; a campaign will be mounted in March during GG's Matching Funds campaign.

There was a very positive collaboration between the Scholarship Program and the Education program this year:

- (1) We used some of the scholarship funds to purchase internet access once/week for 15 students who could not afford to do their school work due to not having the ability to purchase internet services.
- (2) Damaris handed out tablets to 60 scholarship students. These tablets were loaded with educational material and books. This is part of the Learning Equality grant, and data from the tablet usage will be reported to LE.

ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH CARE (CONVENIO):

1	Well in Santa Lucia: Donations were provided to the Convenio to dig a well in Santa Lucia in 2019. In 2020, the well still was not working, because it lacked a pump. Funds were provided for the purchase of a pump.	\$300
2	Pap Tests: A donor provided \$500 so that the Convenio could pay down some of their \$5000 debt to the lab. Payment was made in June 2020	\$500
3	Brigades & Medications: StS hosted 4 brigades in 2020. On average, each brigade provided \$1000 worth of medications to the communities.	\$4,000
4	"Families in Need" – An individual donor has donated funds that can be used for patients with special needs. In 2020, \$4500 was provided to the Convenio. There is still \$2500 remaining to be spent.	\$4,500
5	Sanders Donation --Roy and Melinda Sanders donated \$15,000 in early 2020 for improvements at the Concepcion Clinic. Half of the funds were used to make improvements in the physical plant. They will use the other to make purchases of medical equipment.	\$7,500
6	Medications -- Convenio provided a list of the medications they needed. \$5000 worth of meds were purchased for them in 2020.	\$5,000
7	Josephson Fund –Made a donation of \$20,000 at the end of 2020. \$5000 of that will be earmarked for the purchase of medications in 2021.	
8	Respirators and OR Equipment -- Dr. Plutarco Rivera provided the funds to have respirators shipped from Massachusetts to Honduras in April 2020. Susie worked with Dr. Rolando Rolandelli, as he made arrangements to donate OR Equipment to the Hospital in La Esperanza in July 2020.	
	TOTAL:	\$21,800

DENTAL:

The Tepe's sent dental equipment down to Drs. Idalia and Flor with the Ohio State University brigade in early March 2020. Both Drs Idalia and Flor figured out how to safely provide dental services. They provided many fewer services in 2020, than the year before. The pandemic has had a major negative effect on the revenue stream for both dentists. They are hanging in, but not making much money.

As in prior years, the plan was for Dra Idalia to provide dental services to the 150 children at the Bilingual School (at a cost of \$50/student). The funds were to come from the Dental Budget. This program never started this year. The Las Delicias project was also shut down due COVID-19.

The Tepe's plan is that 2020 is the last year that they will be raising funds for the Dental program. The money in the Dental acct (approximately \$80,000 will be taken out of StS bank acct, and will be put into an investment account. The plan is that \$10,000 will be withdrawn each year, for Dr Idalia to use for programs she provides. It is expected that there will be funds available for 10 years.

EDUCATION

Bilingual School (BLS) - The school year started in February 2020, and again the Education Department only provided 4 teachers. School then went virtual in March 2020. Although the Parents' Association had originally agreed to pay half of the salaries of the 3 needed teachers, they did not do that because the parents did not pay any monthly tuition. StS paid the 3 teachers half of their pay.

The HS created a special Advanced Track at the colegio for our 6th graders (now 7th graders). The new track allows the 7th graders to have a dedicated classroom at the colegio with an extended school day. During the extended day, they would have English language instruction in Math, Science and English. The English teacher and Math/Science teacher both attempted to provide virtual classes. The English teacher gave up, after 2 months (due to lack of interest on the part of the students). They did receive Math/Science each day in English (paid for by StS).

Follow the link to see the 4th Quarter 2020 Education Progress report:

<https://hondurasrobot.org/1944-2/>

Improve Local Schools (CREE) –

- a. **Learning Equality Grant** -- (\$7500) We distributed approximately 100 tablets for at-home learning. This includes tablets for all our bilingual 7th graders, scholarship program students, and selected students with special needs. The tablets are loaded with a Beta copy of the stand-alone version of Kolibri. This hosts a digital version of the Honduran textbooks.
- b. **US Embassy Grant** – (\$25,000) Edel continues to acquire additional digital content from newly released textbooks. The work he did with World Vision on English language curriculum is under final review with the Ministry of Education. Mariela is working with the Honduran achievement

testing system and extracting data for the schools we work in plus a set of “controls.” Early analysis is showing improved math scores for colegios whose students used Kolibri -- both versus their prior performance and versus schools who are not using Kolibri. These results will be distributed once the analysis is completed.

- c. **International Development Bank Grant** – (\$200,000) We learned in December that we have been awarded this grant. It will be implemented in 2021.
- d. **Literacy Program:** Nely ran a pilot literacy program with a reading contest. To support this, we equipped the tablets with auxiliary storage and a library almost 100 digital books selected from the library of over 1000 titles provided by Learning Equality from public domain sources.

STEM Center – The STEM Center, located on the grounds of the HS, was completed in the December 2020. The government provided all funds for the construction; StS has promised to equip it, and provide technical consultation services. The HS is in the process of getting approval from the Education Dept to offer a HS degree program in Robotics.

Robotics –

a) Legos – We provided 14 Legos kits to nine teams in 6 municipalities. Due to coronavirus, the kits were used on a local level, but no regional competition was held.

b) FIRST Global – We participated in this virtual competition, and did very well. Minsis is the lead on this project, and we had a team of 12 students, and 3 Honduran teachers. (I believe we came in something like 20th place, world-wide.)

Submitted by: Laura Failla Manship

2/1/2021