



News from Norma

The Norma I Love Foundation a non-profit organization 501(c). TIN: 75-2473456
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Greetings, my friends! I send you a message of Christmas love and gratitude from the village of Mocorón. Every year that passes brings more progress for us in education, nutrition, medical care and preservation of our beautiful jungle. Let me share with you some of the stories...

Luz Medina, TINTORETTA For the past many years our women's organizations have been working hard to develop businesses that will support their families. This year we had the special privilege of hosting a guest teacher for the women's organization. Luz Medina of "Tintoretta: forever natural colors and threads," whom was sent by our good friends of **PNUD** (United Nations Programs for Development).



She was very educated in the art of dying fabric and in creating patterns on clothing with the colors found in our rainforest. It was a complicated process for the group to troop through the jungle in search of roots and bark that are suitable for fashion businesses. During the time that Luz worked with the women they were able to select a number of plants, harvest the leaves, the woody cortex or roots and then soak the plants to extract the color. Afterwards they created patterns on cloth and other artifacts to share the culture and style of the Misquito Indians with people who want to purchase their goods. Our goal for the women is to establish saving accounts that will buffer their families against hardships.



Many of the women are head of their own household and as single women raising children they need resources to assist their children in gaining education, proper health and development.

KIWANIS friends Another project that bolsters self-sufficiency among the women is our creation of a small sewing factory. Thanks to the Kiwanis of Arlington the women were able to add a wonderful manual machine from San Pedro Sula that cost about \$160 to purchase and bring to the rainforest. They will pedal their way toward success with this amazing machine that works in our forest without need of electricity. The North Star Kiwanis of Arlington donated first aid medications to the different villages.



Another generous donation was sent by **Charles Chaffin** and his Church friends from Manhattan, Kansas.



His group gathered many beautiful fabrics, zippers, buttons and other sewing notions for the budding entrepreneurs in Lisagni. With these gifts the women will be able to sew many items for their business ventures and thereby they will boost their family's access to further economic and social benefit.

Arts and Crafts Jewelry making was taught by our Canadian volunteers who showed the women how to use the coconut shells to carve jewelry pieces for sale to local customers. Sue, expressed her feelings, saying, "When I spend a few minutes teaching a woman to stand on her own to support her family I feel that I am fulfilling one of my favorite proverbs. Indeed, I am teaching a person to fish instead of giving them a hand-out for their daily dinner. It is the most rewarding experience of my life. Coming to Mocoacán is a dream come true. I would not trade the experience for any luxury trip."



Bakery Shop In Mocoacán our baking ventures are in early development—perhaps one of our friends reading this letter will yearn to visit us with many cookie cutters and cookie presses, rolling pins and baking sheets that we can use to make treats for baking in our little stone ovens. Then, when the women go out and sell these little treasures the money that they earn will support the education of their children.

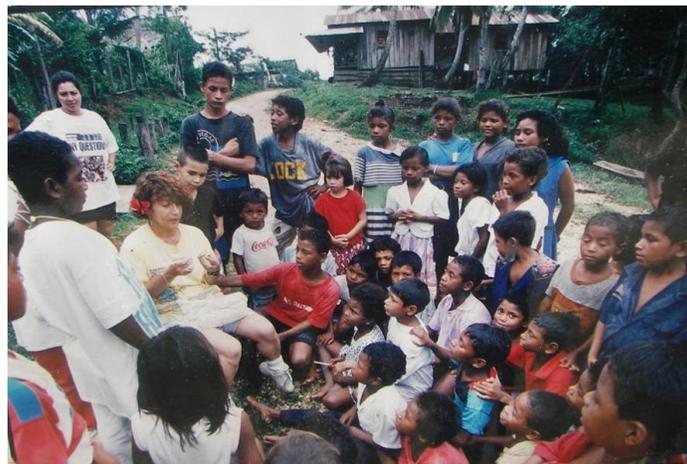
Planting projects continue to be some of our best options for villagers. As the people plant, harvest, and store the seeds for the next season they have been building up their stock of seed that responds well to our climate conditions. The fields that they plant have been sustainable due to their increased effort in adding humus to the soil to prevent nutritional depletion. These projects can always use seeds, shovels, rakes, and hoes.

Mahogany Creations The young men in our village have honed their skills in carving by creating masterful serving trays, napkin holders, chairs and other articles that capture the grandeur of nature in the rich grain of our native mahogany. We welcome your support of their project. You can send carving knives, chisels and other woodworking tools that will make these boys capable of creating viable careers.



SEND HOPE Our great appreciation is extended to Dr. Tom Brian and his foundation that brought 28 people in a medical team to our area. They were able to treat many people and alleviate much suffering for all of the villagers. We appreciate the wonderful service they offered. Also thanks to Send Hope for transporting your donations to La Mosquitia. I also thank the Rotary Club for continuing installation of more than 500 water filters in the villages of Sirsitara and Mistruck.

We were visited by the **HP Corps of Engineers** of the South Command. They are interested in building some schools and medical clinics in the area.



Christmas Stories As Christmas approaches and as the economy in the USA remains very troubled my thoughts are turned to a Christmas long ago in 1996. At this time we did not have the luxury of collecting presents for the people; I had no toys for the children. But, as I was sitting in the sun outside my home, there were a few children around me. I wanted to celebrate the wonder of Christmas with them so I thought about the small things that make us so happy, even without elaborate gifts. I asked the children, "Do you know what peanut butter is? Do you know what jelly is?" But none of the children had tasted these foods. "Do you want to taste these, and make a little treat?" Oh, the children were so excited!!! The excitement mounted as I opened jars of peanut butter, jelly and then a box of crackers. As I spread the crackers with peanut butter and jelly more children came to us and all of them were very anxious to enjoy something new. When I passed out the crackers children's faces lit up with pure joy!! They could not even contain their elation as the sweet jelly and the rich peanut butter filled their mouths. When I told the children that we had many jars of peanut butter and jelly and that they could take the treats all around the village to spread Christmas joy, these children immediately became filled with the desire to share their bounty in the true Christmas spirit. The rest of the day was spent enjoying the infectious happiness spread by these children. Never have I felt such happiness on a Christmas day! Instead of feeling distressed because I had so little to give that year, the simplicity of the day accented qualities of the human spirit extended with a hand of sharing.

Goals for 2011

- Construction of a vocational institute in Mocorón
- Reforestation projects
- Find marketing support for the women organization
- Continue support for various medical teams
- Galvanize silos for the containment of rice, beans and corn
- Purchase of seeds corn, beans, rice and vegetables
- Pursue of electricity for the community of Mocorón

As you enjoy your Christmas celebrations this year, may I wish the most splendid season, especially in its simplicity. And, if, this Christmas season finds your bank empty, do not despair! Just open peanut butter and jelly and spread these delicacies on crackers. Think of the happy smiles of these children and may we all enjoy the simple beauty of humanity together. As always, you are welcome at my home in Mocorón at any time. If the season finds you with enough to share, we would love to provide a destination for your charity that will continue the legacy of this foundation. Remember that all monetary donations are tax deductible, using our non-profit tax ID number and can be paid through Pay-Pal on our website www.NormaMocoron.org.

Merry Christmas from the Norma I. Love Foundation!
God bless you all!

