

Trujillo, Honduras

ANNUAL REPORT TO  
OUR SUPPORTERS  
2009 - 2010

Whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me, And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me, but Him who sent me.

—Mark 9:37

## A Letter From Our Founder

Dear Friends of the Farm,

Thank you for your spiritual and financial generosity this past year. The Farm of the Child has been truly blessed with God's love and providence. We are blessed to be called to serve those in need, to walk with those who are alone. There are so many children who want for the protection of a family, who hunger and thirst, both physically and spiritually for the most basic nourishment of food, drink, and love. Your support has enabled us to continue our mission.

Every day on the news we are bombarded with images of strife and tragedy. We have witnessed children and families suffering from disasters, both natural and man-made. In the face of increasing need, we have heard of charitable organizations struggling to keep their doors open and programs running. We at Farm of the Child have faced many of these same struggles; this year we anticipated a 10% reduction in our program budget. However, thanks to your response to our call for support, we were able to meet our full program budget and maintain all programs at capacity to care for all of the children at the Farm. The volunteers and our donor family exemplify God's endless generosity. It is through this genuine charity, and the grace of God, that we have been able to sustain, and in some cases, increase, the programs and services that we provide to the orphaned and abandoned children of Eastern Honduras. Those who visit, volunteer, share their time, expertise, and wealth, truly live God's word and I thank you. It is you who makes this mission possible!

Earlier this year we called on each of you to continue your support in the face of economic adversity and wide-spread international need and you answered. Your generosity and support in these tough times has enabled the Farm to continue to thrive. As we look forward to the next year, I hope and pray you will again answer our humble request and continue to support the Farm in the upcoming year and achieve our goal of making a sustainable difference in the lives of the children. As this hope is realized, it speaks of greater things, taking us all one step closer to our common goal, our collective mission, of bringing about God's Kingdom in our midst.

As you review this annual report of our programs and activities at the Farm, I humbly ask that you pray for all of those who touch the Farm of the Child and consider making a donation to help us continue God's work. With your prayers and financial support, you help us continue to be an instrument of God's love and grace. Together, we are making the difference in the lives of these children and in the future of our Church and the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Zulena Pescatore

Co-Founder, Farm of the Child

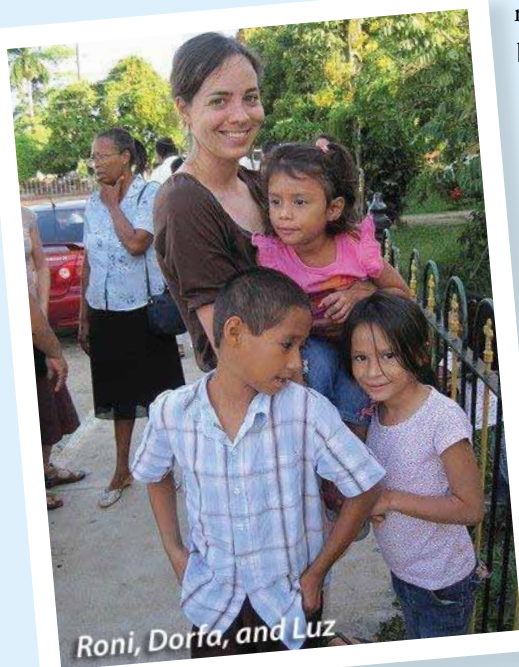


## Family-Style Homes

With the Holy Family as the model, our Honduran house parents lovingly raise six to eight children in each orphan home.

Each home is dedicated to children of the same age, gender and developmental stage. There are six family-style homes, each named for a patron saint, that make up the Farm of the Child community. In FY 2009, we welcomed four new children to the Farm of the Child family. Through the love and care they receive, our children begin to heal both physically and emotionally.

Despite their



Roni, Dorfa, and Luz

challenging pasts, Roni, Dorfa, and Luz reveal to us the resiliency of their spirits in countless ways each day. Roni has the lively imagination of a true story-teller. He can be seen at any given moment of the day playing around his house with homemade toys he's constructed

out of miscellaneous materials. He enjoys catching shrimp in plastic coke bottles at the river with Cub Scouts, is perhaps our most gregarious child on the Farm, and has a sensitivity and an instinct for compassion that are wise beyond his years. He says "thank you" more than any other child.

Dorfa is thoughtful, quiet, protective, and sweet. Though small for her age, she shepherds her younger sister, Luz, with sisterly patience and authority. She loves to take photos and asks insistently for the camera if one is nearby. She has a real desire to learn and holds the song book each morning in the chapel despite not being able to read the words on the pages. She sings quietly the songs she is learning by heart. She is keenly aware of all that happens around her. Luz is mischievous, affectionate, and joyful.

She is one of our two youngest girls on the Farm and has formed a fast comradery with Cati, with whom she attends pre-school each day. The two can be seen singing happily to each other as they sweep with brooms taller than they are. They walk hand-in-hand on the dirt path to their house. In Spanish, Luz's name means "light."

Brayan (*his photo is on the cover*) has charmed the entire Farm into falling in love with him. He is a spunky, stocky little guy with a love for soccer games, eating mangoes, and sitting near and receiving hugs from any person

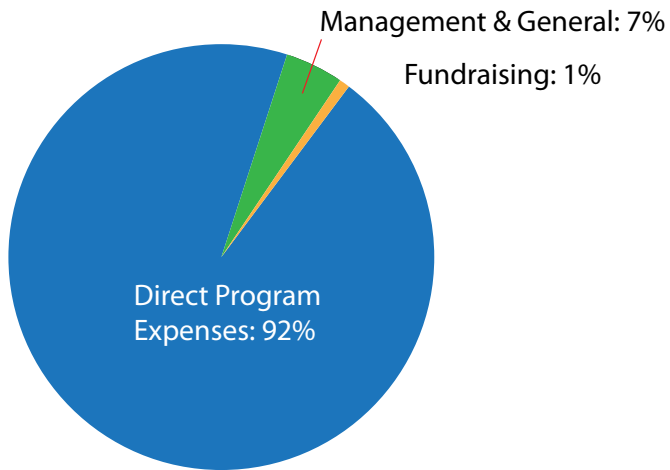


that walks by. His transition has been for the most part very calm and beautiful to watch. His housemates have embraced him as their newest "brother," teaching him the rules of the Farm, helping him to catch up in school (he is in first grade with three other boys in the house), and playing lots and lots of fútbol.

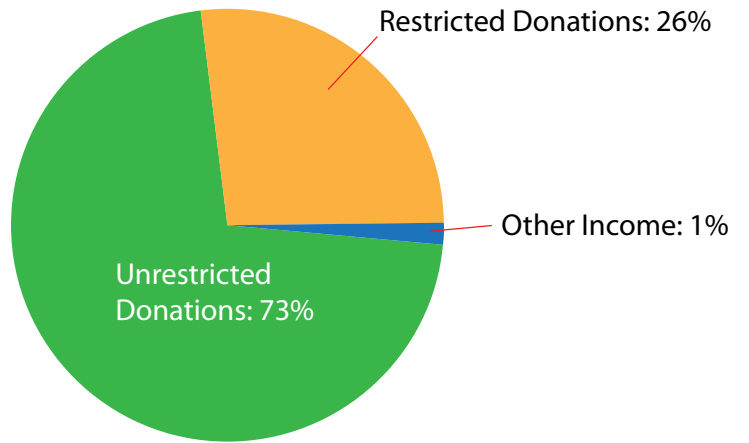
He brings some street roughness, not to mention a mouth that would shock anyone. But Brayan's new family is doing an amazing job at helping him to learn, grow, and just be a seven year old child, without fear of where his next meal will come from or from whom he will need to protect himself.



## Expenses



## Donations & Income



**Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers, Farm of the Child is able to commit the majority of resources to directly serving the children and poor of Honduras.**

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

St. Peter's Catholic School and the Vincent Pescatore Catholic Institute, serving over 100 children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 9th grade, remain two of the top schools in the Department of Colón. In FY 2009, Farm of the Child achieved full accreditation of the Vincent Pescatore Catholic Institute as a basic education center, now operating under a complete and



accredited curriculum, recognized by the Honduran Ministry of Education. Serving twenty-two students in 7th through 9th grades, the Vincent Pescatore Catholic Institute continues to prepare youth for both academic and personal success. Many graduates from the Vincent Pescatore Catholic Institute have gone on to complete their secondary education at the premier Catholic senior high schools on the northern coast of Honduras. Students receive excellent preparation, not only in the core subjects of math, natural sciences, social studies, Spanish and English, but also receive training in computation, public speaking and debate, Catholic-Christian tradition and living, creative writing, economics, theater, health, physical education, vocational and technical skills.

## VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Vocational and life-skills training is a life-long process for the children at Farm of the Child. All children are assigned household chores from the time they are toddlers, assisting in household duties ranging from sweeping the patio to washing the dishes, taking out the trash to hand-

washing their clothing. Chores are assigned based on age and physical capacity, but the lesson is universal—that each child is a productive and contributing member of the household with both rights and responsibilities. Younger children learn from the house parents and older children, while older children learn valuable lessons as well from teaching the younger ones. Starting at the age of 12, children at Farm of the Child begin to participate in a formal program called PAVI (Puente a la Vida Independiente—Bridge to Independent Living). This program is designed to teach not only practical job-related, vocational skills, but also some of the more intangible life-skills such as personal presentation and showing appreciation. Children are assigned to work mentors who not only supervise their physical work (maintenance, construction, agriculture, cooking, childcare, sewing, tutoring, etc.), but also teach and evaluate important skills such as promptness, completion of tasks, organization, attention to detail, attitude, and much more.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

In FY 2009, three youths graduated from Farm of the Child's Independent Living Program. Joel, Enma and Isabel represent the greatest hopes that we have for our children upon their arrival at Farm of the Child. All three youths spent over half of their childhood at Farm of the Child. Each came to the Farm family with four other siblings to learn that family can mean much more than those whose blood you share. And in November of 2009, all three graduated, with honors, from the top Catholic high schools in La Ceiba, Honduras. After graduation, Joel, Enma and Isabel entered the world of working adults. Armed with the skills and formation that they received during their years at Farm of the Child, and with a modest nest egg from their years of working over school vacations, each stepped out as an independent, self-reliant adult. Now the true test of our mission begins as these young adults begin to mold their adult lives, and we hope and pray that all that they learned at Farm of the Child will serve them well.

*Students receive excellent preparation beginning at the school located at the Farm.*



*Enma and Isabel have been well equipped to enter the workng world.*



*The PAVI Program teaches the children practical skills like bicycle repair.*

The Farm of the Child continues to build the Kingdom of God through the celebration of our Catholic faith and continued sacramental catechesis and formation for children and adults alike. The Farm community rejoiced throughout the year in celebrations of Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Holy Matrimony, the profession of final vows for one of our Franciscan Sisters, and a half a dozen quinceañeras, the traditional 15th birthday celebration.

The Farm was born of the profound faith of Vincent and Zulena, who, following the voice of God, achieved

the dream of serving many needy children, with an integrated and whole formation that instills core Christian values.

Spirituality is the principle pillar upon which the life of the Farm of the Child is sustained. The entire community participates and is nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist. It is beautiful to see the children and adults leave their houses in the morning and in the evenings with only the sound of a bell, to gather together spiritually to participate with joy in Sunday mass, to pray in the school, and to pray at meals and in all activities.





Farm of the Child USA is a Catholic, non-profit organization dedicated to support Finca del Niño, a family-style orphanage that provides education, health care, spiritual formation & community outreach in Honduras.

# The Farm of the Child hosted three mission groups in FY 2009-2010.

**Riley's Helping Hands** from Burlington, Wisconsin painted all of the children's homes.

**Vandy+Catholic** from Vanderbilt University participated in daily life at the Farm, assisting in the school, afternoon activities and daily prayer celebrations, both on the Farm and in the surrounding communities.

**Espiritu Santo Catholic Church** from Safety Harbor, Florida sent two one-week mission groups to complete the rewiring and safety upgrades of the Farm's electrical system, replace the roof of one of the children's homes, complete a series of tapestries depicting the story of Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe, as well as share the Gospel with all those served at Farm of the Child.

The three mission groups raised over \$22,000! Mission trip volunteers play an extremely important role in our project. They do what is needed most: *give love.*

These individuals, families, church groups, and youth join with us to make a difference in the lives of orphaned, abandoned, and disadvantaged children of the Farm and the surrounding communities. By doing this, they experience for themselves the transforming power of serving the poorest of God's children.



*The first of two groups that visited this summer from Espiritu Santo Catholic Church.*

*Riley's Helping Hands group  
painted all of the children's homes*



*Digging to help upgrade the Farm's electrical system*



*A beautiful series of tapestries was completed*



*The second group from  
Espiritu Santo Catholic Church*



“The Farm is a home for children with no one to protect them. I like the Farm because of the education that it gives to the children. The Farm is full of love and friendship.”

– Riccy, age 12, St. Anthony House

“The Farm, for me, is a really tranquil home where kind, generous people live. It’s full of peace. We’re always in prayer, and always growing in faith, when we collaborate and put forth from our own will.”

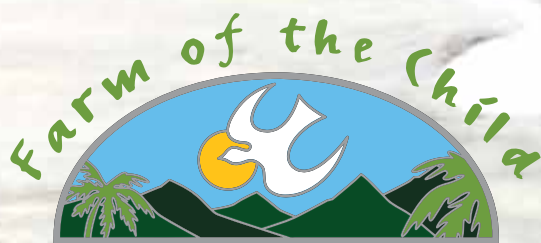
– Arturo, age 14, St. Joseph House

“The Farm is a home where we are able to take advantage of opportunities, and more than anything, to love and appreciate what we have.”

– Nelly, age 14, St. Francis House

“The Farm is something beautiful. The people here are my friends and brothers and sisters.”

– Jose Pastor, age 6, Virgin of Suyapa House



Trujillo, Honduras

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The production and printing of this annual report is completely donated.

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