



Los Héroes Scholarship Program News...

September 2007

Los Heroes Scholarship Program
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Communications from the Students

During our recent visit to Los Héroes in July, we received letters from many of the students and/or their parents. Some of the families included copies of report cards for the sponsors. In a few cases, families did not have a chance to write letters (sometimes this is because there is no parent at home who can read or write, and the student may not yet be able to do so). However, most of the sponsors are receiving Rally Day packets with letters from El Salvador. Thank you, sponsors, for your patience as we have worked on translating these letters over the past month.

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Here are a couple of highlights from some of the letters we received...

*From Francisco Alexandro, 2nd year University:*  
"You are all strong sources of inspiration for me. I am just a nobody who you have never met. Out of the whole country of El Salvador, you chose to help me... That means a lot to me, and I don't think this humble letter can quite express the appreciation I feel in my heart."

*From Dinora, 1st year University:* "For what you are doing for me and for all the children of the community, we thank you, for our community is very poor and there are many needs."

*From Bryan Josabed, 1st year High School:* "I'm writing this letter to thank you for your help because you are giving me an opportunity to improve myself."

*From Henry Ernesto, 4th grade:* "The reason for writing this letter is to thank you for having had the love to help me here. With the scholarship that you gave for supporting students in this humble community of Los Heroes, I know I count."

*From Fernando Aaron, 3rd grade:* "...just a little while ago we had the second gathering for scholarship students. Well, I tell you that it was very beautiful. We shared with one another. The mothers prepared a delicious breakfast and lunch that made me lick my fingers! Then, the youth shared a talk." ...

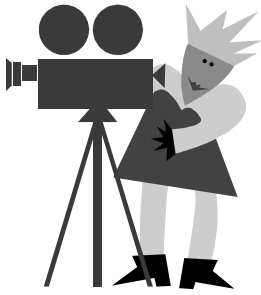
*"Because you want to help make it happen, each day we are becoming better people for the future. I give you a thousand thanks."*

*From Marelyn Beatriz, 3rd grade:* "On May 19th, we celebrated my birthday with my brothers and all the scholarship students and their moms. Pastor Santiago, his wife, Gloria, and Francisco were there, too. On Sunday, we took the birthday piñata to the church and we shared it with all the children that came for Sunday School."

*From Sandra Yaneth, 2nd grade:* "Thanks be to God. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. Thanks to Pastor Santiago for everything that he does for our community. Thanks to don Francisco. Thanks to all in the partnership. Thanks to St. John's Lutheran Church. Thanks to the Kempkes."

*From Wilber Alberto, Kindergarten:* "I want to tell you that in kindergarten I behave very well with my friends and we don't fight. We play during recess. My teacher gave me letters and I will study them at home."

*In closing his letter, Moises, 6th grade, says "I take leave of you now, but please keep in your memory Los Heroes, and the brothers and sisters, and Santiago, the pastor of the church of Los Heroes."*



In addition to the letters, many students and parents have sent video messages to St. John's. During her week in Los Héroes, Linda attempted to make a documentary about the life there. Every day, kids and adults stopped her on the road asking to send a message back to the people at St. John's. We will be showing one or two of these messages (with English subtitles) at a video display in the narthex, during October and November. Be sure to stop by and see if your student wanted to be "una estrella de video" (a video star)!

### Scholarship Student Encounters

On June 30<sup>th</sup> the scholarship students from Los Héroes and the scholarship students from another Lutheran Church Community, Faith and Hope, got together for their second encounter. Faith and Hope is the sister church of Our Saviors in West Bend. The partnership of church and school, of Salvadoran children and US sponsors, has been "very fruitful." The kids talk excitedly about these encounters, and the chance to work on community-building projects with students from another church. During our July visit, scholarship students gave very professional presentations to the international visitors about "what these partnerships mean to them".



### Get Ready for 2008!

The Salvadoran school year ends in November. Soon, we should receive a list of the students who will be in the scholarship program for 2008. Packets for sponsors, both those who would like to continue with their current students and new sponsors, will be available on October 1. Current sponsors will receive packets in their mailboxes. Packets will also be available for pick-up at a display center in the narthex.

### The Scholarship Program... a transversal axis (written by Francisco Garcia, Scholarship Coordinator)

"This community has been accompanied by the Lutheran Church since its initial organization eleven years ago. It has required a process of physical development of the community, as well as diaconal works, historically supported by the mission of the Lutheran Synod. Permanent communal organization has been challenging. Physical needs have been tried to be met, but at the same time social problems and violence have increased. Our sister church, St. John's, has always accompanied us. Through dialog and communication, we have come to the consensus that a scholarship program is key for community development. It is an axis for the youth, and serves to move them and drive them into local and regional responsibilities. Our youth are involved in Bible School, workshops of vocational formation, coordination with the Communal Association, local, regional and international networks, like the one with St. John's. They are involved in capacities that support other programs of the Lutheran Synod. It's easy to accentuate the scholarship program when our youth are the leaders for these programs. It is strategic for the reconstruction of the social roof of the community. It is the mission of the local church, and from our point of view, we believe firmly that the program provides a vision of integrity, which is entrusted to the glory of God.

With prayer, action and the investment of the community and our partners, all will be better."