

H.E.L.P. Honduras AGM – August 21, 2022

Cranbrook Heidout Restaurant

ZOOM/In person meeting: 12:00 a.m. MDT

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mike Balahura, Brenda Balahura, Heather More, Richard Kaperski, Chris Chart, Mandy Hicks, Chris Dysart, Gwen Telling, Jean Edge-Partington, David Morley, Patrick and Margaret Barclay, Val Buchanan, Maisie Matthews, Heidi Romich, Norm McCarvell, Maureen Duncan, Linda Frandsen, Gerda Mann, Tom Schneider, Brian Mather, Faith Magwood, Donald Kaminsky, Lurvin Yasileth Avila, Bill Feyrer, Reyna Peralta Calix, Sharon Dockstader, Elaine Beaulac, Russ Kinghorn, Antoine and Anne Beurskens

1) Introductions, establishment of quorum

- Thank you to Heidi for hosting and welcome to all attending
- Quorum was established

2) **Approval of Agenda:** M/S/C David Morley/Chris Dysart

3) **Minutes of 2021 AGM** (emailed August 14, 2022): M/S/C Heather More/Jean Edge-Partington

4) **President's report:** read at the meeting and attached to Minutes: M/S/C Richard Kaperski/Chris Dysart

5) **Receipt of Financial Statement:** M/S/C/ Chris Dysart /Heather More

- \$10000 in and out went to program in Copan

6) **Treasurer's Report:** M/S/C Chris Dysart/Heather More

- Very little change from last year – donations and expenses relatively the same as last year
- Reporting from AYO has changed to quarterly – thanks to Fredy and Lurvin
- Stewardship is in place
- Have two new volunteers to help with a variety of activities

7) **Report on Educational Program:** Lurvin Yasileth Avila/Reyna Peralta Calix, A.Y.O.

- Lurvin thanked everyone for their support
- Working with children to improve their quality of life through formal education
- Trying to assist students so they can JUST study and not have to work
- Nationally, only 355000 students have been registered as of March 1, 2022 with no new statistics as of August 2022; wave of Covid in June-July affected face to face classes with 127 centres reporting cases
- 442 preschool-University students of which 87 are new
- Showed stats of male/female participants and participants by communities

- 4190 super recharges sent April to date which help the students to connect to virtual classes and do homework
- 3 virtual workshops for 7th -10th grade -Ed Tech; 3 virtual workshops for 11th-12th grade -Self Esteem; 1 virtual workshop for University- Bullying in Schools
- WhatsApp and Facebook used for different topics – infographics
- University tutors are teaching face to face and virtually in mathematics, English and Spanish
- Month of the Family: campaign carried out: “I listen, reason and love my daughter/son” – through videos and infographics on WhatsApp and Facebook
- Testimonials from students
- **Q-** Are there any BECA students from the community where Early Stimulation project was done? – YES 25 students
- **Q-** #of tutors now – is it the same as pre-Covid? Before Covid they were 11th and 12th grade students but now that level of students is uneasy to be tutors due to the break in their studies. At present it is 2 University students who do it.
- **DON** – the Ministry says that 1/3 of students are not registered; older students started to work and family needs support to continue; infrastructure of schools not ready to receive students due to sanitation; younger kids got used to not studying and don't want to go to school; school start-up has been very difficult and hard to get back to quality of education prior to Covid; teachers also not particularly happy; system is now farther behind due to pandemic; unemployment is very high with economic situation being very difficult – overall poverty status of country has seemed to increase every year
- **MIKE** – thanked Lurvin and Reyna for their dedication and the program provided

8) **Report on Program in Santa Barbera:** Gwen Telling

- Visited in April 2022
- Very successful year
- Some money not spent due to placement of vocational school for carpentry – now completed
- 3 new bathrooms installed
- Computers purchased – some courses online; need more as they are short of computers
- 48 sponsored students; 15 in University; 2 University grads; lost 4 students
- Things are slowly improving and program going well
- Contact Gwen if you want to go to Honduras in November

8A) **Report on Program in Copan:** Jean Edge-Partington

- Sustainable agricultural project with International Project Alliance
- 6 mountain villages
- 50 home gardens in 3 communities
- Village sales of produce works best rather than trucking to larger centres
- 3rd and final year of project
- Coffee plantation cooperative will be set up this year in village of San Francisco

9) **New business**

- **Update by Harbourside Team on new Global Grant for Economic Training of Youth – Bill Feyrer**
 - New cohort of beneficiaries – working with young adults 15-35 years old with little or no schooling or work experience (2/3 women and 1/3 men)
 - Economic opportunities and vocational training
 - Sporting/cultural aspect of the program to encourage participants to be involved
 - \$65000USD grant – D5080, D5060, and Victoria Harbourside
 - Funding to Honduras this month

10) **Election of Officers – Patrick Barclay presiding**

- Positions requiring election in 2022
 - President: Mike Balahura
 - Treasurer: Chris Dysart
 - Directors: 2 -year term: Heather More, David Morley
 - All positions elected by acclamation
- Positions requiring election in 2023 for 2 -year term (incumbents) – Vice-President (Gwen Telling), Secretary (Brenda Balahura), Membership Chair (Elaine Beaulac), Directors (Sharon Dockstader, Elaine Ross, Chris Chart, Bill Feyer)

11) **Goals and Objectives**

- Job descriptions for visits so teams are interchangeable (ongoing)
- Increase sponsors from United States Rotary Clubs
- Get a Director from United States Rotary Club for Board of H.E.L.P. Honduras
 - **Q:** Can a Canadian charity have a US director? – Mike will look into it.
 - **Q:** St. Marys RC – someone will contact them
 - **Q:** use contact list that we have for US sponsors to try to get a director (6-7 sponsors and several clubs)
- Continue to work with District 5080 and Colville Rotary Club (or other US club) for tax receipt for US sponsors

12) **Sponsorship rates**

- May have to hold off on this until we find out what schooling will look like for next year
- Currently C\$215/primary, C\$340/secondary - Tegucigalpa,
- C\$300 Secondary C\$500 Vocational/University - Santa Barbera,
- **Q:** Donations – do we get people who get extra money? – we get lots of people who do this – some goes to students and some to administrative for AYO

13) Membership fees for H.E.L.P. Society

- currently \$25 (\$24 tax deductible) M/S/C Richard Kaperski/Chris Dysart

Adjournment at 1:25MDT : M/S/C Gerda Mann/Chris Dysart