



A Continuation of the work of MAMA Project in Honduras.



When I stepped off the plane in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in 2001, I was not sure what to expect but I knew God had led me there. As I taught classes at a bilingual school and immersed myself in a Honduran church, I met new people, continued to learn Spanish, and found my love for the culture. When Herman and I started dating, I quickly saw his love for others and his willingness to serve where needed, as he served as the doctor for a local orphanage in addition to his full-time job.



In 2005, we decided to move to Pennsylvania but weren't exactly sure what that would mean for our connection to Honduras. Little did we know that the move would actually give us additional opportunities to continue to help the people most in need, in a country we love.

Working with MAMA Project, and now, Healthy Niños Honduras, I have learned about the realities of life in poor, rural communities of Honduras and have developed a passion for helping all have the same access to medical services and education that I have.



When I travel to Honduras, I am able to connect with some of the people with whom we provide services. The second picture to the left shows Herman with our son, Diego, who at that time was 8 months old. While visiting Honduras, we met a 14 year old mother at the Nutrition Center with her 8 month old. Only her baby weighed 8 lbs and couldn't even hold up her head. After 3 months at the Center, the baby gained weight appropriately and met some motorskill milestones as well.

The third picture is of a mother that I met as she welcomed us to her community. She fought to bring services to her community, trying to provide the best for her family and others. As I meet mothers like these, my desire to **help others have the same benefits that I have in my life** is renewed: clean water, healthy & vitamin-fortified food, medicines when needed, and children that are growing & thriving.



Mothers everywhere want to provide the best for their families. The last picture shows a mother at the Nutrition Center with her child. This mother sacrificed her time at home, to get care for her child and also gain education in healthy hygiene and other habits that will help her family in the future.

Will you join us as we reach even more families in 2019, giving them a chance to survive and thrive in their communities?

Amanda Sagastume served as the MAMA Project Program Coordinator from June 2006 to January 2017. She currently volunteers as the Director of Community Development for Healthy Niños Honduras while working full-time as a Income Maintenance Caseworker for the Commonwealth of PA.



Our family lived in Venezuela for 3 years in the mid 80s

as missionaries. That is when a real warm sport in my heart started for Latin America. I was a pastor at Deep Run East Mennonite Church and became connected with Dr. Benner in 2001. I also was hoping to help the church grow in awareness and connection to countries in need, and this seemed like a perfect scenario. With the help of mission commission we presented the idea to the church and had enough people volunteer for 2 teams. One of our teams was the first team to stay at the mission house after its construction. (It has under gone many helpful additions since that first year.) I began serving on the Board of Directors in 2004.

One of my favorite stories of Jesus is the parable of the sheep and the goats and the words of Jesus “Whenever you did it to one of the least, the littlest, or lost ones in this world - you did it to me.” I think of those words every trip I make to Honduras. At the end of that parable Jesus says, “Well done, good and faithful servant” and that continues to be motivation for me to return to Honduras each year. January 2019 will be my 18th year serving on mission teams. In addition, I find it helps me **maintain perspective with all the trappings that affluence has given me.**

I was working in the clinic one time when a young man probably in his late 20s came with 3 children, including one infant. His wife had died unexpectedly, and he was responsible for raising them. He was so concerned for their health, that he took off work so he could bring them to the clinic. In a country where young fathers are often absent, **he was a model parent, loving and caring for his children.**

During the last several years I have worked on the cement team doing 6-10 cement floors a day. To view gratitude from home owners whose structures are primitive at best, brings tears to my eyes, and repentance from my heart for complaining about our problems of over abundance.

Tim Weaver is married to Juanita and has two grown children, Rachel & Sara, and two grandchildren, Ellie & Ian. Tim currently serves as the chaplain at The Community at Rockhill in Sellersville, PA.



(Above) Tim helps translate during community brigades.

(Below) A typical home that will receive a cement floor from the visiting mission team.



*A family portrait taken recently in a community.
Credit: Kristen Kidd Photography*



People on a Journey with Jesus

In 2014, challenged by Dr. Rick Kratz, Karen Hunsberger, and their enthusiasm for the MAMA Project mission teams, now Healthy Niños Honduras, I decided I would like to serve along with the team from Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. This past June, I returned with our church for the 5th year taking along Ethan, my 13 year old grandson. There is a banner hanging in our church that says, "People On A Journey With Jesus." My trips to Honduras have become part of my journey **in response to God's love and grace in my life.** The people I have met on my trips are the other reason.

Upon arrival in Honduras that first year, we were greeted by the friendly Healthy Niños staff. Each one of the staff members care deeply for the people of their country and want to help them provide a healthier lifestyle for their family. As a volunteer you, too, feel well cared for and useful throughout the week. You are provided with and encouraged to try different tasks in the medical brigade or pouring a concrete floor. The staff members are extremely organized and work very, very hard all week to provide what is necessary in each village and for each volunteer. **They truly are the hands and feet of Jesus.** They inspire me to continue to serve with them.

Visiting the nearby Nutrition Center at the end of the day, is always a highlight for me. This year, Ethan and I, along with others, went each day after returning from the medical brigade. The children especially enjoy playing with any youth in our group. It was very special for me to watch the joy Ethan experienced playing soccer with the children. I believe their smiles and enthusiasm helped Ethan to **see the joy we can bring to others just by spending time with them.** It is also a nice break for their mothers to sit and watch their children play happily with others. Like the staff at the Mission House, the Nutrition Center staff do an excellent job of educating the families to provide better health and hygiene at home. They too inspire me to serve others. ~Ellen Lacher



For a couple of years my grandmother has been encouraging me to go to Honduras with her. She was always talking about how great the people and experiences are. Finally this year I decided to go along. To be honest I was very nervous about going, but **it was a wonderful experience that I will never forget.** The first day we went out to a village where I helped pour concrete floors. It was hard work. I will never forget what Dr. Herman said to me after that day, **"You helped change the life of a family today. They may not remember your name but they will always remember your face."** This was one of the best experiences I've had and I plan to continue to go and serve the people of Honduras. ~Ethan Lacher



Ethan and Ellen would like to thank the Healthy Niños staff and Board Members for your dedication to serving the Honduran people. We look forward to serving alongside you again soon.



This Holiday Season

Give a Gift of Love & Hope

to families in Honduras

\$10 covers a child's expenses for one day at the Nutrition Center

\$5 for a Spanish Bible

10 cents for deworming pills & vitamin A capsules for one child for a year

\$175 provides a concrete floor in a family's home

\$40 for a water filter for a family

\$10 for vitamin powder for one child for a year

\$500 provides a training to community leaders



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