



## **Your Generosity at Work**

*in providing land, hope, life to the 24 families  
in the village of Piedra de Horeb, Honduras*

### **PRESENTED TO**

Piedra de Horeb supporters

### **PRESENTED BY**

Agros International  
2225 4th Ave. 2nd Floor,  
Seattle, WA 98121

**“I am thankful to Agros  
for supporting me with  
small credits, which I  
invest in developing my  
own business.”**

**—Verónica**

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of Piedra de Horeb and the hope and opportunity it brings to the families who live there.

As we begin a new year, we're happy to present our update in a new format, which integrates feedback we've received over the years about our village updates. Some of the changes we've made include providing an overall country update from Country Manager Nohemy Tinoco as well as including more photos of the families you've come to know through your support of Piedra de Horeb.

We hope you like this new update, and would welcome any feedback you may have. Thank you for your commitment to Piedra de Horeb!

***Piedra de Horeb, Honduras***

***Village Update, Autumn 2011***



*Two families have tilapia ponds, raising fish for their own families' nutrition and to generate an income.*

## From the Country Manager . . .

New hope came for the rural poor in Honduras when Agros was launched here in 2004. Today, four thriving Agros villages are helping a total of 92 families—454 people—to overcome poverty through land ownership.

In addition to myself, our Agros team includes three agronomists, two human development technicians, a credit technician, a business coordinator and a financial coordinator. Each team member is an expert in his or her specialty and is dedicated to serving our families with excellence and compassion.

One of the training methods that is unique to Agros Honduras is a hands-on “field school”, where families can try new agricultural methods and crops. Each village has a special parcel of land set aside for their field school, and families are rapidly advancing their agricultural skills.

Currently, the families of our villages are cultivating about 142 acres, primarily with coffee, plantains and cacao. They are also busy in such agricultural enterprises as raising fish and livestock. For the first time in their lives, these families are enjoying year-round food security and an income as a result of their hard work.

On behalf of the families we serve together in Honduras, thank you for providing them the opportunity to work toward a brighter future!

—Nohemy Tinoco

## Piedra de Horeb Facts at a Glance

- ◆ Founded in 2008, Piedra de Horeb is in its fourth stage of development (of 10 stages).
- ◆ Families grow three different crops to sell for income, and 20 of the 24 families own livestock.
- ◆ 16 of the families successfully market their products.
- ◆ 22 of the families are up-to-date on repayment of enterprise loans.
- ◆ 23 of the families have ready access to clean water for home use.
- ◆ 91% of the school-aged children are attending school.
- ◆ 50% of the community's leadership positions are held by women.



**A new stable for the community's dairy cows is scheduled for completion in the next quarter.**

## Autumn 2011 Village Highlights

### Community Organization

The community reached its goal of a total membership of 24 families. Now complete, the community is moving forward and working toward the goal of self-sustainability.

### Land Ownership

Families paid a total of \$1,960 on their land loans, and they received training to help them conserve natural resources.

According to the Agros team, the families are growing in their understanding of the importance of resource conservation measures.

### Housing and Infrastructure

The families completed a system to bring water into the community for irrigation and for use in the two fish breeding tanks.

They also completed about 95% of the fence surrounding the community.

In another infrastructure project, the families with dairy cows are constructing a stable for them.

So far, five families have built temporary homes, as well as composting latrines and systems for access to potable water. Although their dwellings are humble, these families have, for the first time, a sense of real ownership and stability.

### Sustainable Economic Growth

In addition to the basic crops of corn and beans, chili peppers, plantains, coffee, cocoa, yucca and green beans are being cultivated in the community. Also, most of the families have cows, eight are raising poultry, and two have tilapia ponds. This quarter, the sale of harvested crops and a cow netted \$998.

The Agros team continues to regularly monitor the community's

projects. And in cooperation with other partner organizations, the team provided training in the cultivation of cocoa, yucca and tilapia.

### Community Education & Training

To help the families come together as a unified community, training was provided in conflict resolution.

Also, the Agros team is helping families develop their own life plans, which include personal, economic and spiritual goals.

The community health promoter attended training to learn about early childhood nutrition. She will pass on her knowledge to parents, to help ensure the health of the community's young children.

Eight of the community's adults are attending basic literacy classes provided through the support of the organization EDUCATODOS.

### Making a Difference...

Before joining the Piedra de Horeb community, Germán and his wife, María, rented a small parcel of land on which they struggled to grow enough to feed their family. And if life weren't hard enough already, an earthquake in 2009 destroyed their home. The family barely escaped the collapsing building with their lives.

It was at that desperate time that Germán learned about Agros.

Today, Germán and María are working their own parcel of land and maintaining a tilapia breeding project. Their dream is to pay off their land loan and provide their children a good education.

"We are thankful to God and Agros for the opportunity to be members of this village and build a different future for our children," Germán says.

