



## Your Generosity at Work

*in providing land, hope, life to the 20 families  
in the village of Brisas del Volcán, Honduras*

### PRESENTED TO

Brisas del Volcán supporters

### PRESENTED BY

Agros International  
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Seattle, WA 98121

**"We are more than  
blessed. To have land  
means much for the  
poor. Thanks to  
God for Agros."**

**—Antonio**

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of Brisas del Volcán 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 Brisas del Volcán.

We hope you like this new update, and would welcome any feedback you may have. Thank you for your commitment to Brisas del Volcán!

***Brisas del Volcán, Honduras***

***Village Update, Autumn 2011***



*The 4,500 young fish that were added to the three tanks in Brisas del Volcán will be ready for harvesting next February.*

## 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**

## Brisas del Volcán Facts at a Glance

- ◆ Founded in 2006, Brisas del Volcán is in its fifth stage of development (of 10 stages).
- ◆ Families grow seven different crops to sell for income, and all of the families own livestock.
- ◆ All of the families successfully market their products.
- ◆ 15 of the families are up-to-date on repayment of enterprise loans.
- ◆ 17 of the families have ready access to clean water for home use.
- ◆ 70% of the school-aged children are attending school.
- ◆ 53% of the community’s leadership positions are held by women.



**A special demonstration helps develop the skills of the community's leaders.**

## Autumn 2011 Village Highlights

### Community Organization

The Agros team provided training for the leadership to improve their ability to manage the community.

The families were familiarized with the new annual plan for Brisas del Volcán, which went into effect on July 1.

### Land Ownership

Thanks to income from an abundant coffee harvest, all 20 families were able to make payments on their land loans.

In an effort to conserve natural resources, the families planted 400 cedar trees and cultivated 1,000 tree seedlings.

### Housing and Infrastructure

Families were provided training and materials for maintaining their composting latrines and water systems.

### Sustainable Economic Growth

The families doubled the size of the community's corn fields, planting an additional 17 acres.

Besides coffee, they also marketed plantains, papayas and quash, earning a total of \$2,045. The women conducting the enterprise of producing plantain chips sold 150 lbs. of chips for \$238.

Through the community's field school, families continued their training in cultivation techniques for coffee and plantains. They also received special training in livestock health and nutrition, the production of tilapia and the cultivation of chili peppers.

Families were especially pleased to sign an agreement with regional agricultural suppliers for the marketing of their coffee and chili pepper harvests.

### Community Education & Training

The Agros team is helping the families develop their own life plans, which include personal, economic and spiritual goals. So far, three families have completed their plans.

Families also had the opportunity to learn about conflict resolution, and their spiritual lives were nurtured through special conferences.

The health of children under age 2 continues to be monitored to ensure they are reaching standard physical development milestones. Their mothers are trained in providing them a balanced diet, and those needing extra nutrition receive supplements from partner organization MAP International.

### Making a Difference...

In the past, Antonio worked as a day laborer, earning only \$50 a month to care for his wife and six children. Even supplemented by the corn and beans he grew on a rented plot of land, Antonio's meager wage simply wasn't enough.

One day, Antonio asked God to lead him to a better job to provide a decent life for his family. Little did he know where that prayer would lead.

Now, as members of the Brisas del Volcán community, Antonio and his family are working on their own parcel of land and slowly, but surely, paying it off.

Looking forward to the future as a land owner, Antonio says, "Now we are no longer poor. We have gained so much, not only in the crops that we produce, but also in experience."

