

Fairfax Presbyterian Church and La Entrada, Copan, Honduras

On November 5, 2017 the *Midlife Men on a Mission (MMM)* team from Fairfax Presbyterian Church set out on their week-long mission trip to La Entrada, Copan, Honduras to serve the needy alongside Hondurans, grow in their own faith, reconnect with old friends and mission partners while striving to make new connections, and live and serve within a community of faith.

The principal project for MMM was again at the JPC Rancho Vida camp for youth just outside La Entrada. This camp serves as a sanctuary for both rural and urban youth from around Honduras.

In this time of political strife, increased violence, and ever present poverty across Honduras, a place to feel safe and hear a message of love and hope is more critical than ever. The project helped ensure space for a full-time on-site Camp Director and family to oversee activities and ensure appropriate supervision of youth camp attendees.

This project was made possible by National Capital Presbytery matching grant funding and FPC and MMM contributions which were used to purchase required building materials and hire five local skilled craftsmen and assistants to work alongside the MMM team to build masonry stairs and professionally wire the Camp Director's apartment (to a more stringent electrical standard than might normally be accepted locally). The local craftsmen became true partners in the work.

Beyond building, the MMM was also able to provide much needed over-the-counter and prescription medicine to the Fellow Man International clinic in the rugged mountains of the coffee-growing region above the small village of Buenos Aires, Santa Barbara, Honduras. It serves a highly impoverished population of over 100,000 and is the only complete healthcare facility of its kind.

Several MMM team members were also able to work to provide a helping hand to beautify and prevent erosion along the entrance driveway to the Manos Amigas Clinic in La Entrada. The clinic is a partnership between the Pennsylvania-based Serving at the Crossroads and the Honduran NGO Fundación Manos Amigas and provides a modern medical and dental clinic, well-equipped and staffed with local health care professionals augmented by brigades of U.S. specialists who treat patients and train local providers.



These three missions, guided by visionary Honduran and American missionaries and dedicated local staff demonstrate that self-sustaining projects such as Manos Amigas, Camp Rancho Vida, and the Fellow Man International clinic can be transformational both to those who are served and those who serve. The MMM team returned home a little tired, a little sore, and perhaps a little sunburned, but refreshed in faith and fellowship and energized to continue to look for ways to be the hands and feet of Christ here at home until our next opportunity to return to Honduras. We are grateful for the encouragement, prayers, and financial support of our congregation, our families, and the National Capital Presbytery.



Together We Are Making a Difference!