

Alba Luz Quijada Nuñez Graduates

Another Success Story for Shalom, Cruzadas and AHMEN

I was recently honored to attend Alba Luz Quijada Nuñez's University graduation in La Ceiba. Alba had been at Shalom for about a dozen years. She came to the Shalom home at



Alba Quijada at her University Graduation

Cruzadas from a small village in Colón where her mother could not care for her or her sisters. Most of the girls at Shalom were considered to be “at risk” for any number of reasons. For Alba, she was bound for a life of probable poverty or worse; a lack of opportunity. Alba was given safety and security and an education at Shalom. Her graduation was the culmination of efforts by Alba, but also by the staff at Shalom and Cruzadas and her steadfast AHMEN sponsors.

I first met Alba in 2009 on my first AHMEN medical mission. Our large mission group stopped at Shalom to have dinner with the girls. She was very shy then, as were most of the girls. As now, most AHMEN teams at least stop by Shalom to spend time with the girls or just to access supplies at the bodega. Every time I visited Shalom, Alba came out of the dorm to meet

the AHMEN team. Although she spoke little English then, she always managed to spend time with us and to try out her English. She understood that English was one more important key to open the doors of her future. She always remembered most of our names and with every visit her English was better. She was rapidly coming out of her shell and was blossoming into a fine young Honduran woman.



The Graduate with Sister Eleanor Cooper and her mother Sra. Nuñez



Alba during her student teaching

Alba attended public school in La Ceiba and then enrolled at the Universidad Pedagogica de Francisco Morazon. She chose to major in English. It takes much longer to complete a university degree in La Ceiba than in the US. Required courses are not offered every year to allow timely completion. In addition, every student must complete their compulsory year of Social Service and practice teaching.

As we all know, there are vast differences between young ladies in High School and in the University. To assist these older girls in their transition to independence, Alba recently moved into an apartment off campus with two other Shalom girls.

They loved their newfound freedoms and responsibilities and the changes increased the harmony at Shalom.

Being invited to attend Alba's graduation brought to mind all the AHMEN members who have known her over the years. In addition, I thought of all the young ladies that have passed through Shalom. Some stayed for years, some for a few weeks. All were better for their experience and all now have the potential to change their nation for the better in their own way. This year, Shalom has had several young ladies complete their education and start their new lives. As these girls leave Shalom, there are new young ladies joining the Family. In Winter of 2018 four new girls are expected from Limón and the surrounding area. As usual, we don't know much about them or their personal histories beyond there being a need. As with Alba, love, guidance, and education will be the key to a new life with great potential.

In Honduras, the title of Profesor is given to university graduates.

So.... Felicitaciones al Profesor

Bruce McFadden
AHMEN Sponsorship Coordinator
December 2017
