

Dear Friend of AHMEN and Shalom,

The new school year has just started for the young ladies at Shalom! Each day twelve young ladies set out to their schools. Some go to the University or the School of Nursing. Some have chosen a technical school. Some are in Colégio, which is like our High School, to prepare for the University. A couple are nearing completion of primary school and will soon go to high school. Some wear tidy school uniforms, some wear street clothes. They are all glad for the opportunity to attend school. You are the people that have made the blessings of safety and education possible.



The first day of school! Suyapa, Carmen, Andrea, Yoselin, Sarahy and Ingrid.

There are several new kids at Shalom this year. So far there are five newbies, with a possibility of a couple more. There are plenty of beds in the Shalom dormitory. The new girls seem to have acclimated well and have meshed perfectly with life at Shalom. Education and a Christian lifestyle are traditional and expected at Shalom. Even with their daily duties and chores, there is still time to be teenagers like our American daughters. Many have Facebook pages and use computers to communicate with friends and family. Some are able to FaceTime or Chat with their American sponsors.

They all think of each other as their sisters. Not only as sisters in their church, but as their sisters in real life. Many of the girls have been plucked from lives of abuse and brutality, poverty, and empty futures. Their lives have been changed and blessed many times through the generosity of others. For their futures, we need these Blessing to continue. Partial Sponsorship of a youngster or contributions to the AHMEN Shalom Educational Fund will enable our girls to continue their lives at Shalom and educations. We need your continued and your additional help.

Please meet the newest girls at Shalom.



Hello, I'm Ingrid and I'm 18 years old and soon I'll be celebrating my birthday this February 19. I was born in La Ceiba but I grew up in Limón, Colón. Now I have come to study at Hogar Shalom with sister Suyapa Turcios.

I have 5 siblings: there are 4 boys and one girl. I never knew my father, and my mother died more than 5 years ago. My sponsors or parents as I call them are Ken and Peggy Hook. They have known me for several years and they are helping me to continue my studies here in La Ceiba.

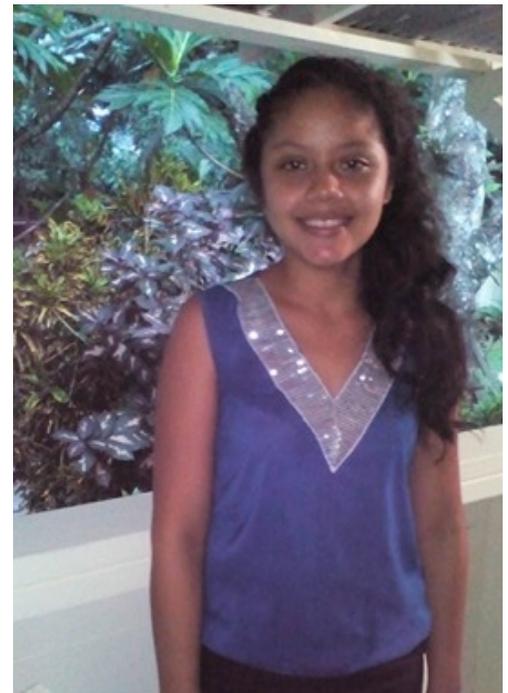
I like the colors white, red and blue. I like cornflakes, soups with vegetables and tortilla nachos. My favorite hobbies are reading, art, visiting the beach and I like cleaning the house more than cooking. I like to know people and make friends. I ask the Lord for strength to take the challenges that come this year in my life.

Thanks for everything.

-- Ingrid Carolina Castillo Palacios

Hi, I'm Andrea. I'm 14 years old. My mom's name is Aida Mejia and my father's name is Romon Ponce. I have 4 siblings: 2 brothers and 2 sisters. I am from Colón. I came to Shalom because I needed some protection from evil men in my village. I am safe here at Shalom. I will tell you a little about myself. My favorite hobbies are reading, drawing especially designing clothes, singing and dancing. My favorite color is electric blue, red, white and black. My favorite food is beef in coconut with rice and vegetables. I like to go to church and I would like to be in the dance box of the Tabernacle Church. Many blessings to you.

-- Andrea Mejia Ponce





My name is Suyapa. I was born on January 4, 2001 and I am 17 years old. My father's name is Hernan Rochez and I have four older brothers and one brother younger than me. I was born in San Pedro Sula but I grew up in Colón.

I lived 11 years in an orphanage in Limón, Colón of the nun Leonardo Martinez. I came from Limón to the Shalom Home thanks to Ken and Peggy Hook who are supporting me in my studies here in La Ceiba to be part of this house with Mother Suyapa Turcios.

Without the help of all of you, I would never have a chance to study. I like reading and knitting crochet a lot. My favorite colors are black and brown. My favorite food is pizza! In my spare time I like to play football, listen to music and swim. I would like to have the opportunity to be with my dad but he is not in Honduras. My mom died when I was very young and he took me to the orphanage when I was 6 years old. I would like to serve God with all my being. I

wish it could be someday a Bachelor or Lawyer and help other people with limited economic resources as well, as you have helped me. Thank you and God bless you.

-- Suyapa Rochez

Hi, my name is Marlen Yacseli Dominguez Ramirez.

I was born on December 19, 2000. I am 17 years old. I come from the village of Jardines de la Sierra, Colón. I have been living with my mom in Irióna, Colón. My parents divorced since I was 2 years old. My mother has worked hard to get my brothers and me forward. We have never received help from my dad. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. My favorite food is pizza and my favorite color is light blue. My hobby is to go to the beach and visit the Mall de La Ceiba.

Next March I will do an Admission Exam to enter the University. I'm going to study at the CURLA, the National University of Honduras at Atlántida.

I want to study to be an Agronomy Engineer, for about 5 years. I like home my new home at Shalom.



-- Marlen Dominguez



Hello my name is Yosselyn Yolani Escalante Hernandez. I was born on August 1, 2001, and I am 16 years old. I come from the village of Plan de Flores, Colón.

My mother has two more children besides me. I am the oldest. But she went to live in another country, and did not see her again.

And my dad has 8 other children that I do not know, my dad left my mom when I was 7 years old and since then I have not seen him again.

I lived with my grandfather until he died and then I stayed with my aunt and my cousins.

My favorite food is fried chicken, salad and banana slices. My favorite color is dark blue. My favorite hobby is playing football. I'm going to 10th grade high school for Health and Community Nutrition which is 3 years at the ITLA. And I would like to go to the University and study Nursing. I thank God for my Sponsor Peggy

Polhemus. She is a blessing to my life.

-- Yosselyn Escalante

*The Shalom girls come from all over Honduras. For some, coming to the home at Cruzadas was their last and only chance. Some were referred by local pastors from across Honduras. Some were recommended to Shalom by AHMEN members or affiliated organizations. Each young lady met with Cruzadas and Shalom staff to evaluate their sincerity and need. For some of the girls, the opportunity to come to Shalom makes the difference between a life of abuse and abject poverty, and a chance to make a difference in society and their country. For some of the girls, financial sponsorship had been arranged. For most, their need requires relying on faith that the financial parts of the puzzle will fall into place in time.*

*Education is the key in Honduras. Each of these girls now has the chance to fulfill her dreams in a place of Christian love. With our help they can see that door open for them. Education is the biggest expense at Shalom. Although certainly not as costly as in the U.S., it is still more that the costs of living expenses at Shalom. We estimate that the educational expense for all the girls totals about \$1400 per month.*

*We need YOUR help. If you can assist these girls to continue their education please contact us. We will not have all the funds to do what needs to be done without YOUR contribution. No matter the amount, your donation is important. Your donation will make the difference for some deserving young women. Thank you.*

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