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*Ex Officio*

Dear Tom,

As you know the primary focus of the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation (CHHF) is to provide for the medical care of the people in Honduras, and they are limited in their ability to directly support other efforts although they do all they can to provide the facilities for us to do so. As the Vice President of CHHF, I recognized that many teams going to Limón have taken on projects such as the orphanage as separate endeavors outside of the CHHF program. I also recognized that there is a need to coordinate these efforts for the most efficient use of resources. The purpose of this letter is to invite your teams to work jointly with Leonarda's Home of Hope, Inc. (LHOH) in this effort to support the orphanage. LHOH is currently working in partnership with Limón Aid, and many individual teams going to Limón through CHHF in this effort.

LHOH's primary focus will be to build a new orphanage in Limón and to help Leonarda with the day-to-day expenses of the orphanage. We recently signed a "contract" with Leonarda which indicates that LHOH is the lead agency in this effort. This was done so that other groups will know there is one coordinating group and we don't have everyone preparing design plans, scheduling construction on the site, etc. One of the things I have noticed and which has troubled me in the past is that Leonarda has been asking everyone coming to the orphanage for the same support in hopes of finding someone to build what she needs. In our discussions with her we agreed that one group needed to be the lead coordinating agency and LHOH was chosen for this purpose. We will work closely with Limón Aid and other groups in this effort.

Another of our goals is to coordinate regular donations to help Leonarda on a month-to-month basis. Leonarda receives donations from volunteers when they are in Honduras and at other times she receives very little. This variation in income is problematic for her; some months she may get \$1,000 and the next \$100. We would like to have a fund to give her \$xxx each month which would help her in planning. Maybe over time we will have people sending money through us to assist with operations. We plan not only to assist with on-going operational expenses, but also will endeavor to provide education for children beyond high school (technical or universities) in an effort to help break the continuing cycle of poverty so prevalent in Central America.

When I am in Limón March 28 - April 5 (CHHF Medical Team), I will be doing an evaluation of the current orphanage to determine immediate needs. When I return, I will have identified some projects that are needed and can work with teams you might have going who may want to adopt one or two of these projects. I have a large group from Arkansas who has requested a list of projects for work in September when they are in Limón. This is another area of needed coordination as I know Leonarda has talked with the Arkansas group as well as many others about their providing playground equipment. We do not need 3-4 teams working on the same item while other needs are not met. LHOH can be a clearinghouse for these projects - not doing them, but coordinating those who want to take them on so that we do not waste time or money in duplicating efforts.

LHOH's current status for planning for the orphanage includes the following key milestones which have been completed:

- This past year we arranged for suitable property for the construction of the new orphanage. The site is in a residential area (behind Gloria's home) adjacent to the high school. Some of the property donated by the municipality has been exchanged for this property.
- LHOH was incorporated and is working with Leonarda on planning for the construction of the orphanage.
- A preliminary floor plan has been developed for the new orphanage and will be discussed with Leonarda in early April. Based upon her approval, design drawings will be developed this year.
- A web site has been established and is operational – [www.LeonardasHomeOfHope.org](http://www.LeonardasHomeOfHope.org)
- Several churches have already expressed interest in raising money for the orphanage; we are talking with more churches about this project. We have not begun soliciting money from individuals until we receive final approval for our 501(c) (3) status which should be within the next six weeks.

I hope your organizations are willing to work with us in bringing this project to fruition and in helping Leonarda to meet her needs. If you have any questions or suggestions for coordinating efforts, let me know. If you know of others who are interested in assisting, share their contact information and I will contact them directly.

Hopefully, we can coordinate our work for the best interest of the children. May God bless you and your Work in Honduras.

Sincerely,



N. K. Hook, Jr  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
LHOH