

# CASA DE ESPERANZA MINISTRIES

December 2023 Newsletter



## PERSEVERANCE | LA PERSEVERANCIA

**"...And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..." Hebrews 12: 1-2**

We are all running a race—a race marked out uniquely for each of us. This year, our students in Honduras have embodied the essence of perseverance in the pursuit of education, echoing the words from Hebrews 12:1-2. They've faced hurdles, yet they've pressed on, eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

This year has been a testament to their unwavering determination. Through challenges and triumphs, they've shown resilience, mirroring the endurance encouraged in this powerful verse. As we reflect on their incredible dedication, let us also fix our gaze on Jesus, who epitomizes unwavering faith, guiding these students and us through our respective races.

As we prepare to celebrate 20 years of ministry for Casa de Esperanza in 2024, we celebrate perseverance and draw inspiration from the journeys of so many of our friends in Honduras, knowing that by fixing our eyes on Jesus, we too, can navigate our paths with strength, courage, and unwavering faith.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS: MEET OUR HONDURAN STUDENTS!

### UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

#### Abner David Portillo

Abner has completed his first year at UNAH in Comayagua, majoring in coffee agriculture, completing 11 classes this year. He shares that he has learned so much in one year! He has grown academically and spiritually. His experience with working in wood, metal, and electricity has helped him secure an internship in his home community working with disadvantaged youth. He also has become quite a coffee connoisseur, learning about all the factors that contribute to an excellent coffee.

He shares "My goals for next year are to continue my studies at UNAH and improve my professional profile. I also want to continue to improve my electrical knowledge and perhaps open a workshop. And I want to learn to drive a car. I wish for all of Casa's supporters the peace of the Christmas season."



## Alejandro Hernandez

Alejandro completed his first year in Marketing at UTH in Siguatepeque. He did very well in all of his classes and with his marketing group, won a cash prize to put towards his studies. He shares how he is very passionate about his major and strives to learn more each day. He has made a great group of friends that have become an important factor in his life.

He has also volunteered at church teaching music to kids in the Compassion Program. His goals for this year are to become involved in more marketing projects and competitions. He wishes "a very special holiday time with your family for all of the supporters of Casa de Esperanza."



## Joel David Moreno

Joel completed his first year at UNAH in Comayagua, majoring in finance and public accounting. He completed 14 classes this year, his favorites being the math courses and he received outstanding grades! He enjoyed making new friends this year and working on his group projects.

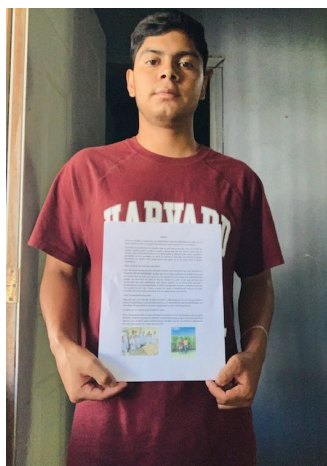
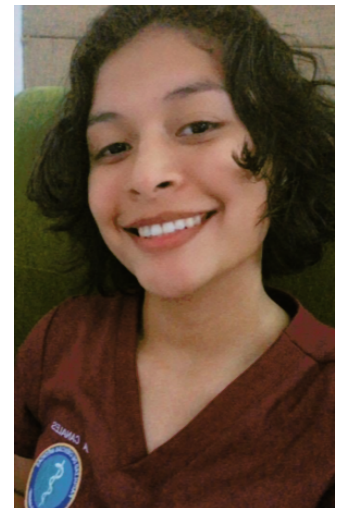
A very good friend of his from the university passed away this year from a respiratory arrest incident and this has profoundly affected Joel. It has made him thankful for his health and family. Joel shares "my goals this upcoming year are to value more my family and friends, and to try to take 15 classes this year. I also want to make more time for exercise and continue to attend my church. I wish for all of you a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year and that all your dreams and goals for 2024 will become a reality."

## Ana Canales

Ana is in her 4th year in medical school at UNAH in Tegucigalpa. This year Ana had the opportunity to do some beginning research on health habits of people in Honduras. This has prompted her to become more interested in medical research in her country, as currently there is very little research being done.

She shares her goals "My goal in 2024 is to join the Scientific Association of Medical Students, which promotes research by providing workshops that help students learn about methods and techniques used in research."

She sends a message to supporters of Casa- "Please know that I am infinitely grateful to God first, and then to all those who collaborate with Casa de Esperanza for all your support for me all these years. Feliz Navidad!"



## Isaac Edward Lopez

Edward completed his first year at UNAH in Comayagua, majoring in Agricultural Technology. He did struggle a lot his first semester, and learned a lot from his experiences such as time management, asking for help and putting more effort in studying. He shares he has good and bad memories of his first day at the university- not really knowing anyone and getting lost! He acknowledges overcoming his fear of asking questions in classes and it has helped him improve greatly in his grades. He has learned to value the opportunity given to him to obtain his university education.

He says "my goals for 2024 are to improve my grades, continue to learn new sports (he loved learning ping pong this year) and to organize my time. I wish for everyone a blessed Christmas Season!"

# COMAYAGUA BOYS HOME STUDENTS

## Elvis Daniel Portillo

Daniel finished his sophomore year in high school and is specializing in electricity. He states this past year has been full of blessings especially to count on Casa's support and the support of Ada and Chema, who are like parents to him, giving him love and advice. Special memories from this year include when they all went to the Cypress labyrinth in Comayagua, and also when the group came in June and painted the house. He learned this year that time is very valuable, you should learn to manage your time and this will increase your chance of success. He is especially grateful to Luis, our metal and wood shop instructor, for all that he taught the boys.

Daniel shares he would like to learn a lot more about playing the guitar as a goal for next year. His message to Casa Supporters is "thank you so much for your sacrifices so we can learn. I appreciate it so much. May you all have a Blessed Christmas time with your loved ones."



## Yeferson Ivan Meza

Ivan also finished his sophomore year in high school, studying the electrical trade track. He shares that he really enjoyed it when the group came to visit the boys during the June group trip. He enjoyed painting the house with group members. He learned a lot about different electrical circuits, some more easier than others.

Ivan's goals for 2024 include continuing to study hard and improve his grades, and given his best to learn more about electricity. His message to us - "Merry Christmas and Prospero Año Nuevo."

## Cristian Vargas

Cristian will graduate from high school at the end of November, with a speciality in electricity. He spent the year studying and preparing himself for the entrance exam for the National Honduran University of Agriculture. He still is awaiting the results to see if he will be accepted. He has many good memories of working together with his high school friends to complete projects together. He enjoyed it when the group came in June, and he could share about his hopes and dreams to attend the university in the coming year.

His goals are to continue his studies in the university with the help of Casa and always to give his best in everything. He is grateful to Ada and Chema for all their advice and moral support. Cristian writes: "Please know we appreciate all of you and we know you pray for us. Enjoy the Christmas season and the peace God sends us."



## Jeferson Cabrera

Jeferson will start his senior year of high school next year and he has hopes to attend UNAH, with dreams of being a dentist! This past year Jeferson went through confirmation classes at church and was confirmed in a special ceremony this past October. He went on many retreats with the church group and feels very close to God because of these retreats. Special memories include learning how to paint the furniture in the wood shop and how to run some of the special equipment.

He shares his Christmas message - "I am so thankful to God for his love for us, and all he has given us. Thank you for all of your support to help us study and become professionals. May God bless all of you during this Christmas season."

# END OF THE YEAR REFLECTIONS FROM GUADALUPE

Guadalupe Amaya, Casa de Esperanza's Legal Representative and Administrator

This year, I am grateful to God for all that He has given me and He has not failed me during these years of my life. I am equally thankful to Casa de Esperanza Ministries for giving me the opportunity to work and be part of a team together with my Parents Lori and Bill DeWitt and members of the Board of Directors.

I have the joy of being a mother to two beautiful children that I LOVE with all my being. I have parents who have loved me with my flaws and virtues, and have always supported me unconditionally. I am happy to be able to work with them. They have put their heart, love and dedication into this ministry, where many students are benefited in receiving the help they need.

In the course of my work, I have learned to meet and attend to the young students and the people who are part of Casa de Esperanza. I really enjoy helping the students understand time management and how to communicate effectively.

Christmas is a very special day. It is a time in when families come together to live together and share a time of love, happiness and celebration.



**Sustain Our Mission:** our needs are ongoing in Honduras. We have the opportunity to support even more students and our board has developed a scholarship application system to ensure that the students selected understand the privilege of continuing their education. We also require regular communication from our students in order to make sure that they are receiving the physical, emotional, and spiritual support they need.

If you'd like to make financial gift to Casa de Esperanza, please complete the form below or give online at [casaofhope.com/donate](http://casaofhope.com/donate). Thank you!



## Make a Gift to Casa de Esperanza!

### STEP ONE:

#### *Choose your Gift*

One Time Gift

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Monthly Gift

Charged to my credit card via paypal each month.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP TWO:

#### *Choose your Fund*

I'd like to support...

Educational Programs

Casa General Fund

### STEP THREE:

#### *Choose your Payment Method*

Check/Cash Enclosed

I pledge to give online at [casaofhope.com/donate](http://casaofhope.com/donate)

### STEP FOUR:

#### **Contact Info**

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