

The 2024 - 2025 Report on Amigos de Honduras Mission Trip and Projects Submitted By PDG Chris Parkinson

Over the last twenty- five years, Rotary District 7870 (Rotary Clubs in Southern NH and Southern VT) have had 32 mission trips and provided aid to Honduras which is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. This included twenty-six (26) trips working with the Danli Rotary Club and six (6) trips working with the Ursula Rotary Club in San Pedro Sula.

After hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras in 1999, Rotary Clubs of District 7870 formed Amigos de Honduras, which ultimately became a program of the Rotary District 7870 Foundation, a non-profit corporation. One of the trustees of the foundation, PDG Chris Parkinson, currently heads up the activities of Amigos de Honduras.

Since 2001, Amigos de Honduras has concentrated its efforts in four areas:

- **Medical Care -** In 25 years we have seen approximately 30,000 medical and dental patients. In 2025, we saw 847 patients.
- **Medical Equipment and Supplies**
 - Over 14.5 Tons of Medical Supplies Transported by Team Members
 - 7 – 40' Containers of Medical Equipment & Supplies
 - 3 Ambulances shipped
- **School Construction & Education –** We have constructed 10 schools, expanded 5 schools, and converted 2 other buildings into schools. We have repaired and painted 17 schools, and we have worked on a youth center and a drug rehabilitation facility. We have also provided school uniforms to over 400 students – which are required for children to attend school. In 2024, we participated in the construction of a new school building which is part of the El Pozo Bendito school campus and it was completed in 2025. In 2025, we participated in the construction of a new school building in Quiscamotes, a poor and remote section of Danli.
- **Pure Water -** Working with another 501c3 Rotary partner, *Pure Water for the World (PWW)*, we have installed or funded over 11,100 water filters which provide clean water to more than 58,000 people. We have also provided wells and latrines to several villages. In 2020-21, we worked with PWW and provided emergency relief to restore wáter lines that were destroyed by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. In 2022, we funded a PWW wáter and sanitation project in El Chaguite. In 2023, we worked with PWW at the CEB Francisco Morazan School in the town of Los Alamendros where we rehabilitated 3 latrines, built 4 new latrines, a hand washing station, installed a wáter line and cistern, and two wáter filters. In 2023, it was announced that PWW was closing down operations. Therefore, in 2024 we did not have a Water and Sanitation project. However, in 2025 we worked with Agua Pura, which is an NGO spawned by former employees of PWW. We funded and participated in a project in Ochoa, a community located over an hour from Danli.

History

District 7870 has developed an excellent track record over the past 25 years and, as noted above, has accomplished a great deal. Amigos de Honduras (Amigos) is grateful to those that have funded and those that have participated on these Mission trips which include Rotary Clubs, individual Rotarians, friends of Rotarians, Concord Hospital, the Hampton Inn in Bow, and businesses in the NH and VT region.

One of the founders, and the soul of our Amigos program, was Mary Crooker, from Nashua, who was a member of the Nashua West Rotary Club, and served on 23 of the mission trips. In 2015, Mary unfortunately died of ALS and the Rotarians in Danli named a school in her honor. Mary's spirit lives on in everything we do.

In 2022, another dedicated member of many mission teams, Henry Swierczynski, passed away. Henry, and his wife Nora, were from Springfield, Vermont, and Henry was a member of the Springfield Rotary Club. It was truly an honor to have had the opportunity to work along side them.

The contributions of Mary and Henry over the years were a key factor in the success of Amigos de Honduras, and they inspire us to continue our efforts in our mission to improve the lives of the people of Honduras.

2025 Mission Team

In 2025 a team of 27 members, which included 12 Rotarians, traveled to Danli. The trip was made more difficult because the airport was moved to Comayagua from Tegucigalpa, and the highway between Tegucigalpa and Danli is under construction. In addition to this, the team was delayed at the airport for two hours by Honduran officials because of the medications they were transporting. This was despite having made a significant effort to correctly file the new required documentation in advance of the trip. This resulted in the team not getting to the hotel in Danli until after 9:30 at night, with most of the team having traveled for approximately 20 hours. It should be noted that Henniker Rotarian, Nicole Lang, and Danli Rotarians, Andrea Merlo and Raul Sevilla, had done significant work in completing the documentation process, and we sincerely thank them for their efforts.

Dave Lawrence, who has extensive experience in leading teams shared the leadership responsibilities with Bow Rotarian, and the Chair of Amigos, Chris Parkinson. Dave also led the construction efforts with respect to the School Construction Project. Dave is a Rotarian from Lancaster, Pennsylvania (but was formerly a member of the Springfield Vermont Rotary Club). Nurse Practitioner, Nicole Lang, of the Henniker Club led the Medical team. Shannon Mills a Dentist and a Rotarian from Concord took the lead with respect to the Dental brigade. Jeanne Conde, a Rotarian from Bethel Vermont, led the Pharmacy efforts. As noted previously, 12 Rotarians were on the team, as Bethel, Bow, Concord, Henniker, Keene, Nashua West, Rotex Alum Rotaract, as well as, Lancaster, PA, and Belafonte, PA, all had team members participate.

Contributors

Contributors and the team members of the 2025 Mission were as follows:

Bellafonte and Pleasant Gap Rotary Clubs	Bethel Rotary Club	Bow Rotary Club
Concord Rotary Club	Henniker Rotary Club	Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club
Lancaster Sunshine Rotary Club	Nashua West Rotary Club	Springfield Rotary Club
Woonsocket Rotary Club	Wallingford Rotary Club	Windsor Rotary Club
Rich Berryman	Joan Brown	Jeanne Conde
		Rena DiMuccio
		Robbie Grady
Erin Haley	Caren Helm	Betty Kantner
		Rick and Janet Manganello
Shawn Morgan & Jin-A Chang	Raymond Papale	Chris Parkinson
		Tosh Stickney
Bow Hampton Inn	Castleton Lions Club	District 7870 Golf Tournament

2025 Team Members

Dave Ament	Dena Ament	Michael Apfelberg
Andrew Cirone	Jeanne Conde	Bruce Crohnhardt
Laural Dillon	Erin Haley	Beth Henderson
Todd Henderson	Joyce Kantner	David Kosofsky
Esther Kosofsky	Jason Lang	Nicole Lang
Pippa Lang	Ryan Lang	David Lawrence
Jim Magennis	Shannon Mills	Chris Parkinson
Jill Pierson	Brian Ruede	Bob Spaulding
Tosh Stickney	Lorrie Vanni	Steve Vanni

The El Pozo Bendito School 2024-25 Project

The 2024 project was the construction of a new school building on the El Pozo Bendito school campus. It had been held up due to some documentation issues between the community and the city of Danli. However, these issues were resolved, thanks to the efforts of Danli Rotarian, Roldan Echeverria. Dave Lawrence and Chris Parkinson visited the construction project in January of 2025 and were very pleased to see that it was nearly completed. The building is a multi-purpose facility and is another example of a wonderful project done through a partnership with Amigos de Honduras, The Danli Rotary Club, and The City of Danli.

The El Pozo Bendito School 2024-25 Project (Cont.)

The 2024 team members that worked on the school were Dave Lawrence, Steve Neuhofer, Dave Ament, John Bob Siemienowicz, Tosh Stickney, and other members of the team from time to time. The project was led by a maestro that was a member of the El Pozo Bendito Community and other members of the community also assisted each day. The team also installed two white boards in two other school buildings. As noted previously, Roldan Echeverria, was the Danli Rotarian overseeing the project.

It should be noted that, in 2013 Amigos had worked with the El Pozo Bendito Community to replace the rooves on 5 school buildings, and we painted and repaired those buildings where needed. This is a great community and we have very much enjoyed working with the members of the community on these projects. The pictures below show the efforts of the 2024 team, as well as, the completed school facility.

Pictures of the El Pozo Bendito School 2024-25 Project



Ryan on the Construction Team



John Bob, Ryan, Steve, Dave A., Tosh, Dave L. and the Honduran Members of the Team



Dave L. and Steve working on the footings



Roldan swinging the pick axe

Pictures of the El Pozo Bendito School 2024-25 Project (Cont.)

Pictures below show the school nearly completed. Despite the delays, this was another excellent project that was completed in partnership with the City of Danli, The Danli Rotary Club, and Amigos de Honduras.



Quiscamotes 2025 School Construction Project

Pictures below show the construction of the Quiscamotes School. Top left shows very little had been done when the team arrived. The team did a great deal during the week and since then we have pictures of the nearly completed school. Top right shows Dave Lawrence Construction Team Leader, below are Bob Spaulding, Todd Henderson, Tosh Stickney, Jason Lang, Steve Vanni, Chris Parkinson, and Dave Ament.



Quiscamotes 2025 School Construction Project (Cont.)



Construction Team : Two community residents working on the project, Tosh, Jason, Maestro Elias, Steve, Dave A., Bob, and Todd



Quiscamotes School nearly complete

2025 Medical and Dental Team

Medical and Dental Team Schedule:

Medical Team Leaders Nicole Lang, David Kosofsky, Beth Henderson, and Joyce Kantner, and Dental Team Leaders Shannon Mills, Bruce Cronhardt, and Laural Dillon

In addition, other team members included: Dena Ament, Michael Apfelberg, Jeanne Conde, Pippa Lang, Ryan Lang, Jill Pierson, Brian Ruede, and Lorrie Vanni. Esdra Alameida, who now lives in Danli, also joined the team, as did Hector Ramos.

The team traveled to different communities per schedule: (see below):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Medical Patients</u>	<u>Dental Patients</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Sunday Jan 26th	Teupasenti	121	47	Marvin R.
Mon 27	La Carbonera	139	58	Raul S.
Tue 28	Los Robles	104	52	Edgardo V.
Wed 29	Quiscamotes	115	35	Roldan E.
Thur 30	San Julian	106	31	Victor S.
Fri. 31	Hogar de Ancianos	20	19	Alex M.
Totals		605 Medical	242 Dental	Total 847



Medical Team Leader Nicole Lang



Dental Team Leader Shannon Mills

2025 Mission Team – Medical and Dental (Cont.)



Doctor David Kosofsky of Nashua West



DMD Laural Dillon with Andrew & Jim



DMD Bruce Cronhardt assisted by Brian Reude – note on left baby lying on mom while being treated



Doctor Beth Henderson

2025 Mission Team – Medical and Dental (Cont.)



Shannon, Bruce, Laural and Andrew with a dental patient



Joyce Kantner, Nurse Practitioner



Dena Ament and Jeanne Conde in the Pharmacy



Esther Kosofsky with Ninas and Ninos



**Lorrie Vanni, Bruce Cronhardt,
Laura Dillon, and Andrew Cirone**



**Jill Pierson
With a Patient**



**Jeanne Conde, Ryan Lang, Erin Haley,
and Dena Ament**

Agua Pura Project

Amigos de Honduras partnered with Agua Pura which is the NGO that took over the effort of Pure Water for the World in Honduras. This year's project was at the village of Ochoa at a newly constructed school. It involved building three latrines and a wash station. Below are pictures of the team working with Agua Pura staff on the project.



Bob, Erin, Tosh, and Todd



Steve, Jill, Jason, Jim, and the Agua Pura Staff



Jill Pierson and Jim Magennis with helpers



Steve Vanni and the Agua Pura Crew



Jim painting the Banos



Steve & Jason mixing concrete for the pad on the roof for the cistern



School Uniforms

Tosh Stickney, of Fairhaven, Vermont, raised \$1,000 for Amigos De Honduras to provide 26 school uniforms to young students at the Zaragoza School which was built by Amigos De Honduras in 2019. Uniforms are required to attend school in Honduras and providing them is an important aspect our teams have been able to provide over the years. The uniforms were given out on Thursday at a celebration that was held at the school. Lucia Sylvia Kleen Megias, wife of Rotarian Adolfo Sevilla, coordinated the effort. The celebration also included a remembrance of the passing of Adolfo which happened this past year. Below are pictures from that celebration.



Laptop Computers

The Nashua South Interact Club raised funds to purchase four re-conditioned laptop computers. Several members of the team transported these to Danli. Chris Parkinson and Raul Sevilla then presented these to the following schools:



El Pozo Bendito



Zaragoza



Quiscamotes



Ramon Carias Donaire School in Alauca

The 2025 Mission Team – Other Special Moments



The 2025 Team Picture



Our Excellent Translators



Tosh, Erin, Roldan, Jim and Bob

The 2025 Mission Team – Other Special Moments (Cont.)



Chris and Dave being presented with an award by Club President Victor Soto who did an excellent job of making preparations for our Mission Trip.



Dave Lawrence at the 2023 Construction Project that was dedicated in his name.

The 2025 Mission Team – Other Special Moments (Cont.)



Roldan, Mike and Jason



Morning Team Meeting



The 2025 Mission Team – Other Special Moments (Cont.)



The 2025 Mission Team – Financial Report

A summary Financial Report for the year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 is presented below:

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures: 2024 – 2025 (Per District 7870 Foundation)

Ending Fund Balance – June 2024:	\$	4,385
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Revenue:

Donations From Individuals**	\$	4,490
Club Donations**		12,350
Donation - From 7870 Golf Tournament		9,139
Team Member Fees		3,500
Total Revenue	\$	29,479

Expenditures:

Transfer to Danli Rotary		
School Construction	\$	12,740
Contingency		1,500
In-Country Transportation		2,760
Total		17,000
Medical and Dental Supplies and Costs		4,028
Agua Pura Project in Ochoa		9,500
Reimb. Costs for Mission Team (Lunches, T-shirts, Luggage)		1,944
Total Expenditures	\$	32,472
Net Flow for 2024 - 25	\$	(2,993)
Ending Fund Balance – June 2025	\$	1,392

**** Note: Contributors in 2024-2025 are noted earlier in the report and we thank them for their support of Amigos de Honduras**

Reflections from the 2025 Team

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the incredible experience we shared during our recent trip to Honduras. This trip has deeply impacted Todd and me, and we are still reflecting on the meaningful work we all accomplished together.

To the leaders, thank you for your tireless efforts in organizing and coordinating this trip. The level of planning and dedication that went into every detail was truly impressive. Your leadership made it all come together seamlessly, allowing us to focus on the mission at hand while knowing that we were supported every step of the way.

To all of the team members, you are truly an extraordinary group of giving, caring, and hard-working individuals. It was a privilege to work alongside each and every one of you. Beyond the tangible support we provided—medical care, dental care, and building a school—what made this trip even more special was the camaraderie and shared passion for making a difference. The way you all came together to serve the people of Honduras was nothing short of inspiring.

We were also deeply moved by the potential impact we had on the lives of the people we met in Honduras. The gratitude and smiles we received from so many adults and children touched us in ways we cannot fully express. For many of you, we can't begin to imagine the number of lives you've touched over the years. We feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity this year to contribute just a little to this meaningful work.

This trip was truly a reset for Todd and me. It has encouraged us to look for more ways to continue this kind of work in the future. We are inspired to carry forward the lessons learned and the compassion we experienced while in Honduras, and we hope to repeat this experience and also find new opportunities to help others in similar ways.

Thank you again to each of you for your dedication, your hard work, and your kindness. This experience will stay with us for many years to come and we are so grateful to have shared it with such an amazing group of people.

Beth and Todd Henderson

Dear fellow Amigos de Honduras,

The impact of the trip to Honduras will resonate in my mind and heart over the years.

As a treatment provider I was fortunate to acquire the skills I have many years ago. During my working years it was a goal of mine to volunteer on mission trips to in some way "pay back" to my fellow humans for the randomly fortunate situations I have been given of my life. I realize there is actually no way to do that but it is a recognition and meager attempt to give away the product of my skills for the privilege of having acquired my skills.

My most precious memories are of pulling up to the schools and seeing the groups of people who have assembled with the hope of being seen for ailments or problems they might have. But they weren't just there in there every day clothing, they have dressed in clean and dressy clothes. Like those one might wear to church. I saw that as a sign of self respect and also a sign of respectful appreciation towards those of us there to see them. It spoke volumes to me. I also loved seeing the rambunctious playfulness of the kids. There was often a long time waiting and they found their outlet in healthy play.

Other memories I hold dear are of our volunteer student translators. They volunteered their time and patiently translated in the kindest way to our patients. They were the conduit of understanding and empathy for us non Spanish speakers. A vital role in the success of the mission. And for me a Godsend.

Many thanks to the Amigo Team for their conviviality and kindness. I was not surprised but definitely impressed with my fellow volunteers. A beautiful and caring group of folks out to help in the world a little at a time.

Bruce Cronhardt

Reflections from the 2025 Team (Cont.)

I would like to take this opportunity to share our experiences with you all. This is my 41st year as a Rotarian in Nashua West, NH. I have served 6 terms (18 years) as a director which is almost half of how long that I have been a member. Like the rest of the Rotarians on the Amigos Trip, we have all participated in various club activities over the years. Whether it was preparing meals for the elderly, participating in Meals on Wheels, gifting Thanksgiving meals or Christmas Dinners to needy families, hands on construction or renovation projects, we have all made a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our communities. Raising money and putting those funds into action is the way we make a difference in other peoples lives.

Spending 8 days working shoulder to shoulder with like-minded people, using our medical knowledge in a foreign land is a whole different level of involvement and commitment. When we look into the eyes of team members, we see an excitement that is contagious and exhilarating. When we look into the eyes of the children we are treating, we see a gratefulness that can only be felt. This is an experience that we have not found anywhere else.

We are so thankful that we had the opportunity to live this. We are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to do it again.

David and Esther Kosofsky

Thank you, David and Ester. I couldn't have expressed my sentiment about that experience any better myself. I feel exactly the same and am looking forward to making this trip happen again next year and the years to follow!

Laural Dillon

It was fantastic making a return trip to Honduras after an 11 year break... We were able to catch up with old friends and see real change that has taken place in Danli and the surrounding areas. The work, time and efforts the Amigos de Honduras teams have put in are definitely paying off for the people of Honduras!

Highlights of this trip for me and my dad, were reconnecting with his adopted family, helping to build bathrooms at a school in the mountains, and being able to help present 26 uniforms to children who can now attend school! Their smiles and excitement at hearing their names called, speak volumes for what we do. I'm honored and proud to be an Amiga!

Erin Haley

I worked with the construction team. It was very satisfying that in just five days our team was able to erect the four walls and pour the floor of a new school building.

Dave Ament

I thought the trip went well. I think everyone had a rewarding experience. By the interest shown in the final days, I do think there is adequate interest in a future trip.

Dave Lawrence

Reflections from the 2025 Team (Cont.)

Chris,

Thanks so much for your dedication and hard work organizing the complex travel and logistical arrangements to make the 2025 Amigos mission another resounding success. We also could not have been successful without Nicole's attention to detail with ARSA to get our medical supplies through Honduran customs. These efforts enabled the dental team to brake new ground with a I-pad based digital record that allows us to collect and analyze population health data. We also offered more effective patient education and expanded use of direct preventive services, especially for our youngest patients. As always, there were lessons learned that we can apply to help improve the program going forward.

After you left Danli on Thursday, the dental team met, and we discussed the possibility of returning to Honduras next year with or without the medical or construction teams. We recognize that the highway construction poses a serious challenge, but team members were unanimous in support of investigating the possibility of having a dental team visit in 2026. Missing a year greatly limits the ability to build on the prevention focused programs we are now working to implement. We would of course welcome the medical, construction and water teams if they were interested in joining us.

When I spoke with Raul, Victor, Roldan, Dr. Varela, and other Danli Rotarians, they were supportive of us returning. I am hoping we can also use the visit to meet with public health officials and members of the local dental community to discuss how we provide support to create locally managed programs supported by Rotary. Dr. Varela is going to try to set up some virtual meetings with key players in the near term to see what may be possible. These meetings should inform us on how we approach future visits.

We know that we will need the support of Rotary District 7870 and the Rotary Club of Danli going forward. We recognize that your experience and hard work have been essential in planning and organizing the Amigos trips for the last 25 years. We respect your choice to take a year off and are not expecting you to organize or execute a dental only mission. We would, however, be deeply grateful for your mentorship and guidance if we try to make this work.

Laural Dillon has agreed to take over as dental team lead, with me serving in a supporting role. Andrew Cirrone's skill sets include being a travel agent and he is willing to take lead on setting up the logistics and travel component. Mike Apfelberg, Brian Ruede, and Lorrie are maybes for next year, but Jill, Esdras, Bruce, Laural, Andrew and I are very much on board. Todd Blomerth has also expressed interest in joining us again. One thing that may make it easier next year is that Esdras was able to keep our dental chairs and sterilizers reducing the volume and weight of baggage we will need to carry.

Looking forward to your sage advice.

Shannon Mills, Dental Team Leader

Reflections from the 2025 Team (Cont.)

Prior to this year's mission trip, I had thought that this might be the last mission trip. We have done some excellent work over the past twenty-five years and maybe it was time to bring these efforts to an end.

However, as the mission trip progressed it became evident that this year's team, which as noted above is an exceptional group, wanted our efforts to continue into the future. To this end, I have put together a plan that creates an Amigos Committee and the members of this committee will take on various responsibilities which will significantly reduce my workload.

I have decided to not be a team member in 2026. But, Dave Lawrence has said he will continue on as team leader, as long as we can recruit another individual to share this role with him. I want to thank Dave for his willingness to do this and for his incredible record of support for Amigos de Honduras. I am pleased to announce that Jill Pierson, a member of the Rotex Alum Rotaract Club, has agreed to be Vice Chair of Amigos de Honduras and to be co-leader of the 2026 mission team along with Dave Lawrence. I will continue to Chair the committee and continue on as a Trustee of the District 7870 Foundation Board.

I have presented the new committee structure to the Board of Trustees and have received their approval.

In addition to Jill and myself, I am delighted to report that the committee is also comprised of Nicole Lang, Medical Team Coordinator, Beth Henderson, 2026 Medical Team Leader, Shannon Mills, Dental Team Coordinator, Laural Dillon, 2026 Dental Team Leader, Jeanne Conde, Medical Documentation Assistant, and, Andrew Cirone, Administration,

I have had the great opportunity to lead this effort over the past 25 years. This has provided me with so many special moments and so many friendships that I treasure. In closing, I wish to express my gratitude for this year's team members, as well as the many team members that have served over the years. I look forward to working with this new committee and continuing to serve the needs of the people of Honduras.

Yours in Rotary Service

Chris Parkinson
PDG and Chair of Amigos de Honduras