

Jardín de Gracia



Graduating from 6th grade!

End of the Year Report 2015

2015 was an amazing year for Jardín de Gracia. We had many projects completed, and lots of sweet surprises along the way. It is always so amazing to see God's hands at work here in our little school. He loves us more than we ever think possible.

This year, as I am sure you have heard; we bought a bus! Buying a bus seems like such an easy task right? Here in Honduras, it involves lots of hoop jumping. The first step in jumping through a hoop is to find the hoop. All the steps to having a legal vehicle should be printed somewhere but we haven't seen that list yet, and so... we con-

tinue to turn in photos, forms, and signatures to try and make it legal to drive. It's been a test of patience for sure - both for administrators that need to get it done as well as for the staff & children that see it sitting on the property. It seems to be ready, but when the police pull us over, we want to be sure we are ready.

We had 12 groups visit the school this year - mostly in the summer months. We were blessed beyond measure by the people that came and gave their time to help make the school run. We finished the year with 154 children in attendance and ministered to 124 families in the village.



Levi graduated with our very first class. He has now completed high school & has his chef license. He has been offered a job at the Hilton Int. and returned to help cook & serve for graduation this week. It's the dream in action!

Graduation is always bittersweet

This year, 14 sixth graders will leave the gates of Jardín de Gracia and begin to find their way in this crazy world without the school. This was an unusually small class & will probably be our last class of this size. The incoming 6th grade class has 23 young people in it. The reason for this is varied, it could be that a child was held back (most of the variance this year is attributed to that reason), or it could be that a family has moved to a bigger city for parents work, maybe the parents just decided that Jardín wasn't for them & they want a public education. These 14 young people are heading out to continue their education elsewhere. We hope that they all come back & visit. We'll miss them.

Kindergarten finished the year with 25 graduates. They will enter 1st grade prepared and ready to learn. We had 16 children in Kindergarten learn to read this year. The teacher attributes this jump in readers to the curriculum that we purchased with your help last year. Next year we hope to incorporate "center" type learning in both the first & kindergarten classrooms. We expect to see even more improvements next.

How can I help?

Our sponsorship has more than tripled over the last 4 years. It sounds like we should be near full sponsorship at this point when you hear that first sentence but actually, out of our 164 children that will attend school in 2016, only half are sponsored. Sponsorship dollars all go into the same general fund so every dollar supports every child. If every child had a sponsor - we could do SO much more! The best way that you could help with this endeavor is to continue to pray that sponsorship will continue to grow.

We also have some loving individuals and caring organizations that have done book drives or raised money for shoes. We always have a short list of things that we could use or would like to have. If you are interested or if you have a specific interest that we can connect with, we'd love to talk to you! Our contact info is below.



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Thank you!

It's the end of the year! The kids have all finished their final exams, the teachers have finished cleaning their classrooms and we are about to lock stuff up around here.

Our incoming kindergarteners have been contacted and came to the school this week to have their little feet measured for shoes. This years group is particularly young (more 4 year olds than 5 year olds) and most are living deeply in poverty. The reason we feel confident in serving such a difficult group is that we know that you all are behind us. Praying us along and helping when we need it. Thank you so very much for believing in Jardin de Gracia and it's mission to serve the poorest of our community.

Our teachers left today with the intent to learn more over the winter break. The idea of "center" type learning has been floating around here for a few years and has never really caught on. The younger grade teachers received a training class and saw the centers in action during a visit to another nearby Christian school, and they will receive a full 2 day training on the same subject next week at the same location. This will add to our curriculum that we purchased last year and will complement the Great Expectations classroom standards that we began in 2014. Thank you for continuing to pour into our teachers. For making them some of the best national teachers in our area of Honduras. Thank you for believing in them and for the help that you provide.

Our returning students are tucked in at home, waiting for the coffee crops to be ready to harvest. Some are visiting family in other cities, some are sitting at home with siblings while parents work. Thank you for loving these kids so well. When they walk into the gate at Jardin de Gracia they are greeted with a hug & they know it's a safe place where they can be a kid. Thank you for lifting us up in prayer, for every little cent you send our way. We hope you feel connected and we hope more than that, we hope that we are serving well. Thank you.