

## PROJECT EDEN/ADELANTE FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Father Dan St. Laurent visited Honduras for a few weeks recently. He was able to review Project Eden/Adelante programs, talk with the team members and reconnect with the community he loves there.

### GARDENS

The school and community gardens supported by Project Eden remain productive with harvests of corn, yuca, plantains, bananas, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers to feed many. The new teacher replacing Professor Rolando in Coyolar is excited to continue the garden there with the students. Recently, Mario Ramos, Project Eden Director, led a workshop about gardening for students and teachers.



Garden Workshop



Students learning to plant seeds



The garden at the school in Coyolar.



Coyolar students with their Plantain harvest.

## REFORESTATION

The first reforestation effort by Project Eden in 2002 was done with the help of students from UNH. They planted avocado trees in Quiscamote and leucaena trees for firewood. Now the staff works diligently to nurture plants in El Hogar for distribution to individuals and groups for reforestation projects. Some of the seedlings that have been planted near schools and in the community have already grown into young forests.



Reforestation at a local school resulting from seedlings raised and donated by Project Eden.



The nursery at El Hogar Del Ninos.



Mario Ramos represented Project Eden and spoke at a conference regarding climate change in Campamento.

## HEALTHY BEGINNINGS (MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH)

The Honduran government temporarily stopped paying their nurses, resulting in strikes. This impacted the Healthy Beginnings program for one to two months, as Project Eden collaborates with existing clinics to administer the program. It is now back on track with food and vitamin distributions to pregnant women and their families. During Father Dan's trip to Honduras in September, he attended the meeting with the program participants at El Hogar del Nino and helped with the food distribution to those families.



Moms and children meeting for the Healthy Beginnings Program.



Father Dan speaking to the families in the Healthy Beginnings Program.

### **ADELANTE (EDUCATION)**

The Adelante program has 123 students enrolled. Classes will be ending soon for their winter break, similar to the summer recess in the U.S. The students will resume classes in February. The cost of sponsorship had been \$250 since the inception of the program in 2005. The board of directors recently increased that to \$300 for the coming school year. This support is very important to educating the children who are at risk of dropping out due to inability to pay for uniforms, books and supplies.



Project Eden's Jose Adan Urbina meeting with Adelante students.



Father Dan speaking with Adelante students.

## **WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS**

The staff continues to inspect and help maintain 59 systems in the region, providing access to clean water for those communities. No new systems have been installed this fall though there is need and communities are interested. Funding remains a challenge for installation of new systems.



Rigo Ramos and Jose Adan inspecting a water filtration system.

## **FATHER DAN'S JOURNEY** (continued from the summer newsletter)

Fr. Dan's trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico in 1979 impacted him tremendously. It caused some soul searching to discern God's will regarding how he would spend his life. After a time of questions, doubts and confusion, he realized he wanted to do ministry amongst Latino communities. It took time to get permission but the bishop finally agreed. He went to a language program in NY then returned to NH to begin ministering to new Latino arrivals in August 1983. Communication was still a challenge but the work felt right. The following January, he went to a language immersion program in Santiago, Dominican Republic. He lived there with a wonderful family and learned to communicate more effectively in Spanish. Fr. Dan returned to NH to continue his ministry with the Latino communities in Manchester and Nashua. He continued the work in Nashua until 1997. He met many wonderful people along this journey and learned much from them, including four women religious in NH and the family in Santiago with whom he lived during his language immersion program.

(This story will be continued in upcoming newsletters.)



Father Dan preaching in San Francisco de la Paz in September.