

# -LINKED-

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

BY COURTNEY MATHEWS

If there was any doubt in our minds about the value of a good education on the life of a child, last year that doubt was driven far away. The six children who were enrolled in education programs all grew leaps and bounds - academically, socially and in self-confidence.

Some grew from barely knowing their letters to reading aloud in class. They grew from isolated street kids to easily making friends on the playground. And their feelings of doubt grew to feelings of confidence and hope for the future.

Last year, thanks to generous contributions, six children from Breaking Chains (Pamela, Nayeli, Arol, Escarlen, Jonatan and Dayana) received a chance at a better future through education. This year, we hope to continue that path as school begins in mid-February.

Our goal this year is to be able to place four new children (Axel, Melvin, Hengi and Tobasque) in education programs and continue the private education for the six children who began last year.

Last year was a learning process for us as we raised funds for the inaugural school year, and we realized we had under-budgeted. This year, the cost to sponsor each child will be \$100 per month. That monthly cost will cover tuition, transportation and lunch costs. Each child will also need a one-time upfront sponsorship of \$600. The one-time donation will cover enrollment costs, school supplies, books and uniforms.

We will need ten \$100 per month commitments and ten people willing to give a one-time amount of \$600. If you are interested in providing monthly or one-time sponsorship for our children, please email [mail@bchonduras.org](mailto:mail@bchonduras.org).



**AS AN HONOR ROLL STUDENT, JONATAN PROUDLY DISPLAYS HIS CLASS'S BANNER DURING A PARADE WITH INTERAMERICAN SCHOOL.**

If you are unable to commit to a full \$100 per month but would still like to do a partial sponsorship, please let us know. Pledges of any amount would be a huge blessing to our Breaking Chains children.

We are still unsure if the courts will resolve the case of the Ochoa children in time for them to begin school in February; however, we are planning sponsorship for them regardless. If the children are unable to attend school, we will notify the sponsors and reallocate funds.

Both Santa Monica and Interamerican School have demonstrated the value of a loving, disciplined, educational environment. Please help us continue that partnership with them by helping sponsor one of our eager-to-learn children.

[Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and blog as we display the profiles of each child needing education sponsorship.](#)

# RESOLUTIONS FOR NEW BEGINNINGS IN 2013

BY MICHAEL LEMMONS

Our close-knit Breaking Chains family has felt more pain in 2012 than we would like to remember. We lost three amazing teenage boys we won't forget. Then we watched as child services left us with the memory of seeing our five little Ochoa children led up the stairs and into a car to a children's home.

But we know God blesses us in spite of it all. And he graces us with new beginnings in 2013.

Our BC families and their children bless our ministry and our team, and they are a fruitful and wonderful part of what we do. But they have each other. They have their families. Conversely, we have teenagers who have fought through pain and found a family with us. Our teens need us and we need them. They give us meaning and worth when we feel we have none.

We fight alongside our teenagers through the muck of darkness. We remind them to focus on the stream of light in the distance even when they fall away from it. We teach them our savior gives them a new starting line toward that light with each new day.

The year 2012 has fallen away. Now they have a new beginning, a fresh chance in 2013. The previous year only serves as a teacher's guide.

We asked our kids to look back at 2012 and tell us what

they would like to change about our ministry. The majority of answers proved useful, doable and in many cases alongside our own goals.

**"Have a way to earn things like hygiene kits and fun stuff instead of it just being given to us."**

- Cyndi

**"Have more things to occupy us."**

- Eric

**"Have ways to give back some of what we receive."**

-Yovanny

Then we asked them what they most appreciated about our ministry. The answers gave us hope. True hope. God is amazing in the deepest of darkness and works through the most insignificant people. God is creating something magnificent at Breaking Chains to his immeasurable glory.

When asked what they appreciated about Breaking Chains, the answers varied, but the theme was love.

**"The privilege to take classes, have somewhere to live and food to eat. You can't find that just anywhere."**

-Nancy

**"The way you all take care of us."**

- Yahira

**"That you talk to us about decisions and include us in your plans, like asking us how to make things better right now."**

- Heriberto

**"You treat us with love."**

- Kevin

**"The care you give us - I found my family here."**

- Miguel

We challenged the kids to tell us their New Year's resolutions for 2013. I love seeing them think about their futures and pursue specific goals.

**"Go to school, help do things around here, find a place where I can stay, maintain ties with BC, and be a soccer player."**

- Oscar

**"Work, stop doing drugs, be good and respect the rules of BC."**

- Geovanny

I'm proud to say I work with these kids, not because I had something to do with their responses or that anyone on our team did. I know that's all God. I'm proud of how much they have grown. I'm proud to walk beside them as they discover God's plan for their lives over the next year.

Thank you for your part in 2012, and for what I know you will do in 2013 for us, for our families and for these teenagers with amazing hearts.



## A PRAYER FOR OUR TEENS:

Recently, Amber posted this story on Facebook following a devotional:

"Each night to get the kids warmed up for talking during devotional we play a game of 'would you rather.' Last night one of the questions was 'Would you rather have a photographic memory and be able to remember everything, or be able to permanently forget anything you choose?' Without hesitation every kid in the room said, 'Forget, definitely forget.' I can't get that out of my head."

Please join us in prayer that the lives of our teens be transformed by God's grace, and that they be filled with moments they would rather remember than forget.

**SEVERAL OF OUR TEENAGERS WILL BEGIN EDUCATION OR VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH. THE COST TO SPONSOR WILL BE \$50 PER MONTH, WITH ONE UPFRONT PAYMENT OF \$100. PLEASE BE IN PRAYER ABOUT SPONSORING ONE OF THESE TEENAGERS. IF YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP, PLEASE EMAIL MAIL@BCHONDURAS.ORG.**





## BLESSINGS FROM BEACH CHRISTMAS 2012

BY AMBER FOSTER

Sitting from my chair on the beach, I paused to take in the scenes surrounding me. Teenagers laughing in easy conversation as they buried one another in the sand. Parents leading their children by the hand to touch their feet in the ocean for the first time. And children giggling, never tiring of running to escape the tide just before it hit shores.

Peaceful, joyful moments like these are so few and far between for our BC residents. The looks on their faces during the trip, along with their words of gratitude, registered just how thankful they were for the opportunity.

Thank you to everyone who donated to make Beach Christmas 2012 possible. It was an incredible weekend of fellowship our residents will not soon forget. Thank you for the opportunity to grow closer together as a family, to appreciate God's natural beauty, and to share in the moments of light God provided.

We are so thankful to have had this amazing opportunity. Thank you to everyone who continually supports the work that we do. You are a blessing, and we look forward to sharing many more memorable moments with you. Visit [facebook.com/bchonduras](http://facebook.com/bchonduras) for more photos.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED BC IN 2012!  
WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR GIFTS. TO GIVE  
IN 2013, PLEASE VISIT [BCHONDURAS.ORG/SITE/GIVE.HTML](http://BCHONDURAS.ORG/SITE/GIVE.HTML).**

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Regular monthly giving
- Education sponsorship
- Renewed purpose in 2013
- BC teens and children
- Celebrate Recovery

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