

MISSION MOMENT

A New Frontier in Responding to Hunger

Hunger can be brought on by disasters, poverty, or conflict—but the experience of hunger to those who are hungry goes deeper. In a world where climate change disproportionately impacts places and people already struggling with food insecurity, now is the time to share—generously and creatively.

In Nueva Frontera (New Frontier) and other rural areas in the department of Santa Bárbara, Honduras, a new program is unfolding, and has already reached 500 families. Esmerelda Robles is a 27-year-old wife, mother, and farmer who lives in the Macuelizo region, and has benefitted greatly from the installation of an eco-stove which has significantly reduced the soot that previously covered her home. “Before, I had a permanent cough,” Esmerelda says. “Now, with just a load of firewood, you cook, you don’t need much (unlike the stove we had before), and it is very helpful for our lungs that there is no smoke.”

Beyond this life-affirming aspect for individual families, the most important contribution of these eco-stoves is their significant reduction in the use of firewood. This is all part of the new frontier of innovative CWS programs developed with local partners, and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, to improve food security while adapting to climate change.

For Esmerelda and her family, other aspects of this program include learning about food and nutrition, hygiene, waste management, and environmental protection. She

has participated in training sessions about planting crops and producing fertilizers and has received seeds which have allowed her to grow most of the food her family eats, such as: plantain, cushaw pumpkin (ayote), chili peppers, and yucca. She is also able to sell or exchange her produce with neighbors.

Additionally, Esmerelda was part of a “pass chain” activity in the program, where she received several foster animals. This activity consists of a family receiving a pregnant pig, sheep, or cow and feeding and caring for it. When the next piglet, lamb, or calf is born, it is passed on to another family, which in turn will do the same. Esmerelda describes her village as “a beautiful place with friendly people, with good coexistence. We all know each other because we have always been there. I was born and raised here.”



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Food sustains life. Responding to hunger is an affirmation of life. Let us not grow weary of affirming life! Regardless of the cause of hunger, One Great Hour of Sharing responds – both locally and globally. Like Esmerelda, many of our global siblings living at the intersections of hunger and climate change are already reaping the harvests of your past generosity. But there are still more families in need of these life-affirming programs. It’s time to share.

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up...So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.” —Galatians 6.9-10