

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 2

# JUST BECAUSE WE CARE

[WWW.JUSTBECAUSEWECARE.COM](http://WWW.JUSTBECAUSEWECARE.COM)



Diane and I want to thank you for the great help you gave to Just Because We Care during 2011. Feeding the children five days a week, when the cost of food rose at least 25%, was nothing short of a miracle.

We know our Timmy is helping us a lot from heaven and we know we were blessed to have him with us as long as we did.

The Christmas Trip was superb. The children performed a wonderful pageant. All received presents, as well a great meal. The families receive food to prepare their Christmas meal. This is

## ✧ Update from Bob & Diane ✧

truly what Christmas is all about.

It is hard for me to say that things are not desperate there. Diane and I have been going for over 9 years. In the beginning things were horrific. All it takes is for me to go to someone's home and find a soup pot of beans that is dinner for 11 people and it reminds me that we have to keep working hard. That comes easy, as Diane and I don't have to do it alone. The work is more like fun for Diane and me with the help of our family and friends.

I have told many people that Diane and I are truly blessed to have this project and that we will never stop. Please remember these wonderful people in your prayers and

continue helping us whenever and in whatever way you can.

We will be having our annual "Timmy's Mountain Golf Tournament" on 6/11/12. Our second annual "Honduran One Club Tournament" will be held on 9/7/12. We will have more fund raisers as well coming up this year.

Please always check our webpage, [www.justbecausewecare.com](http://www.justbecausewecare.com) for updates.

With thanks for the bottom of our hearts,

Bob and Diane Wamhoff



*Christmas trip 2011. Paul Sheehan MD board member Just Because We Care.*

Starting with a 4:15 a. m. airport check in to Atlanta and then on to San Pedro Sula. Bob picked up the rental car, in actuality a pick up truck, while the 3 of us wrestled with 6 duffel bags containing 300 pounds of donations. Lacking the usual paperwork, we were flagged by customs. A spirited discussion, culminated by a detailed description of the roadway to the mountain, and presentation of my JBWC board member business card, and we were on our way. We told Bob we bribed the customs agent for

lack of paperwork. He was not surprised at all. Please don't tell him we made that part of the Honduran entrance adventure up. After leaving the airport, we headed out of town and were back on site up the mountain by 2 p.m. We were greeted by our on site hosts, including Doc, Judith, and there sons David, and Walter. Over the next 3 days, we renewed or made acquaintances with the entire extended family. No other hosts will make a return or new



visitor feel more at ease and at home.

Day 2 was shopping day, and we split into 2 carloads to procure supplies for the Children's Christmas party luncheon and the Christmas dinner distribution. A bit of souvenir shopping at a huge market was included on our itinerary. 3 carved nativity scene ornaments mounted in gourds, a couple of refrigerator magnets, 800, no 400, no 700, adios, no 600 with engraving on the ornaments, SOLD! Dinner that evening included a favorite of mine, Judith's tamales, served wrapped in banana leaves. I tried to convince the newbie's that they were not tasty, and I would eat their portion so as not to offend the host, but I was not at all convincing. Absolutely delicious.

Day 3 was the Christmas party for the children, held at the Community Center. Some of the kids I recognized from prior years, and they recognized and approached us. The brothers BBQed 400 hot dogs, and after the talent show, lunch was served. Everyone got a hot dog, students, family, friends, and volunteers. Dessert was sheet cake, and any semblance of order was gone. Gifts were passed out to the students. Imagine your frenetic childhood Christmas gift

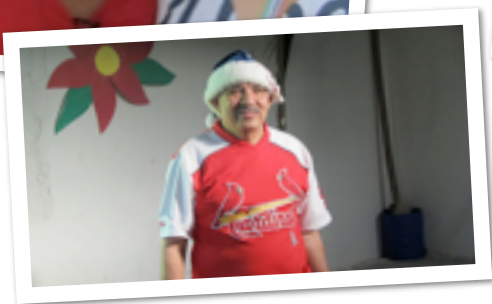


show, lunch was served. Everyone got a hot dog, students, family, friends, and volunteers. Dessert was sheet cake, and any semblance of order was gone. Gifts were passed out to the students. Imagine your frenetic childhood Christmas gift unwrapping, and multiply that by 135, and you have some idea. This year, many kids got frisbees, and I started my new career as frisbee instructor.

No visit to Honduras is complete without a visit to Bob's Chicken Bar, a small roadside place so named because the family's chickens come and go through the bar. With 2 picnic tables, a refrigerator of cold beer and an actual donated sign that says "Bob's Chicken Bar" it is a venue not to be missed. Bob treated his extended Honduran family and the gringos to dinner at Applebee's, less than 15 minutes from the mountain. Such a contrast within such a short geographic distance. With the exception of those powered by a generator, located at the vocational school which is run till about 10 p.m., there are no electric lights on the mountain. So when lights are out, they are out, and the compound and entire mountain assumes a peaceful ambience, interrupted only by the sounds of nature.

Day 4, up early, and bring the Christmas dinners for the students' families to the Community Center. Bread, apples, grapes, and bread are distributed to families, the amounts determined by the family size. More truly grateful individuals you will never encounter. Pickup bed empty, my brother and I rode together in the back of a pickup truck for the first time in over 40 years. We returned to the compound, loaded up the luggage, and headed off to the airport. An on time 1:15 departure from San Pedro Sula, a layover in Atlanta, and we were back in St. Louis by 10 p.m.

Although we were back home, no one ever visits the mountain without leaving a part of their heart and soul with the children we help. I would invite all readers to make the journey at least once, as we continue our mission.



# Theresa Smith

Traveling with Bob and company on the Christmas trip was an incredible journey back into time and life. A time that many of us have never seen or experienced in our lifetime. A time we may have read about in books or seen in movies. We even may have heard stories of this kind of life from our grandparents, but to actually see how people live that life is another story in itself.

I met a lovely widowed woman who supported her four daughters with selling baked bread, a skill she learned through the vocational school built by Just Because We Care.

There were a group of people at the base of the mountain either waiting to take a bus to a nearby city or hoping for a ride up the mountain. Bob stopped our vehicle and we fit a mother and three of her children in the backseat with me and thus I began my journey.

I've read the newsletters distributed by Just Because We Care, but there were many gaps in my mind of what the mountain life is really like or what the foundation really does for the people it serves. One of the most important things I learned is the sequence of how food is distributed within each family. I learned in Honduran culture, that the father eats first, then the working sons, then the mother, then other boys and lastly



the girls. So with that in mind, feeding the children at school is of utmost importance in not only their survival, but in educating the children to reach their full potential, giving them an opportunity to succeed. The foundation is fulfilling the most basic need – feeding the children.

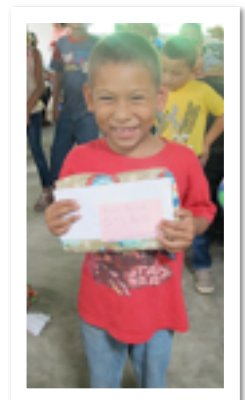
I toured the current family's home that will be moving into Casa 6 when it is completed. There was a medium size pot on an adobe stove outside their house with beans for dinner that would feed the family of 11. Their house and their meager dinner is a story in itself.

In touring the homes built by Just Because We Care, I could see the significant difference in the life styles of the families who received the new homes. And of course I heard of many of the other benefits the foundation provides such as dental visits, vitamins, shoes, clothing, and jobs. All of this is done to improve the living conditions of the people on the mountain.



Honduras is a beautiful, luscious, tropical country with scenic views up on the

mountain, but it was the way the people lived that touched my heart. I saw firsthand how many lives Just Because We Care Foundation supports for this mountain community. I saw firsthand the difference we are making in these children and their families' lives. I saw



the smiles on all the faces I met that said thank you, we are grateful for your help, and muchos gracias gringos! The highlight of my trip was when I met face to face with my sponsored child, Angel, a first grade boy. Through the interpreter, David, I was able to have a conversation with him, give him a

hug and see his beautiful smile. I am so grateful to the Just Because We Care Foundation for the opportunity to see first hand the special work the foundation does in Honduras. Life on the mountain is in another world, a world where we can make a difference in peoples' lives

## Kevin Sheehan



I recently had the opportunity to go to Honduras with Bob Wamhoff, Theresa Smith and my brother Paul Sheehan. I knew this was a poor area and thought I knew what to expect. I was wrong. We were welcomed with open arms into Judith's family.

When we arrived at the mountain Bob saw a family he knew just beginning their 2 plus hour walk up the mountain and piled them in the truck with us. He had already stopped to buy candy to throw to all the children as we passed their houses on our way up the mountain. To see the smiles on their faces made me understand how much they appreciate something we take for granted.

Wednesday the school children put on a Christmas pageant. Paul and I grilled 400 hot dogs, Theresa helped wrap them in foil and serve them after the pageant. This is a treat

these people get once a year, hot dogs, chips, soda and cake. Christmas gifts were handed out after lunch.

Thursday we handed out Christmas dinner to about 135 families. Dinner consisted of chicken, grapes, apples, bread, and condiments. People walked to the community center, waited in line and walked home carrying their food. Some of the people walked more than an hour each way.

Just Because We Care has completed 5 houses and should finish the 6th house this month. We visited 4 of the 5 houses and met the families; you could see in their faces how much they love Bob and all that he, Diane and the entire Just Because We Care community have done. I was happy to help bring a smile to their faces, but left wanting to do more.



DATES TO  
SAVE

JUNE 11  
Timmy's  
Mountain Annual  
Golf Tournament

SEP 7  
2nd Annual  
Honduran One  
Club Golf  
Tournament

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