

Current Projects, Material and Operational Needs at the City of Refuge as of Jan 2017

Entrepreneurs: Our goal at the City of refuge is to become completely self-sustaining. Sustainability for us includes the following.

- Generating enough income to support day to day operations at the City of Refuge.
- Being prepared for contingencies e.g. medical emergencies, natural disasters etc.
- Preparing our kids to survive in the real world e.g. paying for college and trade school and or helping them to develop business of their own.
- Replicating the City of Refuge in other nations are the world.

We need financial and other entrepreneurial professionals to teach and guide our kids and us as well.

Art Room: We need to furnish, supply and equip the new art room which means we also need skilled artists to teach the kids art. Certified Art Therapists who could provide some viable short term therapeutic interventions for use by our child care staff would be great as well.

Sewing: We have a location and some equipment / supplies. We do not have people who know how to sew let alone teach it to the kids. We need insight from fashion designers and marketers and buyers as well.

Cooking and Baking: We have a full bakery and kitchen as part of our Pulperia (convenience store) that could be a full service take out restaurant. All we need are the people who know how to make it happen and make it profitable.

Playground: We have plans to build / finish our existing playground. Wood is often a bad idea in Honduras and we need metal workers and welders to help us complete it.

Hospital Project: We are in the planning stages for a full-service hospital here at the City of Refuge. Teresa is a Medical Dr. and there are others with some medical training, but no one here has the knowledge to build, equip and run a hospital. We need Doctors, Nurses, construction professionals, financial planners, hospital administrators etc. to guide and help us avoid costly mistakes.

Water: We do not have potable water at the City of Refuge and currently spend \$24,000 per year on bottled water. We were initially quoted the same price to install a hospital grade water purification system. That quote has increased to double or even quadruple the original estimate. Welcome to the third world. We need insight and help from people with knowledge and experience with large industrial size water purification solutions.

Farm: We have an incredible farm with an even more incredible Honduran staff who are the best at farming the Honduran way. We don't always know how to make the farm as profitable as it could be. We need farmers, ranchers and dairy farmers who are also entrepreneurs to help us grow the business side of the farm and create a model that can be replicated in other third world nations.

Strip Mall: We have plans in the works to create a small strip mall that will provide jobs, contribute to our own economic sustainability and provide a venue to teach the skills needed to operate a small retail business. None of the current full-time staff at the City of Refuge has ever run a retail business. We need mentors and coaches.

Mechanic, Carpentry and Welding Shops: Yes, we have them and we challenge any one to do as much with as little as our Honduran craftsmen do. That said, we believe they can do more if we provide them with more. Some of us know a bit about these things but we are not master craftsmen. We need people who can help us take this part of the operation to the next level. It could be a furniture making business, motorcycle repair shop, machine shop or even a foundry. The sky is the limit. If you have the skills, then we know it can be done.

Digital Media: We understand the value and importance of electronic media in communicating the gospel message to millennials and beyond. We have a media team that is in the process of building and managing our new web site, doing videography, animation, photography and social media etc. There is always more to learn, more ways to collaborate and ways to improve what we are doing. Our primary tools are the Adobe Creative Cloud, WordPress, and Realusion for 2D and 3D Character animation. Professional digital artists and marketers, web designers, SEO and AD Words experts etc. who could help us up our game would be invaluable.

Tech: We have a computer lab in our school. Our media managers own a high end Boxx laptop work station with 32G of RAM upon which all our work is completed. Other wise we are lucky if we have 2G on any of the computers in the lab. Internet speed varies between 1-5 Mbps up and down depending on the time of day. We'd love to start teaching the kids using programs like Photoshop, Illustrator and Premier Pro but obviously that isn't going to happen with our current framework. We need better hardware and or Spanish speaking IT professionals who could work with our Honduran staff to find better solutions.

Voluntourism: Voluntourism has been given a bad name by some in Central America. We aim to change that. We provide individuals and families from 1st world nations the opportunity to experience a bit of what its like serve on the mission field without all the discomfort often associated with being a missionary. Part of our model for sustainability includes the Hospitality industry. We are building facilities with the capacity to host large groups and conferences while also providing jobs and job training for Hondurans who may be interested in the hospitality industry. We are not hospitality professionals and know very little about how to make this side of our operations effective and profitable.

Outreach: We are first and foremost a mission's base. We are seeking our own sustainability so that we may pass it on to others. Our desire is to expand our ability to impact the nation of Honduras with the love of Christ that is communicated through action as well as words. We are always seeking opportunities for medical outreaches, feeding programs, clean water projects and darn near anything you can think of. In fact, our guiding policy is "tell us how God is leading you and what you want to do, and we'll do our best to make it happen."

Visionaries: Being so close to the day to day operations at the City of Refuge can make us more aware of certain needs. It can also make us a bit myopic regarding our true potential. We need experienced professionals and entrepreneurs to help us see beyond "what is" to "what could be."