

HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP

Horizons

Thanksgiving 2019



strength

partnership

commitment

50 Covert Street
P.O. Box 402
Cobourg, Ontario
Canada K9A 4L1

Tel: 905.372.5483
Toll-free: 1.888.729.9928
Fax: 905.372.7095

info@horizons.ca
www.horizons.ca

Charitable Registration #
BN 11896 3461 RR0001

Dear Friends:

I want to introduce you to five incredible women – Yorlenny, Belen, Maria, Carmen and Shirley. They are campesinos (farmers) living in Coronado, Osa Peninsula, a rural area in the southern part of Costa Rica. This is an area of extreme poverty and high unemployment. Alcoholism and substance abuse are rife – in both adults and adolescents.

Yet, these women have not only managed to survive under extremely challenging circumstances, but also have dreams for their community. Their biggest dream is to create a better life for their children. And Horizons is helping to make that dream come true.

But let me tell you a bit more about these women.

I met Yorlenny four years ago when she founded a humble community gathering space where she prepared food and snacks as a way of generating some income for her family. Her husband is a farmer who makes less than \$8/day cutting grass by hand with a machete.

Carmen raised seven children while living in abject poverty. She worked as a maid, sold food on the street and took odd jobs to help feed her children. “When I would despair,” says Carmen, “I always remembered that there is somebody worse off than me, and that I’m not alone.” Carmen is 65 years old now, still leaving in deep poverty.

Belen, Maria and Shirley are single mothers who work as cleaners to provide for their extended families.

These five women are fully aware of the needs of their community in Coronado, Osa Peninsula. Unemployment in the region hovers around 50%. People find occasional jobs cutting grass, and if they’re lucky, in construction. They sell food they make, or work as maids or nannies for foreigners who live in the area. Their wages are around \$3/hour.

There are no activities for kids and adolescents: no cinema, no public library, no bookstore and little possibility of getting a part-time job. Lack of activity puts these kids at high risk of using drugs or alcohol or working as mules for drug dealers.

The women are determined to not let this happen to the community’s kids. With grit and untiring dedication, they have been working towards engaging kids through sports. “Sports



Carmen, a 65-year-old campesino who raised her children in abject poverty, is one of the key forces behind the building of a community park and playground for kids in Coronado, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica.



Three founders of The Community Committee Where Together Everything is Possible, from left, Shirley, Yorlenny and Belen.



I want to help Horizons empower people in Central America and Mexico.

Gift Payment Options

I'd like to make monthly gifts
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

I'd prefer to make a one-time gift
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

I've enclosed a void cheque to start direct withdrawal for monthly giving

I've enclosed a cheque made out to Horizons of Friendship for a one-time gift

Visa MasterCard AMEX

_____ expiry

NAME ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Please send me updates about Horizons' programs via email at:

Horizons of Friendship, 50 Covert Street, Box 402, Cobourg, ON K9A 4L1
905 372-5483 • 1 888 729-9928 • www.horizons.ca • info@horizons.ca

All donations are tax deductible. Charitable Registration Number 11896 3461 RR0001

are a great way to keep the kids out of trouble. Kids in this community are great soccer players, but they don't even have soccer balls or nets," says Yorlenny.

Together, the women created an organization whose name reflects their guiding spirit - The Community Committee Where Together Everything is Possible. They have a campaign to clean the roads, and to build up their community. But their biggest goal is to build a community park where youth can engage in sports, where moms can sit and watch their kids, and where adolescents can play on playground equipment. For the past two years they have sold cakes and tamales and held raffles - all in the hopes of raising enough money to buy equipment. But raising money is difficult in this environment.

With your financial assistance, Horizons is helping these women reach their goal. Horizons has partnered with the committee to bring much needed resources and expertise to the project.

We have successfully led community projects to engage kids and youth in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. Now we turn to Costa Rica, to this humble community.

Our help will ensure the playground gets built and that sports equipment is available in the park. We also plan to equip local schools with books, computers and sports equipment to provide positive alternatives for youth.

How wise the founders of Horizons were, marking the road ahead for all of us. They envisioned us working in Central America and Mexico, in marginalized communities with campesinos. Impoverished people living in remote rural areas are keen to work, but without tools and financial resources it's impossible for them to get ahead.



Children from local public schools in Coronado, Osa Peninsula will soon be able to enjoy a new park with a playground and sports activities.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we in Canada give thanks for our bounty. The people in the South don't have "bounty" as we define it. But they are grateful for the glimmers of hope we bring to their communities - more grateful than I can adequately express.

It's thanks to all of you - our supporters - and to the communities who worked so hard that we were able to achieve such great results in 2018-19. Thousands of lives are improving day by day, and children in the South have more opportunities in life.

Let's keep the momentum going. This Thanksgiving, think about the children of Coronado and give generously. A gift of \$25, \$50 or \$100 will help us give them a path towards a better life.

I thank you for your generosity and support on behalf of Yorlenny, Shirley, Maria, Belen and Carmen.

Warm regards

Patricia Rebolledo

Executive Director



P. Rebolledo

your contributions are having a sustained impact for our partners. Horizons' Educational Tours offer the amazing opportunity to see how your donation, no matter how big or small, is making a difference in these communities and contributing to a better world. Our next Educational Tour is to Guatemala in February 2020. Please join us for what I promise will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience!



HORIZONS
of friendship • d'amitié • de amistad

50 Covert Street, P.O. Box 402
Cobourg, Ontario Canada K9A 4L1
Tel: 905.372.5483 • Toll-free: 1.888.729.9928 • Fax: 905.372.7095
info@horizons.ca • www.horizons.ca

