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FHM News

New global board expertise in education:
 Sr. Joy and Karen Rusthoven

Featured Sponsor:
GE Employees



On three November Saturdays, GE employees and FHM

Food for Hungry Minds Newsletter December, 2010

Resourcefulness!

As in other FHM locations, the cook at Honduras school is a FHM mother. Thanks to Cargill employee donations, she works in a great kitchen.



The school, however, is in a poor community. So sometimes for days, or even weeks, basic utilities do not work.

A few weeks ago, Academic Director Silvia walked out of her office to see the cook and volunteer parents working around a cinder block on the playground pavement. What were they doing? That day, there was no electricity. The parents looked around. With what they had, how would they cook lunch? Someone spotted a cinder block. Sure, it could hold a fire. No problem! They would cook the kids' lunch over an outside fire.

Never, never under estimate the ingenuity of a FHM parent!

FHM Honduras Celebrates First Year



On November 22, FHM_Honduras celebrated the completion of its first school year.

teachers were working again - this time with small groups of FHM students bringing science to life. The GE Employee Foundation granted FHM Philippines \$4000 toward a project to improve the science teaching. Grant funds allowed the purchase of hands-on science materials. GE employees who invested their time gave kids a model of a future for those who learn science - as well as the art of investing in others.

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Many of the people who worked to make the year a success were represented. Parents contributed hours preparing food and the venue. Cargill employees took time from work to see what had happened in the buildings they had painted. Board members sighed with relief. Mayor Walter Perdomo expressed his surprise, saying, "This has been a pilot project... and now we are seeing the results. These children, in only a year, are already speaking English."

When children and staff sang "The Greatest Love of all," many were moved. Kids deserve a future. For these children, the crowd could feel hope.

How Are You Sharing What You Are Learning in FHM?

Answering this question, a small group of Malolos FHM students quickly offered this list:

- Tutoring kids in math
- My youngest sister is a first grader. I'm teaching her counting.
- I share my social studies books with my friend
- Teaching math to my cousin
- My older brother uses my books to do research
- I'm teaching my mother about using a computer. It's bonding time for us.

*The FHM commitment to high quality education has recently been strengthened with the addition of two seasoned educators to boards in the US and Philippines. The life work of both **Karen Rusthoven**, Principal of the award-winning Community of Peace Academy in Minneapolis, and **Sr. Joy Luz**, RSCJ, now teaching at De LaSalle University in Manila, has been the education of poor children. We are grateful for the wisdom and heart they bring to our team.*

Morning Meeting

In 2006, Community of Peace Principal from St. Paul, Karen Rusthoven, visited the Philippine FHM team. Her school had been operating for many years. FHM was still young. What could she teach us about creating a positive school culture?

One legacy of the visit is the way the days start at all FHM schools: Morning Meeting, part of the PeaceBuilders curriculum. Children sit in a circle. Students look each



other in the eyes and offer a greeting.

The sign in sheet with smiles and frowns and tears already provides clues for closing the gap between challenges in the community and the school day ahead. Then one student shares on a topic of their choice.

Practicing conversational English, students can also develop understanding and empathy. "I'm open for questions and comments."

Learning More About Learning

What makes a school great? Honduran Director Silvia Umana put it this way, "At FHM, Hungry Minds starts with the teachers!" Indeed.

The Philippine FHM team has recently invested a great deal of themselves improving their science teaching. Yes, the new hands-on materials will be helpful. But key to improving kids learning are teachers willing to ask, "Who has a better way to think about this?" or "Can we redesign this activity so kids see things differently?"



A FHM teacher's ordinary week is often taxing. So, special kudos to the Philippine team for the extra hours and brain power you are investing to keep on learning about learning.

Food for Hungry Minds creates schools for disadvantaged children in the poorest areas of the world. We link regional corporate resources with local organizations to develop high-performance educational interventions for upper elementary grades - giving a community's poorest children the opportunity to succeed academically, to serve in life and to dream of a better future.

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