



HEP
Hearts Empowering the Poor

Fall 2015

Hearts Empowering the Poor—HEP

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE POOR AND UNDERSERVED AT HOME AND ABROAD

We are so excited to share with our friends and donors of Making A Difference In San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora Mexico that we have a new name AND a new non-profit organization—Hearts Empowering the Poor or HEP for short.

This January, we began the process of applying for approval from the Internal Revenue Service and State of California for the creation of a non-profit organization. In May, we received official approval and Hearts Empowering the Poor was established.

The purpose and focus of HEP is empowering the poor and underserved here and around the world.

Empowering is the key word. We were moved after reading the book “When Helping Hurts” by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. The subtitle is “How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself”. The summation of this book is that the way to really improve the lives of those living in poverty is to empower them...improve their lifestyle and family by encouraging them to become actively involved, assisting them in being successful and self-reliant. Often times, we go to a foreign country with a program that we think will work, and it fails because of the culture and lifestyle. As we empower people living in poverty, one of the outcomes is improved self worth.

We are very much still learning and definitely do not have all the answers, but one thing is very clear. Our filter on all we do in San Luis Rio Colorado is to empower—focusing our efforts on lending a “hand up” rather than a “hand out”.

We are honored to work with a Board of Directors who share our focus and passion and bring their talents, resources, and ideas in shaping the ministry of Hearts Empowering the Poor.

We look forward to your continued support and welcome your comments and suggestions along the way. Thanks for partnering with us on this amazing journey.

Bob and Nancy Monfort

OUR GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In addition to Bob and Nancy Monfort, the HEP Board of Directors includes Bob James, John Northup and Rick Pena.

Bob James spent 10 years in law enforcement for the City of Pittsburg, California. Currently, Bob is approaching his 19th year as Corporate Investigator for Safeway. He has helped build many casitas and has been a part of ministry outreach in San Luis Rio Colorado over the past two years.

John Northup is a CPA who lives in the Sacramento Area of Northern California. He and his wife Sherrie have been involved in the ministry in San Luis for the last three years. John brings years of experience and expertise in non-profit service and management.

Rick Pena has worked for Pacific Gas and Electric for 30 years and is currently at Gas Control Operations in San Ramon, California. He and his wife Angela are the principles of One Heart 2 Homes and have a passion to share the love of Jesus with the poor and underserved around the world. They have travelled to many countries and help several non-profit organizations. Over the last two years, their hearts have certainly connected with their “Familia” living South of the Canal in San Luis Rio Colorado.





WEST CALAVERAS, STOCKTON & ANGELS/MURPHYS ROTARY

We are so grateful to West Calaveras Rotary Club for taking the lead on securing the Rotary International Global Grant.

It was our pleasure to host the team of Rotarians from West Calaveras, Stockton and Angels/Murphys Rotary Clubs in January.

They distributed 1,000 English/Spanish Dictionaries to students in 10 different schools in San Luis. Members of their team installed the wiring for the Water Store and put on the roof. This team also made block and helped

with the construction of a block storage facility in the Block Yard. They were featured on the local news one evening. Thank you for your service above self in San Luis Rio Colorado.



San Luis Students and their Dictionaries

Rotary making a difference in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora Mexico

ROTARY CLUB OF THE DELTA—ANTIOCH, CA.

What a joy to host Rotary Club of the Delta! They made block, delivered block, built with block, and did whatever they were asked to do. They painted the Water Store, distributed Food Buckets in the community, and delivered dental kits to the Social Services Department in San Luis. They worked with the Employees of Bloques de San Luis to prepare the slab for the foundation of Moises and Francesca's home. Rotary Club of the Delta also provided funding to complete an existing brick structure to provide a home for the Caretakers of the block yard. They helped complete the concrete slab and installed a roof on the existing brick house.

Rita, the daughter of one of the Rotarians, was so touched by her time in San Luis that she has taken on a special fund raising project to raise money for food buckets. This team will be coming back to San Luis this December to pack and distribute Food Buckets to needy families for the Christmas season.

This Rotary Club is very special to us as Nancy was a Charter Member of Rotary Club of the Delta. Thank you Rotary Club of the Delta for your sacrificial service in San Luis .



Rita, Maria and Food Buckets



Dental Kits for Social Services

THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL GRANT

In our last newsletter, we shared with you the amazing provision of the Rotary International Grant for San Luis Rio Colorado in the amount of \$75,044 to provide the Compressed Earth Block Machine, Soil and Concrete Mixer, Reverse Osmosis System, Spanish English Dictionaries and toothbrushes , toothpaste and floss.

Most of 2015 has been spent implementing the grant. Three new businesses have been established and are highlighted in the column to the right. In the establishment of these new businesses, 29 jobs have been created for men and women living South of the Canal. In addition, 86 people have been trained in the production of Compressed Earth Block and nearly \$10,000 in block and \$3,000 in Mexican brick have been sold in the first seven months of business. Using the waste water from the Reverse Osmosis water production, a community garden has been added to the Block Yard, providing fresh vegetables for many families.

An anonymous donor provided the funding to purchase an acre of land directly behind the church to provide adequate room for the equipment and production of block, brick, and the water store. One rental casita has been built in the Block Yard. In addition, there is a 2 bedroom brick house where the caretakers of the block yard reside, providing 24 hour security.

We are so grateful to Antonio Martinez and Terry Eseltine who spent a great deal of time in San Luis during the training period for the block machine as well as production of the compressed earth block, working side by side with the men of San Luis. In addition, Don and Bonnie Eseltine donated a Ford F250 truck for the block yard which is used to deliver block and brick that is sold.

The wives of the San Luis Rio Colorado Rotary Club purchased block and hired the Employees of Bloques de San Luis to build a home for a deserving family.

We are so grateful to Rotary International, West Calaveras Rotary, Stockton Rotary, Angels/Murphys Rotary, Antioch Rotary, Rotary Club of the Delta, and San Luis Rio Colorado Rotary and our friends and donors for making this project a reality.



The Block Machine and Mixer in the Security Cage



Aqua de San Luis



Mexican Brick Kiln



Employees of Bloques de San Luis

BLOQUES DE SAN LUIS

This new business produces Compressed Earth Block using resources readily available in San Luis Rio Colorado. Using a mixture of 75% sand, 15% clay, 6-8% cement and a small amount of water, the Earth Blox Machine uses a hydraulic press to create the lego style block , pressing from the top to the bottom and from the inside out . This creates an extremely strong , interlocking block that is dry stacked with a sand/clay slurry joint sealant. Each block weighs 22 pounds, and creates a structure that is well insulated making the buildings cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

AGUA DE SAN LUIS

The Water Store was built as part of the training and provides purified drinking water to the people living South of the Canal. It produces up to 500 gallons per day depending upon raw water availability. It is a huge blessing to the people.

LADRILLO DE SAN LUIS

The Mexican Brick production was established to use the residual clay that was not suitable for Block Production and the waste water from the water purification system.

Together Everyone Achieves More— TEAM

Over the last three years, it has been a privilege to host and facilitate teams who come to share their talents and resources to make a difference in the lives of the poor and underserved living in San Luis Rio Colorado.

We have hosted groups as large as 40 and as small as 2 people. As a result, 26 families have received a new casita, 29 people have received jobs to provide for their family, purified drinking water is readily accessible and affordable, and many people have hope and a purpose—as a result of hearing and receiving the hope we have in Jesus .



LaVerne & Emily

We are scheduling teams for the 2015-2016 Season. If you would be willing to help as a single person, family, group of friends, service club or church group, we'd love to talk with you about becoming a part of the HEP team. We promise an affordable and amazing opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the poor and underserved.

REAL LIFE FAMILY CENTER—TACOMA, WA.

This is the second year we have hosted a team from Real Life Family Center from Tacoma, Washington. What a tremendous blessing they are! They funded and help build a casita for a deserving family this year. In addition, they distributed 30 buckets full of food and supplies to needy families living South of the Canal. Over 200 kids from three different churches attended Vacation Bible School which was led by ChuckALou and Emily. ChuckALou is a professional clown and musician who teaches Bible stories using balloons and magic. This team of 19 people was led by Pastor Steve Morton and ranged in age from kids in their early teens to a “kid” who was 80 years old. Over the last two years, they have provided homes for three families and touched thousands living

South of the Canal sharing the hope we have in Jesus Christ. We love working with this amazing group of servants and thank God for their generosity and love for the poor and underserved living in San Luis Rio Colorado.



JACK AND LAVERNE UPTON AND EMILY AGNEW

LaVerne and Jack Upton have been to San Luis Rio Colorado and helped build several casitas. While in San Luis Rio Colorado, they observed that the kids living South of the Canal played with rocks and sticks because they had no toys.

Upon returning to their home, they were sharing with their Granddaughter, Emily, how the children played. Together, they decided to do something about that. For the last two years, they have made gifts for the children. The first year, Jack cut out building blocks, LaVerne and Emily painted the blocks and made a fabric bag for the blocks. This year, together they made a bag with wooden Xs and Os and a grid on the bag for the kids to play Tic Tac Toe. It is such a joy to distribute these gifts to the children. We are so grateful for their heart for the people and the gifts they lovingly make for the children.

JOHN AND SHERRIE NORTHUP –FORESTHILL, CA

John and Sherrie Northup have been involved in ministry in San Luis Rio Colorado for the last three years. This past December, they spent two weeks with us assisting with the set up of the new businesses that are a part of the Rotary International Grant. They were also instrumental in preparing the paperwork and application for approval for Hearts Empowering the Poor.

Each year, Sherrie brings beautiful quilts, sock hats, and gloves for families. Their love for the people of San Luis Rio Colorado overflows from the generosity of their hearts.

PASTORS KENT AND KAY VALENTINE—CALVARY OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Calvary Open Bible Church has been our home church for the last 40 years. Pastors Kent and Kay Valentine come annually in January to San Luis Rio Colorado to help with whatever is needed at the time. They have built casitas, gone to the grocery store in San Luis and purchased 100 packages of toilet paper for the ministry, taken food to families in need, prayed with families in crisis and lead the team from Calvary when they come to minister in April. Whatever the need, they always embrace the opportunity to serve and have led many teams in ministry throughout Mexico over the years. Mexico has always held a piece of their missionary hearts. We thank God for their spiritual covering and willingness to do whatever they can to support us in ministry.

ONE HEART 2 HOMES—BRENTWOOD, CA

Over the last three years, we have been privileged to partner with One Heart 2 Homes. This organization works around the world to help the poor and underserved. This January, a team came to San Luis Rio Colorado and blessed the people in many ways. They helped build two casitas, distributed over 400 shoeboxes filled with gifts and candy for the children, and they shared the hope and joy of Jesus with everyone they met.

Rick and Angela Pena are the founders of One Heart 2 Homes. Angela is a Real Estate agent in the San Francisco area. For every home sold, OneHeart2Homes donates a home to a needy family in countries around the world. Twelve families in San Luis Rio Colorado have received a new home through their generosity. Families in Haiti, Cabo San Lucas, and other countries have been blessed through the ministry of OneHeart2Homes. Two more families in San Luis Rio Colorado will be receiving a new home this Fall through their generosity. On behalf of the lives your generosity has touched, thank you Rick and Angela and One Heart 2 Homes.



In 2015, eight Compressed Earth Block Structures have been built in San Luis Rio Colorado including a water store, block yard storage building and six homes for families. Below is the story of one of the families who received a home through the generosity of One Heart 2 Homes

FRANCESCA AND MOISES

This January, while working South of the Canal, we learned of a family whose home of 13 years burned to the ground when an ember ignited their home as they were cooking a pot of beans outside.

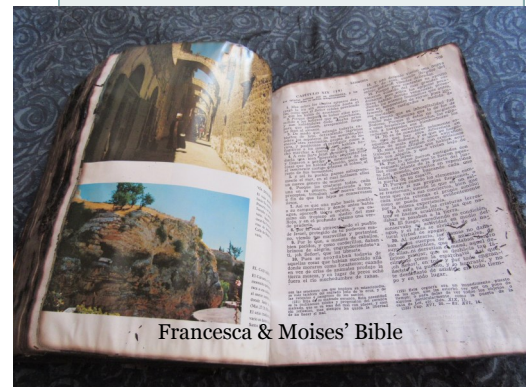
The next day, we met this family, Moises and Francesca. The stench of the charred remains of their earthly belongings filled the air and the devastation was evident. Their only remaining possession was a charred Bible, which they found among the ashes. We knew at that time that we would be building them a new casita—our first Compressed Earth Block Casita—which will never burn to the ground.

Upon hearing that they would be receiving a home, they went to work! Their neighbors rallied and cleared the debris, readied and leveled the site for a foundation and one week to the day their house burned to the ground, the new foundation was poured. With each day, their countenance changed and their burden was lifted.

As Francesca and Moises, their children and grandchildren, employees of Bloques de San Luis, members of Rotary Club of

the Delta and One Heart 2 Homes teamed together, their new home was built. Within a week, their new home was ready. On Heart 2 Homes blest them with furniture and household items and they moved in. A solar system was installed to give them lights.

They are so grateful and know that truly beauty does come from ashes. God has blest them through the love and generosity of our HEP team members.



HEARTS EMPOWERING THE POOR—A 501C-3 TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

For detailed information on all that is happening in San Luis Rio Colorado on behalf of Hearts Empowering the Poor, please visit our website at www.heartsempoweringthepoor.org

Please like us on Facebook

Email us at
heporg@comcast.net

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray—First and foremost pray.....for the people living in San Luis Rio Colorado ..for God to guide us to those with the most need...for God's provision.

Volunteer—Please consider becoming a team member of Hearts Empowering the Poor.

Give—Your gifts of time, your talents, and financial support are a blessing to the people who live in San Luis Rio Colorado.

Compressed Earth Block Casita - \$3,000

Installation of Solar System—\$500.00

Food Bucket—feeds family of 4 for one week—\$20.00

Compressed Earth Block— 75 cents each

Checks may be may payable to

Hearts Empowering the Poor

3710 Lone Tree Way #308—Antioch, California 94509

Your gift is tax deductible according to the current tax laws. Thank you

Hearts Empowering the Poor

3710 Lone Tree Way #308
Antioch, California 94509

www.heartsempoweringthepoor.org
heporg@comcast.net

