



Un Mundo

Dignity • Community • Self-Sufficiency

Our Vision

Un Mundo is a nonprofit international development organization with a comprehensive and revolutionary approach to its work. We are a movement whose mission is to promote dignity, community and self-sufficiency while facilitating access to health care, education and liveable wages in marginalized Honduran communities in the Cangrejal Valley, such as El Pital. *Un Mundo* promotes local traditions, encourages community leadership, and emphasizes collective ownership of all projects.

Population of Cangrejal River Valley: 6,415

Population of El Pital: 420

53% of the population in El Pital is under the age of 20

18% of the population in El Pital have NEVER received any education

58% of the population in El Pital have ONLY received a PRIMARY school education



Building a school, strengthening a community

El Pital and the Cangrejal Valley will graduate from the three-room middle school to its first public trade high school, providing education programs to grades seven through twelve in carpentry, computer programming, metal working, home education and electricity.

The high school will be a dream come true for many El Pital residents. "Never in my dreams did I ever think this would happen," said Toño Funez, member of the Transparency Committee and long time supporter of the high school. Many people call the high school the pride of El Pital. Once the school is complete it will be the largest building in the "Cuenca," educating over 200 kids living in the Cangrejal Valley.

When construction began last year, no one expected the building to be so close to completion after only one year. However, according to a recent survey conducted by *Un Mundo* in El Pital, the high school was one of the biggest needs in the community. Due to the high priority, community members have become more motivated to donate labor. The community's Transparency Committee, a group of local community members overseeing the high school project, worked diligently with *Un Mundo's* guidance to identify the community's needs, organize other communities, and create work crews from various villages and communities in the valley. This committee is largely responsible for the rapid growth of project support.

This past year *Un Mundo* focused primarily on strengthening the Transparency Committee, facilitating the group to organize and inform all the communities throughout the valley in order to generate more regional support for the project. The results have been astounding. An increasing number of villages and leaders are invested and involved in the project. This motivation in some residents has helped to spawn new ideas for future projects they would like to see in their community, making *Un Mundo's* vision of community initiative and ownership become a reality.

The school opened its doors to students enrolled in the high school in April 2008, however, construction is still underway as workers finish the second floor and workshops.



Census of the Senses Workshop 2008: Exploring community through art



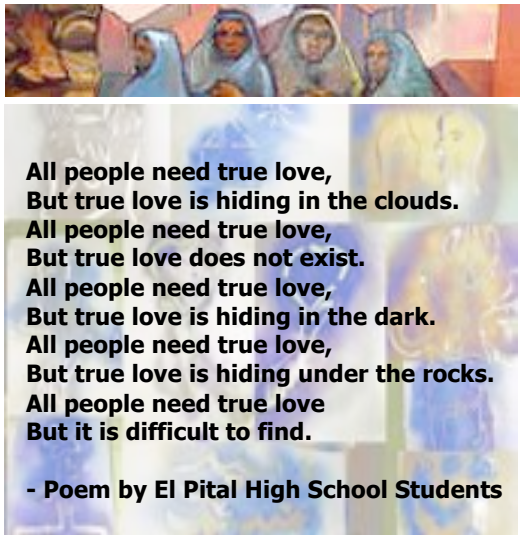
In July, *Un Mundo* partnered with Rachel McIntire and Amanda Lichtenstein from BreakArts and with the students of El Pital to investigate the community of El Pital through text, image and language. The project worked with students ages 13-16 to reveal the hidden

feelings of the community that may not be revealed during an "official" census.

"We wanted to combine the power of text and image with a public performance of a cordel, the Brazilian tradition of 'living language,' dating back to the 1500s, in which canvases were hung from ropes in public squares," said Amanda.

First the students were asked to think of questions they wanted to know about their community that might be unanswered. After compiling a list, students voted on one question that would be the focus of their project: *How many people need true love?*

The group then created a poem based on interviews they conducted with community members. To bring the cordel (above) to life, the team worked with local artisans from the Juan Pablo Segundo Sewing Cooperative in



All people need true love,
But true love is hiding in the clouds.
All people need true love,
But true love does not exist.
All people need true love,
But true love is hiding in the dark.
All people need true love,
But true love is hiding under the rocks.
All people need true love
But it is difficult to find.

- Poem by El Pital High School Students

El Pital, who provided the fabric for the canvasses.

The art was displayed in the schoolyard for the community to see and now resides on the walls of the new high school as a reminder of the power of art and how it can be used to unite a community.

World Camp volunteers teach HIV/AIDS awareness



Un Mundo partner World Camp for Kids visited El Pital in July 2008 to facilitate high school students in a workshop on HIV and AIDS. World Camp is a grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth in communities throughout the world through education. Each summer World Camp brings a group of college students to Honduras to participate in workshops throughout high schools on the north coast.

The volunteers spent several days in El Pital, teaching and mentoring in classrooms and getting to know the local families through *Un Mundo*'s new home-stay program, *Mi Casa Su Casa*. Sixty youth from various communities in the Cangrejal Valley participated in the workshop, focused on sex education and health awareness.

As an additional service project, each afternoon volunteers helped paint the walls of the new high school. World Camp will be returning again to continue their education in other high schools throughout the Cangrejal Valley in summer 2009.

Bookmaking workshop inspires new project

31% of El Pital's population ages 9 and up is illiterate

In February 2008, in anticipation of the new high school library, visiting artist Marisa Jahn facilitated 60 youth from El Pital to create and design more than 100 of their own books to be displayed in the first community library, which is currently under construction. The bookmaking workshop precedes Jahn's next literacy project: **Biblio-Burro**, a project that involves a bookmobile circulated via a burro (donkey). Straddling the burro is a saddle with one saddlebag full of books - some familiarly bound, others wildly imaginative with experimental shapes, stretching the limits of what constitutes a book. In the other saddlebag are the tools needed to involve youth in writing and binding their own books to contribute to the library. A BiblioGaucho, whose intriguing moustache and costume matches the

bright colors of the saddle, rides the burro from site to site, teaching others to bind and publish their own books. The BiblioGaucho's motive is to excite others to write the most brilliant stories.



In 2009 Jahn will visit the Cuenca Cangrejal again to expand on the bookmaking workshops in El Pital last year. Joining Jahn this year will be collaborating artist, Steve Shada. Together they will develop and introduce the Biblio-Burro project. Jahn and Shada will partner with local schools in six communities in the Cangrejal Valley to work with children of

various age groups, facilitating workshops that will inspire innovative book designs to add to the existing library collection. During the residency, saddlebags and costumes for the Biblio-Burro program will be constructed with the support of Juan Pablo Segundo Sewing Cooperative.





Dancing as a Community

In August 2008, *Un Mundo* invited performing artist Meredith Ferrill to El Pital to conduct a month-long movement and dance workshop. This workshop used dance as a way to unite young people around a common cause and build self-esteem and respect for one another. Boys and girls ages 6-16 came together each day, exploring dance and rhythms from all over the world and learning how to express themselves through movement. The workshop concluded in December, first with a week of review and preparation and finally with a celebration and presentation to the entire community.



Notes from the Field: Meredith Ferrill

In July of 2008 I went down to El Pital, Honduras to teach dance for a month. Before arriving in Central America, I envisioned a summer of exciting classes of Jazz, Ballet, and Hip-Hop, many meals of tortillas and beans, and palm trees bending against the Caribbean Ocean. I was right about many things, especially the thrill of pumping music as a classroom of barefoot and sweaty children, and I, danced our bodies to exhaustion. I was right about the abundance of tortillas, which I learned how to pull and slap into circles with the help of Maria, my very pregnant “House Mom” whose family treated me like royalty my second week in the village. I was also right about the incredible vegetation, but never pictured how beautiful and strong the Cangrejal River would be, and that I would spend many afternoons swimming in it with children like Karina and Osmani, Alba and Maynor, who became my friends, and my Honduran family.

Near the end of my four weeks leading dance classes in El Pital, the boys and girls began preparing for the dance concert that would show off their hard-practiced moves. The night before the concert, we held a dance rehearsal. Watching the students take their places in lines, seeing their faces serious in concentration as the music queued up, and seeing them pound out the steps with enthusiasm and energy, I thought to myself: *this experience couldn't be more perfect*. The next day as we drove with pizzas, sodas and watermelons up to the school, we saw the kids gathered around the gates and outfitted in black and white shirts and jeans, their costumes for the performance. Within minutes, however, we were pulled aside by an older man in the village. He quietly told us that Maria, my “House Mom,” had died that day in childbirth, and to please keep this private.

We were so shocked and heart-broken; it was impossible to go on with the concert. The children were confused and disappointed, but we had to cancel the concert out of respect for Maria and the cultural values there.

When I left Honduras this summer I felt that my work there was incomplete. Not only did I want to give my small students the chance to show off their hard work for their families, but I also wanted to honor Maria and help her family create a memorial that poverty had prevented. I shared my story with my friends and family in the United States, and was overwhelmed by their response. Together, we raised over \$1,600 for the people of El Pital. Those funds allowed me to return to Honduras in December 2008 to lead the postponed dance concert. They provided the ceramic tiles and glass paint on which community members expressed their love for Maria that will be cemented over her resting place. And finally, these funds started *Un Mundo's* “Special Education Scholarship,” that will allow eight special needs children the opportunity to attend school for the first time.



On December 8th, we put on the dance show for El Pital. As the last number, a coed merengue dance with the boys and the girls linked in a circle, ended, I thought back on my experience in Honduras. I thought about the classes, the girls practicing their pirouettes, the boys attempting the moonwalk. I thought about Maria's crisp smile and her perfectly round tortillas. I thought about her children, Karina and Osmani, standing here with me. I felt a wave of relief looking around at these children, dancing and smiling up at me. I felt a wave of gratitude to be standing here with them; these men, women, and children who continue to shape the person I am.



Left: **Orlin Jamil Garcia Palacios**

Age 4

Down Syndrome

Lives in the community of El Naranjo with his mom and two siblings

Right: **Maynor Alexander Méndez**

Age 9

Cerebral Palsy

Lives with both parents and one sibling in El



WHAT'S NEW: Special Education Scholarship

Un Mundo is proud to announce its **Special Education Scholarship**, which will help eight mentally or physically disabled children from the Cangrejal River Valley attend school for the first time. Up until now, no resources have been available to people in the Cangrejal Valley who have mental and physical disabilities. The total cost per year for each child is \$775, and thanks to the efforts of Meredith Ferrill and Evan Cauble-Johnson, *Un Mundo* has already raised \$800 to start the fund that will allow these children to attend school this year. With your support and donations these faces will have the opportunity to learn and grow.

Give the Gift of Education to these Children!

You can help! A donation of...

\$25 will cover: School admin fees for 1 child for 1 yr

\$50 will cover: School supplies for 1 child for 1 yr

\$100 will cover: Accident insurance for 1 child for 1 yr

\$250 will cover: Bus guardian for all 8 children for 6 months

\$500 will cover: Full transportation for 1 child for 1 yr

THANK YOU Un Mundo Friends & Partners

Un Mundo could not survive without the generous support of devoted volunteers and donors around the world. We are thankful for your continued support and interest in our work. Please let us know what you think about our current projects or if you have a specific skill or service that you think could be useful to our organization.

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Please make checks payable to *Un Mundo*

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Join us for our
San Francisco Benefit
April 25th 2009

Location TBA
For more details, log onto
www.unmundo.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

*Un Mundo North Carolina
Benefit*

September 2009

Event location TBA

Keep an eye on our website for more
details. We hope to see you
there!



Un Mundo

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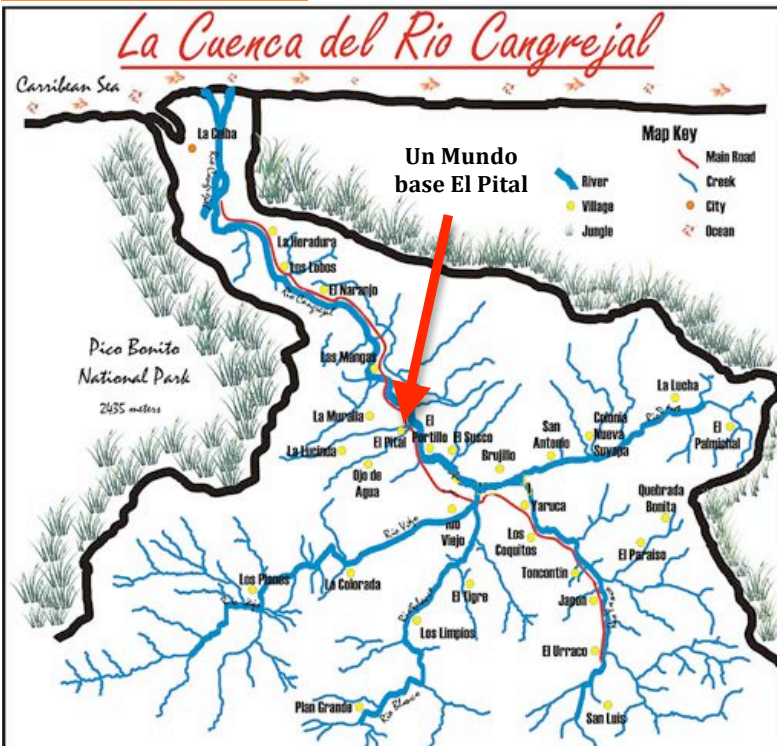
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