



FOOD FOR THE POOR

Saving Lives... Transforming Communities... Renewing Hope

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RIBBONS OF LOVE WOMEN'S CANCER TREATMENT PROGRAM 2020



**San Pedro Sula,
Honduras**

Project Goal

Provide cancer treatment to 130 Honduran women at a heavily discounted price.

Project Description

The **Ribbons of Love Women's Cancer Treatment Program 2020** is the latest installment in this ongoing project. Continuing the formal agreements with Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital, the second largest hospital in Honduras, as well as La Liga Contra el Cáncer (League Against Cancer) organization, the project aims to provide treatment to approximately 130 women at a heavily discounted rate.

This project is open to women throughout Honduras; however, patients will receive medical treatment at either Liga Contra el Cáncer or Hospital Mario Catarino Rivas, both of which are located in San Pedro Sula. They will also get their medicines at the headquarters of our in-country partner, CEPUDO, located in San Pedro Sula as well.

As women arrive at Ribbons of Love in various stages of the disease, they are assessed to determine the most appropriate treatment course.

The services provided to patients in this program include:

- Pre-surgery, including mammograms, ultrasounds, and scans
- Surgery, including biopsies, lumpectomies, and mastectomies
- Treatments, including chemotherapy and radiation therapy

In addition to the services listed above, the women will also be supplied with monthly care packages, which include rice and beans, clothing, toiletries, and other essentials.

The completion date of this project may be extended for issues related to weather, natural disaster, or civil unrest to the extent that such events exceed normal conditions and impede the project's progress.

Total Project Costs: \$183,900.77

Honduras

Honduras is one of the poorest Spanish-speaking countries in the Western Hemisphere. In a country of more than 9 million inhabitants, 60% live below the poverty line. In rural areas, that number rises to 65%.

Bordering Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, Honduras has one of the smallest middle classes in Latin America and it struggles with high levels of economic inequality. The Gini coefficient, sometimes called the Gini index or ratio, measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. With a Gini ratio of 47.1 in 2020, Honduras ranks in the worst 25 in the world for income inequality. By comparison, Nigeria has a Gini ratio of 48.8, while the United States has ratio of 45.

Honduras is also one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters, being affected by frequent severe droughts that deplete the availability of basic crops. In rural Honduras, 48% of the population suffers from malnutrition, while half of children aged 2-6, suffer from anemia. Chronic malnutrition affects 1 in every 4 children and stunted growth is found in one out of every two children in the poorest communities of the country. With a coastline on the Caribbean Sea, it is also vulnerable to powerful tropical storms.

Despite these challenges, Honduras does possess the potential for faster growth and higher rates of shared prosperity. Its strategic location, a growing industrial base, ongoing efforts to diversify its exports, and a young and growing population all offer hope for a brighter future for Hondurans.

Food For The Poor began serving the poor people of Honduras in 1999, shortly after the country was devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

San Pedro Sula

With a population of more than 800,000 inhabitants (2020 projection), San Pedro Sula is situated in the Ulúa River valley, 37 miles inland by highway and railroad from Puerto Cortés, on the Gulf of Honduras.

Mirroring Honduras as a whole, San Pedro Sula suffers from high rates of unemployment and a lack of opportunity leading to poverty, income inequality, and malnutrition.

Ribbons of Love Women's Cancer Treatment Program

Since many Hondurans do not have enough for the basic necessities of life, a diagnosis of cancer is often considered a death sentence. A great number of women without the financial capacity to cover the expenses of the disease will not be able to receive cancer treatment or palliative care. Patients might sell everything to purchase cancer medication and therapy, often going without food, and even then falling short. Honduras does not consider cancer a public health program priority, so unlike the United States, there are very few organizations to help.

The government has limited public capacity to provide adequate care to women suffering from this ailment. The average cost of cancer treatment is \$9,171 per patient in Honduras, which pales in comparison to the cost of the same regimen in the United States; but, it is unsurmountable for many.

CEPUDO, Food For The Poor's in-country partner for Honduras, began the Ribbons of Love Cancer Treatment Program for Women in 2015 to improve, extend, and save with dignity the lives of poor women diagnosed with cancer.

Ribbons of Love puts great effort in giving a chance at life to as many women as possible, and by extension, providing their families with more time with their loved ones. Many of the fatal cases could have been avoided with early detection and the organization conducts information campaigns highlighting the importance of screening and testing as a means of prevention and early diagnosis.

Ribbons of Love is comprised of 30 volunteers who raise monetary resources through various fundraising activities. Despite their best efforts, they are limited as to how much they can raise locally.

This is where Food For The Poor and its faithful donors come in to save the day and the lives of these afflicted women. Since 2018, through the loving support of Food For The Poor donors, 153 patients have received chemotherapy and 322 were given radiation treatments. With continued support, this program will ensure that other women are given an opportunity to overcome this terrible disease.

Lives Saved

Sandra Ochoa, a cancer patient that was fortunate enough to get treatment for her disease through Ribbons of Love, shared the monumental tragedy of being diagnosed with cancer and not knowing where to find the financial resources for treatment.

"Only those of us facing this disease know how things really are," Sandra shared. She did not have enough money to pay for her treatments and had all but given up hope before, by God's grace, she was introduced to Ribbons of Love and began receiving help.

“There are medications that cost up to \$3,500 each, and I needed up to six. How can I?,” she wondered. Then, with the offer from Ribbons of Love to provide her with the cancer treatment her body so desperately needed, Sandra was humbled at the love and graciousness being offered to her so freely.

“How can one take the bread and butter of those who want [to] help? One cannot be doing that,” she told herself. However, the loving support of everyone at Ribbons of Love convinced her to accept this unconditional gift and hold on to life. “Then, one has to resign oneself and start taking things,” she said, “and hold on to God.”

Florentina Hernández Márquez is another beneficiary of the program, who expressed her gratefulness to God for working through Ribbons of Love to save her and so many others.

“Ribbons of Love has been a great blessing for me, as God opened this door of love for me so that I could continue with my treatment,” Florentina said. “I am a single mother. I did not have any other means to continue ... Ribbons of Love has provided me with 25 radiation treatments. Without the support of this institution, my treatment wouldn’t have been possible.”

These deserving patients thank God foremost and then the donors of Food For The Poor and Ribbons of Love for saving their lives. Their prayer is that the program continues for years to come in its offering of hope, love, and life.

*“Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them
and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.”*

Jeremiah 33:6

HONDURAS



GPS Coordinates: 15°30'14.0"N 88°00'50.0"W

Brenda getting ready to receive her radiation treatment, which would have been impossible for her without the intervention of Ribbons of Love.





Elizabeth goes home with her treatment medications, thanks to the compassionate financial assistance she received from Ribbons of Love.

Patients, like this woman, receive a greatly needed care package after their medical visit.



Budget

QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	TOTAL
1	Sum	Pre-surgery: mammograms, ultrasounds, and scans	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
1	Sum	Surgeries: biopsies, lumpectomies, and mastectomies	\$25,200.00	\$25,200.00
1	Sum	Chemotherapy medication and radiation therapy	\$67,000.00	\$67,000.00
1	Sum	Radiation treatments	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
		Total Direct Costs		\$160,200.00

Indirect Costs Corporate, Network, & Field Operation	
In-country project management expenses	\$7,680.77
Food For The Poor fulfillment, project management, and monitoring expenses	\$16,020.00
Total Indirect Costs	\$23,700.77
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$183,900.77

The funds you generously contribute to Food For The Poor will be used toward completion of your project of choice. If any of your donation exceeds budget cost, rest assured that it will be used to fund other Food For The Poor programs and organizational support to meet the urgent needs of the poor.

Contributions are tax-deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

About Food For The Poor

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for orphaned and abandoned children, care for the aged, skills training, and micro-enterprise development assistance. For more information, please visit www.FoodForThePoor.org.