



COMING BACK HOME

The teaching and learning materials from the De Lectores a Líderes project help many returned children find the identity of their own country.

What does it mean to return to Honduras? For five returned children, coming back to the community of La Majada, in the municipality of Zacapa, Santa Bárbara, is finding their way back home.

“It means seeing my grandmother again,” says nine-year-old girl Jessica Lopez, trying to speak Spanish. “Everyone here is just like me, and it’s fun to spend time with my new friends,” she says, while forming words with her alphabet letters.



For school principal Wilton Acosta, of the Donaldo Ernesto Reyes School, this is a common scene. “Parents return to the community and bring their children to our school. Of course, we are happy to have them back, and we are even happier to have updated materials so that they can continue their educational process without difficulties,” says Acosta as he watches the children playing at a regular recess. “I remember them before they left. It is very pleasing for me to see them safe and sound.”

However, there are challenges to address with returned children. “Some come back scared. Others come back speaking English. Some are silent, and others are surprised. However, that feeling of being in their very own country helps them to adjust in a matter of weeks.”

The teaching and learning materials from the *De Lectores a Líderes* (*Lectores*) project help many returned children find the identity of their own country. Each page, each story, each activity, and each use of the methodology



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empowers, develops, and identifies a generation that has impressive needs to belong and grow.

For the project staff, helping returned children create their own dreams of peace and hope in their own country through the development of their reading skills is rewarding and enriching work.

“Our job is to save the children of Honduras,” says Elias Bustamante, master trainer of the Lectores project. “It is an honor to put our grain of sand in benefit of the education of the children of Honduras. And it’s much more rewarding when it comes to children returning to their own country.”

For more information about the *De Lectores a Líderes* project, contact:
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