



## *Desperate for Care.*

Jose Zelaya Ruiz first developed trouble walking over 15 years ago. His symptoms were not severe and he was able to continue working so he just ignored it. Over the years his problems slowly worsened and he finally sought medical care. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease several years but did not respond to treatment. His symptoms continued to worsen and he developed increasing uncontrolled movements of his arms and legs. As his disease progressed he became more and more disabled.

A couple years ago he heard about Salud Total and made the 2 hour bus trip to the clinic. By this time his

disease was very advanced and it was clear the initial diagnosis of Parkinson's disease was incorrect. While we were unable to do the genetic testing to confirm his diagnosis, based on his symptoms we could confidently diagnose him with Huntington's Chorea, a progressive and deadly genetic disorder.

By the time of his diagnosis, his arms and legs were flailing, he was exhausted and drenched with sweat, but he was unable to stop his body from moving. He was in tears, begging for relief from his fatigue and aching muscles. While we could not cure his disease, we were able to use basic medicines to provide him with some



relief and much needed rest. These medicines cannot cure his disease, but by providing him some treatment we can significantly reduce his suffering. It is a great honor to provide comfort to someone in such great need. It is hard to imagine traveling on a crowded bus for 2 hours with this disease, and it is humbling to care for people who put forth such great efforts to get medical care. Thanks to your support we are continuing to give this care every day.

## *Perspective...*

The 2008 US presidential campaign collected and spent over \$1,000,000,000. This does not account for the cost of the many other federal, state, and local elections that took place that year. While these

campaigns are certainly important and affect many lives, it is amazing the

*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.*

*~Thomas Edison*

amount of money that flows through them. If you use our current costs at Total Health, the money spent on the presidential campaign of 2008 could fund basic medical care for the entire country of Honduras for 28 years.

## Honduras Update

Honduras continues to work through its recent political crisis. For the last few months, things have remained calm in La Ceiba and we have been able to continue to send teams and work in the clinic. Due to the political crisis, there is some increased risk of travel delays, but otherwise we are working as normal. It is exciting to see the structure we have all

worked so hard to put into place has enabled us to serve those in need no matter what else is going on.



While the current government acted according to Honduran law, there has been tremendous

international pressure to reinstate Mr. Zelaya. At the time of this writing, it appears that he may in fact return to his position as president until the upcoming elections. We are all hopeful that these elections will be peaceful and will put this time of turmoil behind us.

Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

*Helping during hard times can seem impossible, but giving \$1 a day (\$30 a month) makes it easy and can change a life forever.*

*If you would like to give monthly just contact us for more details.*

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