

## GARDEN SPOT VILLAGE TEAM RETURNS FROM HONDURAS

*Intergenerational group of residents, staff and family, ages 13 to 86, helped build church camp in mountains*

**NEW HOLLAND, Pa. —Aug. 23, 2010** — An intergenerational team of volunteers from Garden Spot Village recently returned from 12 days in Honduras, where they helped expand Campo Converge, a church camp in the mountains about half an hour south of the capital city of Tegucigalpa.

“Any time you get to participate in a trip like this, you learn how small the world is and how big God is! Despite differences in our culture and language, we realize how many similarities we really have, and it helps create a much better understanding about people from other parts of the world,” said Steve Lindsey, CEO at Garden Spot Village and one of 15 staff, family and residents of the retirement community who participated in the project. “It is amazing to see how much unity we have as a result of our shared relationship with God, and a very real sense of calling to share the wealth that we have in the United States with others who are in need.”

The project was initiated by Paul Hutton, a Garden Spot Village resident who is director of international missionary advocacy for Missions Door, headquartered in Denver, Colo. Hutton and his wife, Janie, organized a team of fellow residents, staff members and their families, ranging in age from 13 to 86.

“We coordinate what needs to be done with the skills of the participants,” Hutton said.

The team worked on a variety of tasks, including leveling floors and pouring cement, painting, finishing drywall, stucco, raising trusses and a roof and other site work. In addition, on several days group members traveled into Tegucigalpa to provide Bible school to groups of children.

“The kids are precious,” said Duane Tice, a Garden Spot Village resident who participated in the Bible school one afternoon. Most of the time he filled holes in concrete block walls and chipped off extra mortar so stucco could be applied. Although the physical labor was tiring, the experience was rewarding—especially the bonds that were formed between the visiting team members and the Honduran nationals.

“Even though we spoke a different language, we were able to establish friendships that will last through eternity,” Tice said. “There is no question in my mind that retirement communities should get involved in projects such as this one. The nationals loved being around our oldest member. One called him ‘Grandfather.’”

“People of stature in Latin America don’t like to get their hands dirty,” Hutton said. “When the ‘poor’ people see ‘rich’ North Americans willing to work hard and get dirty, there is a special bond that develops, and it becomes a testimony of God’s love working through us.”

The bonds truly are long lasting. Lindsey envisions another group from Garden Spot Village returning to the camp. There is more construction to be completed and more ministry to be accomplished.

“We were excited to come alongside a mission group that holds similar beliefs and values and, in some small way, assist them in completing their work,” Lindsey said. “We would love to have another group go back next year. I believe there is a deepening relationship that has developed and a sense of connection with the people of Honduras and those who are working to develop Campo Converge.”

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**CAPTION for photo GSV Team at Campo Converge.jpg**

*A team of 15 volunteers, ages 13 to 86, from Garden Spot Village recently returned from helping build a church camp in Honduras. Pictured here are (front row, l. to r.) Steve Lindsey, CEO; Paul and Janie Hutton, Garden Spot Village residents; (standing, l. to r.) Chet Yoder, director of pastoral care; Sandy Yoder; Taylor Lindsey; Fritz von Bergen, Garden Spot Village resident; Duane Tice, Garden Spot Village resident; Joyce and Tom Massey, Canton, N.J.; Jesse Yoder; Karen Horning, director of social services; Seth Yoder; Mattie Horning; Ethan Yoder.*