

## No Bananas Project Blesses the Poor

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere with an unemployment rate of over 27%. Many Hondurans, who are fortunate enough to find work, survive on just a few dollars per day. Some work on banana plantations pack-ing boxes which are sent to the United States. For the past nine years, HIM donors have been collecting those empty boxes from local grocery stores and filling them with clothes and household items. Fr. Maurizio named this the No Bananas project since the boxes are filled with everything except bananas. The boxes are stored at the Freightcar America warehouse in Woodvale until they are ready to be sent to Honduras where they are distributed to poor families.

At least once every year, a large 8 by 40 foot shipping container was loaded with the banana boxes along with used furniture,



*A shipping container being loaded with valuable second-hand items that will be a great blessing to the poor in Honduras.*



*Bishop McCort students pose in front of the final shipping container that will be sent from Johnstown to Central America*



*A mission team member distributing banana boxes to poor Honduran families*

bicycles, medical equipment, and many other donated items. A few weeks later it would arrive in Honduras. As a part of the mission trip each year, members of the team would take time to visit poor neighborhoods and distribute the donated items.

On Jan 12, 2009 students from Bishop McCort High School helped pack a container for the final shipment to Honduras. Recently, shipping costs have escalated so dramatically that this program had to be discontinued. Many poor families have been blessed by items that might have otherwise been discarded. Fr. Maurizio estimates that since the program began approximately 150 tons of used items have been shipped to Honduras.



*A small Honduran child standing outside of her house holding toys that were packed in a banana box sent from the United States*

**Please send your donations to:**

**Humanitarian Interfaith Ministries  
850 Scalp Avenue  
PO Box 5001  
Johnstown, PA 15904-5001**