



MEET RONY- TEGUCIGALPA'S NEWEST SALES CLERK

In Honduras, 169,000 youth begin the search for employment every year, but 44 percent of Honduran youth are under-employed. This was the case for Rony Mendoza eight months ago when he learned about the Empleado Futuros project. Now, Rony is employed as a department store sales clerk where he is passionate about working in a team and serving his clients.

Since turning 18, 23-year-old Rony had worked sporadically in public transportation, a dangerous job with few growth prospects. He loves to work on automobile engines, but he was always looking for something more stable. Then, Rony saw a flier posted in his community's health center that said: "This is your opportunity to get a job – Empleado Futuros." He decided to apply to enter an upcoming class in Flor de Campo, where he lives with his father and brother. Flor de Campo is a rough community, and youth from the area often face discrimination when looking for employment.

"I've always had problems finding a job because of the area where I live. I was rejected many times." – Rony Mendoza

"USAID, through its Empleado Futuros project, gave me an opportunity to be part of the labor market, where I will have the opportunity to be an example for my community."

– Rony Mendoza



Rony as Master of Ceremony at the Labor Market Assessment launch in Tegucigalpa.



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Rony is now a Salesperson employed at Corporación MCC!

After Rony completed his life skills and basic labor competencies training in Flor de Campo, he was given an opportunity to choose from various career paths. He chose the Retail Sales Clerk course because of his ease in talking and listening to others. When he finished his training at the vocational center, he was offered a chance to complete a practicum with Corporacion MCC and their retail department store, Mendels. Rony stood out at Mendels because of his professionalism and enthusiasm. He was also noticed by Empleando Futuros staff, who asked Rony to serve as the Master of Ceremony for the launch of the project's Labor Market Assessment. Rony presided over a ceremony that included the USAID/Honduras Mission Director, several top business executives and over 100 attendees. After only one week at his practicum, the Mendels human resources department offered Rony a job as a sales clerk at their retail store in downtown Tegucigalpa, where he now works.

Rony says he is applying the math, reading and life skills that he learned from Empleando Futuros to his current position. But most importantly, he loves his job, his work environment and his colleagues.

"I thank Corporacion MCC for all the support they are giving me in this stage of my life. It is a life changer for me and my family. Now I'll be able to support my father and keep building on the dreams of my family." – Rony Mendoza

While life in the Empleando Futuros target communities is tough and youth from those communities face discrimination in the job market, there are companies like Corporacion MCC who are willing to give people like Rony a chance. In Rony, Mendels has found a talented, creative and enthusiastic young man. He was hired to join the sales team not because of where he is from, but because of the training he received and the talent he brings to the business. Rony is an example to youth in his community and his fellow Corporacion MCC – Mendels employees.



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