



31 December 2018

Dear Friends,

Below is a quick summary of all the work that your gifts helped accomplish in 2018. Please take a few moments and see what your gifts have done and imagine all the children, mothers, fathers, teens, the elderly... all the people YOU have helped.

2018 was a tough year for Nicaragua, the poor, this work, and us. In April, protests broke out and businesses left Nicaragua. Nicaragua had been expecting around a 4.7 % economic growth in 2018 but instead had a loss of 0.2% in economic growth. In 2019, Nicaragua is expecting to have more losses of about 2% overall. With NICA ACT sanctions, poverty is likely to increase rather than decrease, and the poor will suffer even more than they already do.

With the unrest and the U.S. State Department's travel ban, the CDCA has been facing a loss of \$100,000 in revenue and about \$50,000 in medical donations from volunteer delegations not coming to Nicaragua. Many of you have given more to help us keep going... thank you. We will need the support at least until the travel ban is lifted.

We and our clinic suffered the sudden, devastating loss of Pat...our community member, Kathy's sister and our clinic counselor...who died the 17th of December, as the result of a fall probably due to a stroke on the 14th. It has come as such a shock.

We know that the demands of life make keeping up with little Nicaragua and the CDCA seem like too much. We know that as we listen to the news, we can feel like it is too much and there is nothing we can do to make the world a better place, but your gifts DO help make the world a better place for Nicaraguan families. With the constraints of foreign intervention being placed on Nicaragua, the families we work with need you more than ever. Thank you.

- ◆ COPROEXNIC, the organic agriculture cooperative, with our help, **exported to two buyers 704,920 pounds of organic sesame... worth \$962,100!**
- ◆ Together, we **exported to three buyers 1,148,596 pounds of organic peanuts... worth \$1,302,191.**
- ◆ Together with El Porvenir, we **exported 20,100 pounds of organic coffee...\$37,880.** All the above-mentioned exported crops were mostly grown in 2017.
- ◆ The **sesame plant continues to undergo tremendous renovations** to make it a world class processing plant, **employing 44 workers.**
- ◆ Through the **Vida Fund we lent out \$1,140,623** in 2018.
- ◆ **Loan payments and interest received in 2018 were \$906,554.**
- ◆ We hosted **one business person to discuss the establishment of our own peanut processing plant, but with the unrest he was hesitant to invest right now.**
- ◆ Much of our efforts in agriculture have been towards broadening the pool of financing for COPROEXNIC and slowly, financing was getting more secure, but with the current environment it is not as secure.

- ◆ In the **Nueva Vida Health Clinic**, we continue to serve people though we have lost two specialists, one nurse, and now our counselor. While the unrest was going on, several decided this was a good time to retire or resign.
- ◆ **In the clinic, we treated 11,056 patients** by our four part-time physicians (general physician, pediatrician, an orthopedist who only worked 9 months, and ob/gyn who only worked 10 weeks), a full-time radiologist, and 11 volunteer physicians who worked for 5 days to 5 months.
- ◆ **1,055 visits in patients' homes provided better medical treatment.**
- ◆ **Our family planning program offers free, consistent birth control for 300 women and 14 men...**very important with Zika. We are offering birth control implants lasting 3-5 years. We put in 119 implants and 12 IUDs, in addition to the above-mentioned 300 women, and we provide birth control for about 50 women in a remote rural coffee cooperative.
- ◆ Our radiologist performed **278 ultrasound exams on 225 patients**, because our old machine broke 9 weeks into 2018 and is unrepairable. We are hoping for a new used one in 2019. We also did **198 EKGs.**
- ◆ We gave out treatment and medicines for **21,511 conditions and diseases.** Our doctors performed **850 procedures.**
- ◆ **We treated 147 patients monthly through our chronic care program.** Besides their check-ups, lab work, and medication, they also attend monthly meetings to learn about diet, exercise, taking the medications properly, and giving each other support. Most have type 2 diabetes and /or hypertension.
- ◆ **A global health doctor did well-child visits in the schools for 4 months.** She and her husband put **WiFi in our clinic** that helped us collect data, spread information, and helped the clinic staff stay in touch with the Nueva Vida community. The clinic made a Facebook page. Unfortunately, the WiFi has not been working for several months now, because the person they hired to keep it up has left the country.
- ◆ **We hosted a volunteer plastic surgeon** who did 39 minor surgeries in our clean room.
- ◆ Our part-time counselor, **Pat who died, saw 376 clients working on an average of 2 and a half different issues in each session...** most were family problems and behavioral issues. She did in-school consultations and led two support groups on trauma after all the violence occurred in April and May.

- ◆ **Our laboratory completed 6,417 tests in the clinic for 1,697 patients.** We also do weekly-to-monthly glucose checks as well as urine tests when patients are checked in. We sent out **294 PAP tests** to be read by a pathologist.
- ◆ We continued our dental program with ORPHANetwork to see children in Nueva Vida from **17 community feeding centers across the western side of Nicaragua.**
- ◆ Our **full-time dentist, hygienist, dental assistant, and volunteer dental professionals** saw **5,828 patients** (51% were under the age of 12 years). They performed **10,416 procedures.** Of those procedures: almost 55% were preventive care [cleanings, fluoride and sealants]; 31% were restorative care [fillings, etc.] and a tad more than 8% were extractions... this is amazing for Nicaragua! Our dental clinic is serving more adults as the government closed their dental clinic in Ciudad Sandino.
- ◆ Our **three-mornings-a-week eye correction clinic** saw **691 patients** and provided **869 pairs of glasses** (18% were custom-made glasses).
- ◆ We gave out wheelchairs, canes, handicapped toilet seats, crutches, etc. to 208 patients.
- ◆ Our community outreach and health education included the following:
 - ⇒ **Continued the new mothers' group** and included classes on pregnancy, labor and birth as well as family planning; **a group of mothers of 0- 1 year babies; a group of mothers with toddlers; a group of pre-teen and teen girls** to build self-esteem and give options for the future other than being a teen mother; **a boys' group** to build a sense of responsibility and self-esteem as well; **a support group for parents of children with asthma; a support group for the LGBT community; and a support system for patients who are HIV positive.** We provided **101 classes** and meetings through the year with **3,293 attendees** for learning, support and fun.
 - ⇒ We received another grant to give our **30 lay health promoters a small monetary gift of appreciation each month for all that they do.** We maintained the nebulizers and first aid kits in the homes of these lay health promoters, and these services helped **3,256 children and 3,279 adults.** They and our medical staff did **1,055 home visits.**
- ◆ We hosted **7 delegations** from Jan- March; then all delegations cancelled except the Alaska one in November. Not anticipating the absence of delegations, we hired a Nicaraguan volunteer coordinator in January.
- ◆ We hosted over **36 volunteer medical, dental, and public health professionals in the clinic, plus 2 classes of students in the medical profession, and one veterinarian who went to the coffee cooperative.**
- ◆ We hosted **6 individual volunteers** from Belgium, Germany, the UK, and the U.S. We have also hosted **10 Nicaraguan interns** volunteering in the clinic.
- ◆ We went on **six speaking trips that encompassed many states in the U.S. (new states: Alaska, New Mexico and Colorado), and also England and Ireland.** We made many new contacts as well as renewing long-time supporters. We were donated a van on the west coast and one for the east coast.
- ◆ **Bucknell University gave the CDCA their first Global Engagement Award.**
- ◆ We developed **4 social media fundraisers** for the implant program, the boys' group, the clinic and our budget.
- ◆ We've made many improvements to **the Casa Ben Linder in Managua** in order to house AirBnB guests and host events to raise the money needed to restore the murals and run a museum, remembering the fallen of the Nicaraguan wars and the benefits of the Revolution. With the lack of tourists because of the high security levels placed on travel, this program is suffering like all other businesses in Nicaragua; however, we hosted several events including a fancy Bolivian Embassy gathering, had 8 puppet shows with a total audience of 200, and hosted 9 art workshops with 90 participants total.
- ◆ Once each quarter we sent out over 15,000 newsletters with a little more than half going by email.
- ◆ Our **on-line recurring donations increased by 74%! This is critical with few to no delegations coming providing support.**
- ◆ **Our donor base increased by 25%.** We received more donations in euros and some in pounds broadening our base to the other side of the world.

Enclosed is a slip tallying your 2018 generous gifts to the Center for Development in Central America, a project of the Jubilee House Community, Inc. Please review it for accuracy because sometimes we do make entry errors. Send corrections via email to: Sarah@jhc-cdca.org.

Should you care to use this for tax purposes, know that the Jubilee House Community, Inc., has 501(c)(3) status in the United States and Mission International status in Nicaragua.

If you want more information, please ask us for our 2018 year-end booklet and we will send it to you. We hope you can picture the people you have helped, because without **YOU** this would not have happened... truly.

Gratefully for the Community,



Kathleen Murdock

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