



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY

"You shall not oppress one another for I am the Lord your God."
—Lev. 25:17

February 1995

ROBERTO CLEMENTE, THE POOREST ZONE IN CIUDAD SANDINO, HAS RUNNING WATER!!

In anticipation of getting piping, folks were digging trenches on Christmas morning.

It was such a thrill to turn on the faucet to symbolize potable, running water available at each home. Kids and adults came and drank. It's hard to imagine their joy.

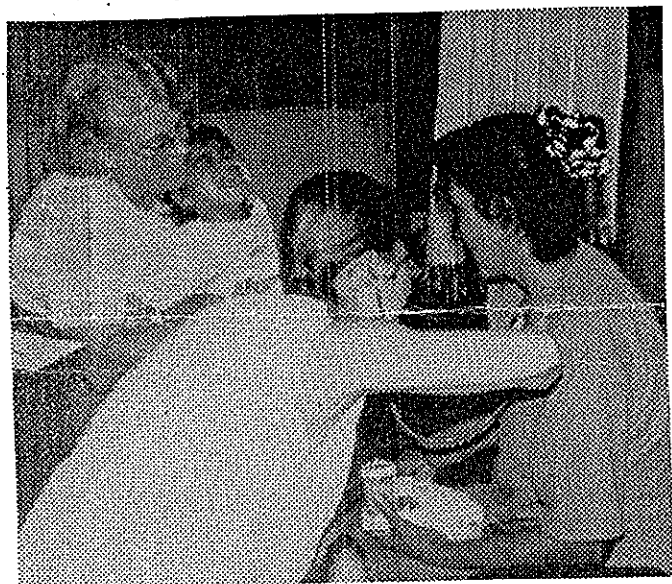
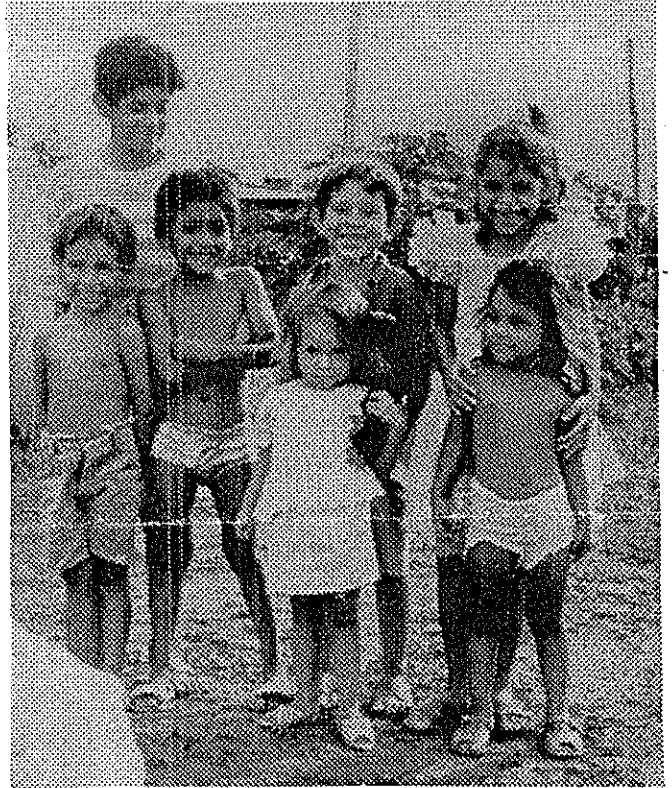
By the time you receive this newsletter, every house in Roberto Clemente should have access to a latrine as well. Deep holes are being dug and latrines are being made. Isn't this wonderful?!!

Before we even arrived, a committee of local community leaders had rated the Roberto Clemente water and latrine project the number one priority. During the rainy season raw sewage was running freely in the streets, and maintaining proper hygiene is difficult if not impossible when water must be hauled to the house from far away. Everyone was aware of the huge health crisis -- cholera, diarrhea, etc. Now they have potable water and soon latrines! We thank you for all your gifts to ensure this happening.

Our micro-enterprise work has taken on many facets. We run a bus on a city route, providing employment for four unemployed people. We are trying to get additional buses down here that will provide four or five people with businesses of their own and employ another 4-8 people. We are working on getting a sesame crop planted that will be a source of cash for 30 families. Lastly we are trying to keep an agriculture cooperative from going under and being bought out by a big landowner. All of these micro-enterprise endeavors will also help provide the CDCA funds for projects.

We are also working with the formation of a Ciudad Sandino foundation for funding projects. We are trying to build a feeding center / preschool for Roberto Clemente and two other barrios that would feed 350 children daily.

We were thrilled to receive a grant from Lutheran World Relief for Roberto Clemente, and two grants so far through the Funding Exchange. We've been grateful that the cookbook *Grits, Greens and Gallo Pinto* (see back page) has brought income, and we're looking forward to the spring speaking tour (see back also) to help us build a stronger base of support. With all of these bits and pieces here and there, lives are being changed here -- being saved, literally -- and hope is slowly beginning to flower in small parts of this world. Thank you.



We were pleased to have Nora Laws and her son, Alex Francisco, here with us for two weeks in January. Nora held eight health clinics in three of the poorest barrios of the Ciudad Sandino area. She saw over 250 patients and distributed hundreds of dollars of donated medicine.

Alex served as pharmacist and publicist. He shot many feet of video film to use in CDCA publicity. He also got to experience first-hand Nicaraguan bureaucracy. The medicines Nora and Alex had brought were impounded at the airport, and it took a week to liberate them.

This was not Nora's first visit. She enjoyed being able to follow up with a number of patients she had seen before. A special highlight was meeting the baby of a mother who had come pregnant to the clinic last year!

At the despedida (good-bye party) for Nora and Alex, complete with a purple Barney piñata, the people of Roberto

Clemente showed their appreciation and love. Many kissed them as they said, "Return to us soon."

1994 was a year of change for us all as the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA) finally got underway. As always with a new project, some of the change has been joyous while some has been painful -- and most has been difficult.

We have spent much energy getting communication and responsibility patterns established between those of us in Nicaragua and our Board in the U.S. After and amid many tears, frustrations, anger, and tenacity, always with much love on all parts, and with wonderful help from Dick Gilbert (a consultant in Asheville), "it seems to be coming out all okay in the wash" (as Mama would say).

We are appreciative of the friendship of everyone on the Board who is hanging in there, and of the patience of all of you, our supporters, as we get the bugs worked out.

REFLECTION...

While Nora was here a neighborhood boy came over with a split-open leg. Nora cleaned and dressed the wound and repeated the treatment every day she was here. I took over after she left.

Caring for this child's leg, I got to thinking about begging. It was brought to my attention that some children here are deliberately maimed so that begging is more profitable. This is not a common occurrence and was not the case with our neighbor boy (we can testify from our own experience how accident-prone he is). But it illustrates how desperate people can find themselves.



In the States we have a distorted view of begging. We tend to feel that the beggars misuse any money given to them. Here a woman followed me in the market one day begging. I told her I had no money. When Sarah and I got back together, I gave the woman a córdoba¹-- about 13 cents in U.S. currency. She promptly took the cord and bought two bananas for her children.

The maiming question is harsh and cruel, but in the light of reality here it can be understood. Maim one child and maybe none of the children will starve. Otherwise all may die. There are no jobs. There is no government assistance. There is only a woman's or a man's desperation to provide for their children. One-third of the Nicaraguan delegates to the National Assembly (the equivalent of our Congress) are U.S. citizens. Providing for the desperate parents and children is NOT a priority, not even a concern.

But it is a concern of those we work with here. They are kind and gentle with the beggars. To us they say, "Help us develop Nicaragua so begging will be unnecessary."

--Kathleen

We've been busy adjusting and working. Sarah has spent *hours* planning a speaking tour in the Southeast for April and May. (Please note the response sheet if you have not been contacted and want to help, or want to make sure she makes it to your city.)

Mike has spent weeks and weeks working on micro-enterprise endeavors. Hopefully the result will be providing employment to Nicaraguans and supporting the work of the CDCA.

Pat spends her efforts in the sustainable agriculture project and reforestation nursery. Kathy is still our ultimate translator, bookkeeper, and English teacher.

Kathleen authored *Grits, Greens and Gallo Pinto*, a cookbook with Southern, Nicaraguan, TexMex, and other styles of cooking. It is designed to help people use food already on-hand. Kathleen's cooking always receives rave reviews, and the cookbook has also received excellent reviews from users. (*Grits, Greens and Gallo Pinto* is a fundraiser for the CDCA. See response sheet for how to get your very own copy.)

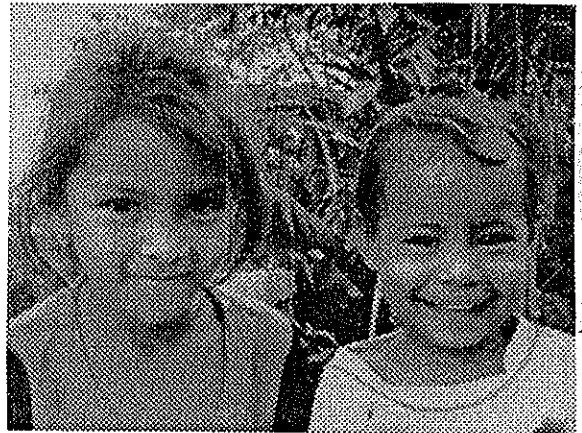
Jessica is in the drama school. This term she is taking voice and dance, at a tuition of 30 córdobas (less than \$5.00 U.S.!). Coury is having a difficult time adjusting, but he and Daniel are enjoying the five kittens that decided to come into the world under Kathy's dresser.

And we all have enjoyed a visit from Kathleen's mother, Peggy Murdock.

Part of our work -- and much of our joy -- is volunteers. We have three volunteers who are working in separate projects. Brian Van Hoy and Ana Gordon work up in Achuapa with a health center. Ana is learning acupuncture while Brian sets up the center's computers! Emilie Miller works in Ciudad Sandino with a Women's Health Center as a lay midwife. We believe that one of the most important ministries of the CDCA is facilitating volunteers who bring various talents and gifts to the people of Nicaragua.

We don't know where to begin to thank all of you who have given so freely to keep us alive and functioning.

We have just received recent financial records and are astounded at the generosity of so many people. We are also aware of prayers and thoughts on our behalf, helping to keep our spirits renewed and strong. Letters, email, and phone calls let us feel not quite so cut off from home. Thank you all.



Air Mail Address to Nicaragua: c/o FUNDECI - Casa Ben Linder, Barrio Mons. Lezcano, de la estatua 3 c. al sur, 1 1/2 arriba, Managua, Nicaragua

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