

*Each January we send out to our donors a short summary of what was accomplished in the previous year. We thought that ALL of you might find it interesting and encouraging, so we are including this list on the last page.*

**2012 has started with many projects running full steam ahead!**

**The gin and baler are operating full-time!** The remaining members of Genesis (see below) are hand-sorting through the organic cotton, removing impurities that would damage the dying processes. After the cotton is hand sorted it is ginned and baled.



We have buyers for the organic cotton and heavy duty trucks will soon be coming into the Industrial Park which is why we worked hard to pave the entrance with handmade concrete paving stones. The paving stones we had were traded for chicken manure for the cattle feed (see below but please do not ask me to explain this! ☺) to help pave dirt roads in Ciudad Sandino. We have started a **project to make more stones** to sell or trade.

We are working to triple organic cotton acreage and help transition 4,200 acres of conventional cotton into organic.



**Organic coffee has been picked, processed and all of it sold!** We are searching for more coffee because the demand has grown so much, thanks especially to Their-Bucks who handles the El Porvenir coffee (the main coffee cooperative with whom the CDCA works) and Building New Hope.

For coffee & organic food suppliers:  
[www.their-buckscoffee.com](http://www.their-buckscoffee.com)  
[www.onceagainnutbutter.com](http://www.onceagainnutbutter.com)  
[www.buildingnewhope.com](http://www.buildingnewhope.com)  
  
For organic clothing & video:  
[www.maggiesorganics.com](http://www.maggiesorganics.com)

**The United Nations has declared 2012 to be the Year of Cooperatives!**

**Organic sesame is being harvested, processed and all of it has been sold!** The CDCA negotiated a contract for over \$1 million for the sesame...can you imagine how many of those itty, bitty seeds that is?! It boggles the mind. Once Again Nut Butter helped make this

happen.

Mike is on the phone and email every day negotiating and following through on shipping and customs. One day it is woe and the next is satisfaction.

We are trying to enable COPROEXNIC (the agriculture cooperative of small growers) to become more independent of us. After two years, we and they

finally succeeded in opening their bank accounts...sometimes the hoops one has to jump through are staggering. We celebrated when Becca came back with the papers and a bank passbook.



*farmer in organic sesame field*



**The cattle feed mill is working full-time as well.** We designed and had signs painted to advertise for the feed on the Industrial Park's wall and across the street! We are enclosing a photo...nice cow head, huh?

We have a **small oil press operational**. We will press the cotton seed for oil to make bio-diesel and press neem seeds to make neem oil for organic pesticides and for use in lice and scabies treatments in the Green Pharmacy at the clinic.

**An organic processing plant is crucial for the growers and buyers.** We are working with partners in the States to have one operating in Nicaragua that will process organic peanuts.



**The law suit is still pending (see our blog at ...**

<http://tinyurl.com/6m2y3gq>) and a couple of the members of Genesis could wait no longer, so left the cooperative. The others are working full-time inspecting cotton. The CDCA finished the long-awaited spinning plant bathrooms and the building is currently being used for the cattle feed mill and for cotton inspection. We understand the cooperative's discouragement and have been doing all we are able to do to help them while maintaining all our other projects.



**We are excited about the new health promotion programs that we are initiating in 2012.** We have four support groups for parents of children with asthma, a small group for teenage pregnant mothers and fathers on pregnancy, birth, and lactation, and then we will include them in a support program for mothers with babies from birth to one year old.

The classes for teenage pregnant mothers were credited for saving a 14-year old's life. She was five months pregnant and miscarried. She went to the hospital afterwards feeling very badly. She was misdiagnosed and told she was still pregnant and fine.



As she got sicker, because of the knowledge of pregnancy she'd received from the class, she talked to Jessenia, our health promoter. Jessenia asked our Dr. Avila to check her and he ordered tests to verify that yes, she had miscarried... no, her placenta had not been completely flushed out by her young body... and yes, she was very, very sick with an infection that was going to kill her if not treated right away. She was in the hospital 10 days on IV antibiotics and is now healthy and grateful to this class.



Two good friends of the clinic, Nora and Becky, came for three weeks. As retired medical professionals, they help teach, see patients, and be a support to the staff. They are now working closely with us on the project of keeping babies well.

We are working with Orphan Network to try to figure out how to provide **dental care for the 800 children** in their feeding centers in

Nueva Vida. Hey! Dental professionals! We need your help!

In January we had the help of the **Bucknell Brigade (Lewisburg, PA)** both outside and inside the clinic. Outside they reinforced our perimeter wall and started a little building for the guards who keep the clinic safe. Inside, their doctor, Don, and many students helped more patients receive medical consults. Bucknell Brigades are also good friends to the clinic.



**Our eye correction clinic went on the road!** They went up to a rural village up in the hills surrounding Ciudad Sandino and gave out 54 pairs of glasses! This was a test run to see what would be needed and how fast we could serve people.



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY

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

**JHCommunity:** It is back to school here in Nicaragua. From youngest to oldest school attendees: **Orla** is in 2<sup>nd</sup> year preschool; **Eibhlín**, in 1<sup>st</sup> grade; **Joseph**, in 10<sup>th</sup> grade; **Daniel**, in 1<sup>st</sup> year dental school; and **Coury**, in 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical school.

**Sarah** is headed to the Northeast of the U.S. for her speaking tour. It will not be as busy as her past ones because she damaged her back severely and has been recovering for two months now. You can find speaking engagements near you here (<http://tinyurl.com/7udve94>). **Becca, Paul**, and the girls will be speaking in Ireland in April and visiting with Paul's family. You can find their speaking engagements here (<http://tinyurl.com/76teug6>).

We celebrated with **Kathy** when she had the 2011 financial books finalized before the third week of January!

What a feat!

**Reflection:** It is Lent and unfortunately it is also the time to listen to politicians and news pundits talk about public policy towards the poor and each candidate's faith. I get frustrated and angry when I hear these candidates especially "Christians" finding every excuse in the book to not help the poor.



Our son, Daniel, likes to quote to me "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." It's a good philosophy but there are many problems with it. How to balance charity, education, and sustainability? How to give and serve wisely and yet freely?

Let me note Jesus' teachings (seeing as how the candidates like to parade their faith around) to speak to this philosophy and to address "how to best help the poor."

If the person is hungry and has nothing to eat, then crisis relief is necessary or in other words... "give the fish, now!" Jesus said feed the hungry. That simple.

But after the hunger is relieved then teaching to fish is good. This is education. Jesus was Jewish and education was important... inseparable from his faith. Education *is* important but it is not the end.

To truly serve the poor, I completely believe that sustainability has to be a part of the work... what do I mean? Well, using the fishing idea...

Fishing needs capital... fishing lines, bait, maybe a boat. Fishing may feed someone but it will not nourish them, clothe them, shelter them... for this to happen then the fishing needs to bring in more than the family can eat. Then there is the need to market their fish, preserve the fish, and manage the funds from the sales. AND what if the waters become polluted like Lake Managua?... teaching one to fish in polluted waters only insures mercury poisoning.

What would Jesus say about all of this? Well, I think, he said it all when he said "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**We** would not want to just get by in life... we want a full life. We want a life free of pollutants that will kill us. We want a life of dignity, of basic security for ourselves and our children, of self-determination, of rights and freedoms. We want a life with *gusto* (pleasure) not just survival... so why do we do we think just surviving is okay for our poor brothers and sisters?

Sustainability is not as simple as giving a woman a fish or even teaching her how to fish... it is more... much, much more. Aiding the poor to obtain sustainability takes **listening and learning from them**. It takes more work, more setbacks, and it takes struggling **with** them. It also has more heartaches. **It is a lot like love.**



Photo:  
Ali Blumenstock

-Kathleen

Jubilee House Community Inc 1019 Troy Medlin Rd Monroe NC 28112- 9449 USA (New Address as of 2012)	<b>Center for Development in Central America</b> U.S. Phone Messages: 1-828-398-4823 Nicaragua Phone: 011-505-22-69-8001 Email: <a href="mailto:jhc@jhc-cdca.org">jhc@jhc-cdca.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.jhc-cdca.org">www.jhc-cdca.org</a>	Jubilee House Community Inc de km. 10, Carr. Nueva a León, 1.6 km. abajo Ciudad Sandino, MGA Nicaragua
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**Yes! I want to help support the work of the Center for Development in Central America.**



Online tax-deductible contributions are for the general operating budget (designations also accepted), and may be single donations or recurring (i.e. a monthly gift of \$10 to help cover Nicaraguan staff salary increases.)

To change your email address or sign-up for an e-newsletter: [enewsletter@jhc-cdca.org](mailto:enewsletter@jhc-cdca.org) or [Sarah@jhc-cdca.org](mailto:Sarah@jhc-cdca.org). Please notify us of your paper address changes as well.

**Please note:** a shortcut to the online giving site is: <http://tinyurl.com/5rwx>.

**Paper Mail... send to:** CDCA, c/o Peggy Murdock, 352 Carly Ln, Rock Hill, SC 29732-7750. Please include your correct name and address information from the newsletter label to avoid duplications!



(STS items shown:  
fork, spoon, stirrer)

*Below is a summation of the accomplishments of 2011. If you would like a year-end report that includes a narrative of the good and bad plus a financial summary then please let us know by marking it on the return slip. We hope you will find this interesting and encouraging.*

## **2011 Center for Development in Central America year end summary:**

- **The Vida Fund lent \$732,801.96 and \$704,626.20 of the loans were repaid.** We received in loans and donations from many of you \$31,362.40 for the fund this year.
- We brought **18 members of Genesis on a four day training to El Salvador** to visit one of the largest yarn spinning plants in Central America.
- We brought **18 members of Genesis on a four day training to Costa Rica** to learn how to make cotton sliver (the step before finished yarn).
- Genesis members continued to **receive help with food** (200 lbs. of beans, 300 lbs. rice, 200 lbs sugar and 10 gallons of oil every two weeks)...thanks to many of you.
- We **started animal feed production** to provide alternative work for Genesis members.
- We extended nearly \$80,000 in credits to **organic cotton** farmers.
- Farmers planted **345 acres of organic cotton**, expecting yields of more than **750,000 lbs of seed cotton**.
- We secured an early **contract for the sale of all our organic cotton at a better price** than last year.
- We **exported 163,000 lbs of organic fair trade cotton** worth more than **\$217,000**.
- We made **the gin operation** stable.
- The cotton gin employed 18 people full time for 5 months.
- We **negotiated sesame contracts of over \$1 million** for our growers as well as smaller contracts for producers of **honey and cashews**.
- The organics co-op **exported more than 800,000 lbs of organic sesame** worth **\$1.15 million!**
- The organics co-op **exported nearly 29,000 lbs of El Porvenir organic coffee** worth more than **\$65,000**.
- **El Porvenir Coffee is now available through the Piggly Wiggly** supermarket chain under the brand name 43 Family Coffee and Piggly Wiggly's own gourmet house brand, Newton Farms.
- We **hosted 2 delegations each, from Their-Bucks** (organic coffee buyers) and **Once Again Nut Butter** (organic sesame buyers).
- In the Nueva Vida **Health clinic we treated 7,318 patients** (1,713 were seen by a **volunteer orthopedist** who sees patients two mornings a week). **2,596 were new patients**. These patients were seen by **two part-time physicians and volunteer physicians**.
- We gave **treatment and medicines for 9,539 conditions and diseases**. 52% involved pain with the adults: both chronic and acute; 9% asthma (of that 85.6% were children); and 16% of the adults were treated for chronic conditions like type II diabetes and hypertension.
- Our **laboratory completed 4,245 tests** for the clinic.
- Our **half-time dentist saw 868 patients** (26% children) and performed 1,201 procedures.
- Our one morning a week **eye correction clinic** with lay volunteers started up in May and have seen 314 patients and gave almost all glasses, with 2/3 of the patients receiving two pairs of glasses to correct distance and reading.
- We **hired a health promoter** who has recruited **25 lay health promoters**. Ten of the promoters have **first aid kits in their homes** that we supply and refill as needed. They treat people at night and on weekends. **Five have nebulizers** (breathing machines) as well for patients needing treatments when the clinic is closed. The health promoter averages **1.5 trainings a week on various topics**, such as asthma, HIV, lactation, diabetes, etc.
- The health promoters surveyed Nueva Vida (~1,200 homes) searching for children with asthma to begin a **new asthma outreach program**.
- We **hired a licensed nurse** who goes into the community with our health promoter to attend 25 elderly patients who cannot come out of their homes very easily (**a new program for the elderly**). She does home visits on patients who need follow-up as well as normal nursing inside the clinic.
- **Two speaking tours encompassed 13 states** in the United States (mostly in the Southeast and Midwest) for **152 speaking engagements**. We **hosted 41 groups** from other NGOs here in Nicaragua telling them about our work.
- We hosted **nine delegations from 8 days to 20 days**. Two were new delegations for us. Two other delegations were medical including doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and a vet. Several delegations included other medical people including doctors, nurses, and a physical therapist and a dentist.
- We hosted **11 individual volunteers** ranging from a few days to over 1 year.
- Our **monthly on-line giving increased by 345%!** This was a response to letters asking our past CDCA volunteers to contribute \$10/month to help give our staff raises in order for them to receive enough for the *canasta básica*... what the government assesses the value of a basic value of the food needs of a family of four.
- We have an **increase in over-all giving of 8%...** thank you!
- Four times last year we sent out close to **14,000 newsletters and 57.6% were e-newsletters** (these save trees and the photos are in color!).