

Nicaragua Journey 2001

Trip 7 since 1996

Estimated Direct Assistance To-Date: \$25K+

Today's Date: 14 April 2001

Focus:

Catering Business, Managua
Hospital San Jose, Diriamba
Rodolfo Aburto Castellon
Ave Maria College Of
The Americas, San Marcos
Montessori School, Masaya
Nehemias School, Sta.Teresa

Life continue to be a daily struggle for the vast majority of the population...

First, a big thank you to all who assisted with making this journey possible. Approximately \$4K in Medical, School, Office & Business Supplies were distributed along with donated funds.

An article appeared in a local newspaper after last years trip to Nicaragua. This brought out the best in people including students at two schools who took on, as an assignment, to collect school supplies to be distributed in Nicaragua.

This in addition to dental and medical supplies received from a variety of sources including a suitcase filled with new and used eye glasses made up fifteen heavy suitcases weighing over 1200 lbs.

Since I was travelling alone, this time, it was not possible for me to accomodate all of the luggage. After careful scrutiny, 300 lbs. of most needed items went with me. Thanks, again, to **Continental Airlines** for their generosity in shipping the excess luggage for free.

900+ lbs. still waiting to be shipped, hopefully, shortly.



Nicaragua's Flag

Getting to NI during the Spring Break, on less than a full-fare ticket, turned out to be quite a challenge.

When I finally arrived in NI the luggage was nowhere in sight. It arrived a few days later. Aside from this, the distribution of all items brought and the return trip went smoothly.



Students on their way to class at the Nehemias School in Sta. Teresa .



Rodolfo A. Castellon, Student and Ruth Mantei, School Administrator, surveying materials brought to the school.



Education... The only way out.

We have over the years met and assisted quite a number of individuals to a better life than what they had before. It is gratifying to meet some of them each year. The young man to the left is from the East Coast of Nicaragua and a Cousin to the Cafeteria Manager at the Ave Maria College Of The Americas, Mr. Fred Ulrich. He had just arrived on the West Coast in order to make a better life for himself. He is very eager on getting a formal Culinary Education. He is currently employed in the University Cafeteria and is earning \$80.00/Month.

Presently, I am exploring the possibility of bringing this young man here so he may attend our program here at Triton College and receive an education, he never thought possible and could only dream of.



Orvin Tinkam

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If you would like to assist with this rewarding activity, please contact me. Thank you.

Phone: 630.773.2552
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Email: NIDIRECT@CHICAGONET.NET

I thank the following individuals, businesses and organizations for assisting me in caring out the goals for this trip.

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, Mr. Jim Hanselman, GM
BENSENVILLE LIONS CLUB, Mr. Ronald Luethy
WIESBROOK ELEM. SCHOOL, Ms. D. Harrington
WOOD DALE JUNIOR H.S., Ms. Kim Henner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maskell
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Notke
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Luethy
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nielsen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hein
Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Olivi
Ms. Tammy Basile

How it began...

A former Triton College employee, Ms. Sylvia Solorzano, a Nicaraguan and now retired in NI, established contact between the then satellite campus of University of Mobile in San Marcos, NI. and Triton College for the purpose of seeing if we could be of assistance from our vantage point. This was in 1995/1996.

A colleague, Mr. Jerome Drosos, and I taught over several years Hospitality and Tourism related subjects at the University properties in Jinotepe and San Marcos, NI. Even during our first visit to NI it became clear to me that I wanted to assist on a humanitarian level, as well. We have truly had and still have an impact on many peoples lives, most of whom we don't even know. It is gratifying to know that whatever little we have done, have made a great difference to so many. On every visit to this beautiful country, I am being reminded of this... Can there be any greater reward?

Thanks to all.

Items Currently Needed...

Medical

- Aspirin and/or other Pain Relief Medicine
- New and/or used Eye Glasses
- Tooth Paste
- Tooth Brushes
- Bandages
- Anything else a Hospital may use

Other

- Batteries - All Sizes
- Calculators - Solar Powered Only
- Used Suitcases - Strong Enough For One More Trip
- Laptop/Notebook Computers
- Computer Software - Originals Only
- Currency



Hospital Administrator, Sister Claudia Fernandez, Hospital San Jose, Diriamba with Ms. Yadira Gonzales and Daughter, receiving a suitcase of medical supplies.

Any and all donated items including funds are distributed to carefully selected individuals and organizations. This being a 100% percent direct effort with zero waste. I/we pay for our own transportation, stay and expenses.