

# Nicaragua Assistance 2004/2005

100 % Direct Humanitarian Support Since 1996

10th Journey

Total Assistance To-Date; Items & Funds: \$44000.00+

Dates: November 7 to 17, 2004

## 2004 Focus:

- Hospital San Jose, Diriamba, Carazo
- Hogar de Ancianos Agustin Castro Flores (Old Peoples Home), Masaya, Carazo
- Hogar de Ancianos Horizonte, San Marcos, Carazo
- Nehemias School, Sta Teresa, Carazo
- Rodolfo Aburto Castellon, Computer Engineering Student, Managua
- Centro de Desarrollo Infantil "Samual Calero" San Marcos, Carazo
- Centro Escolar "Rafaela Herrera" San Marcos, Carazo
- Fred Ulrich, Catering Business, Managua
- Some Families and Individuals in Carazo.

## Will it ever get better?

...some improvements are noticeable for a visitor to see. At closer scrutiny, however, the vast majority of Nicaraguans, in spite of some progress, are still faced with tremendous hurdles for bare existence. A basic staple, beans are no longer affordable for many families because of government export. Unfortunately, one does not see any improvements in the living standard of most Nicaraguans. To my thinking the country is ripe for another revolution with national elections only being two years away. On the day of my arrival, there were municipal elections throughout the country with the Sandinista party winning handsomely. Other parties, I am told, does a lot of infighting and absolutely nothing funnels down to the people that need it the most. They seem to be unable to place Nicaragua's long-term best interest ahead of their own. All assistance to 80+% of the population comes from countries and individuals outside of Nicaragua with hardly anything from within. No wonder that the Sandinista party have an easy sell with the vast majority of the populous. I hope, indeed, that I am wrong; time will tell,...



Above: Mr. Herrera, the school administrator receiving much needed supplies and \$800.00 in funds.

Below: Student home near the entrance to the school.

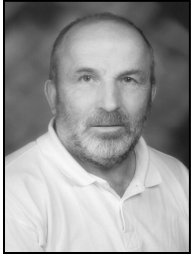


This being the 10th trip in 8 years allows me to reflect a bit on the activities since the beginning in 1996. This years journey was very productive with regard to accomplishments. Items and funds valued at \$7,581.00 were distributed to needy entities and some individuals. Having had an association with a university in San Marcos, Carazo for years, I continue to use the campus as a base. An example on how bad things are in Nicaragua at present, I gave each employee, in the cafeteria \$10.00 towards the end of the visit. Almost all of them went out, right away, to purchase beans for their family in order to prepare the national dish, *Gallo Pinto* consisting of beans, rice and onions.

It is a humbling and satisfying experience to help organizations and individuals with their most basic needs; it is also a venture with no end in sight. My deepest gratitude for all the assistance received throughout the year from numerous sources. **“Thank you”**

**CONTINENTAL AIRLINES**, the airline with a humanitarian spirit went well beyond what could be expected. **“Thank you - Continental”**

One of the highlights of this trip was a visit to a school with 380 students taught in two shifts located 1/2 mile from a main road by foot or bicycle. The first class begins at 0730 to 1200; the next from 1230 to 1700. The administrator of the school, pictured on the left, is often seen picking up sticks in the woods for cooking so that each students can get, at least, one meal a day.



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**“Volcano Conception”**

9 of 24 Volcano’s in  
Nicaragua are presently  
active.



Squatter settlement close to the capital city, Managua.  
Five days prior to this photo, the land was vacant.

**Items Needed:**

**Medical:**

- Any Medical Supplies
- Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, etc.
- Bandages
- Tooth Paste & Brushes
- Wheel Chairs, Canes and Walkers

**Other items:**

- School Supplies: Pencils, Erasers, Water Colors and Solar Powered Calculators.
- Hand Tools - For all lines of work.
- Laptop or Notebook Computers
- Original Educational and Productivity Software
- Toys - Ages 2 to 10
- Large Suitcases

**Funds to: “NICA-DIRECT”**

Donations are directed 100% for specific needs and distributed to carefully selected organizations and individuals. There is no administration expense. All costs associated with each trip are paid for by me.

On behalf of all recipients...

**Thank You!**

*“I hope, you will see this as an opportunity to assist. Together, we can make a change in somebody’s life.”*



Sleeping quarters At Hogar de Ancianos Castro Flores (Old peoples home, Masaya, Carazo)  
Wheelchairs and Walkers are urgently needed along with any kind of medical supplies.

**2004 Assistance Received From:**

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Christine Al-Wazzan     | Len Kreusler                      |
| Robert and Mary Anthony | Richard and Odette Maskell        |
| Sonia Artola            | Marie Louise B. Nielsen           |
| Anna-Clara Campbell     | Dianne Pelletiere                 |
| Cellie Banks            | William and Shirley Plattenberger |
| Jerome Drosos           | James Radeck                      |
| George Eckart           | Richard Sicchio                   |
| Martin Hare             | Ronald L. Voss                    |
| Carl & Patricia Herren  | Mike Wade                         |

...If I, inadvertently, omitted somebody from this list, please accept my apology.

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ITASCA BANK AND TRUST CO., ITASCA  
RAGAS & SPERLAZZO. D.D.S., ITASCA  
PESCATORE PALACE, FRANKLIN PARK  
SCHWEPPE SUPPLY COMPANY, LOMBARD  
SEMINOLE PLAZA HOTEL, MANAGUA, NI  
TCSA - TRITON COLLEGE, River Grove



6 November 2004 - Ready for departure...