

Nicaragua Assistance 2009/2010



14th Journey

Dates: May 21 to June 4, 2009

The struggle goes on... will life ever improve?

Without any concern or so it seems from the government, the poorer are being deprived even further. Criminal activities are also on the rise throughout the country and most likely as a result of the present economic situation. No one seems to care about the 80% of the population that are down and out and it is not getting better, unfortunately. - On the positive side, this year's journey was a great success in that we had 21 pieces of checked luggage with us in addition to wheel chairs, walkers and crutches. We visited and provided assistance to 6 elementary schools and 6 senior facilities in the Carazo, Masaya and Granada areas. Also some families were assisted with food and clothing items, toys, laptop computers, wheel chairs, tools and roofing materials. Each of the senior facilities received in addition to other items 100 pound bags of Rice, Beans and Sugar as well as Cooking Oil and Powdered Milk. - This year's humanitarian trip was complimented by the participation of Mr. Robert Anthony who in many ways contributed greatly to the successful outcome. Please read Bob's comments on page three. Thank you for coming along Bob and for a job well done!

2009 Assistance Provided To:

Senior Care Facilities:

- Hogar de Ancianos San Antonio, Masaya
- Hogar de Ancianos Horizonte, San Marcos
- Hogar de Ancianos Dr. Agustin Sanchez Vigil, Jinotepe
- Comedor de la 3a Edad La Purisima, Diriamba
- Hogar de Ancianos La Providencia, Granada
- Casa Natal Sor Maria Romero, Granada

Schools:

- Escolar - Hernado Rojas Zuniga, San Marcos
- Escolar - Samuel Calera, San Marcos
- Escolar - Rafaela Herrera, Los Maroqueces, San Marcos
- Escolar - Centro Publico Dr. Pedro J Chamorro, Las Esquinas
- Escolar - Maestros de Niño's
- Escolar - Nehemias, Diriamba

Families:

- Guzman Family, San Marcos - General Assistance
- Mauricio Calderon Martinez Family, Masatepe - Tools/Funds
- Maria Magdalena Sanchez G, San Marcos - Roofing Material

Individuals:

- Rodolfo Aburto Castellon, San Marcos - Electronic Equipment
- Fred Ulrich, Managua - Culinary Tools
- Jose Herrera, San Marcos - Cyber Café PC Equipment

Other:

- Cafeteria Employees (23), San Marcos - Food Items



Wheel chair being delivered to a lady in Las Esquinas, Carazo



Food items being delivered to the old peoples home in San Marcos, Carazo

As always, a big "THANK YOU" to

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

for their consistent fine service in getting us to and from Nicaragua.





For additional information,
please go to:
www.Nicaragua-Direct.Org
or contact:
Jens C. B. Nielsen
234 Forest Avenue
Itasca, IL 60143-2012
Phone: 630.773.2552
Fax: 630.773.2550



Robert , Jens , Rodolfo and Jose at the Masaya Lagoon

Ongoing need for these items:

Medical:

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

Other items:

- **School Supplies:**
Pencils, Erasers, Water Colors, Ballpoint Pens, Markers, Notebooks, Dictionaries and Atlases. Calculators - Solar Powered Only.
- Hand Tools - For all lines of work.
- Laptop or Notebook Computers.
- Computer Software: Educational and Productivity - Originals Only.
- Toys - Ages 2 to 10
- Large Suitcases or Roller Boards
- Other: Please ask us if you have something that you think might be useful.

Funds to: "NICA-DIRECT"
234 Forest Avenue
Itasca, IL 60143-2012

Funds are used for urgent purchases of Food, Emergency Equipment, Building Materials and distribution expenses. Items and funds are distributed to carefully selected organizations and individuals only.

"There is no administration expense. All expenditures associated with each trip are paid by us personally."

Any size donation is welcome.

On behalf of all recipients to-date, a big...

Thank you!



The school supplies pictured above and below were donated by members of the Fox Valley Unity Church. - The picture to the right below depicts the arrival in Managua before leaving for San Marcos, Carazo.



Robert Anthony distributing school supplies to teachers at the Rafaela Herrera School. All school supplies was given to the teachers primarily for their use, distribution and control of.



Two days before leaving Nicaragua we were contacted by a family who are in need of a new roof. The material was delivered the day of our departure. The family of twelve has been waiting for seven years to do this.

2009 Assistance - Items and Funds: \$8,950.00.

Conservative Estimate of total Support since 1996: \$73,000.00

*...the following comments and observations are those of Mr. Robert Anthony, Retired Science Professor at Triton College who I have known and respected for over 30 years. Bob indicated last year an interest in being part of this year's Humanitarian Journey. I was happy to take him up on it since he assisted greatly with making this year's trip a success. Also a big **Thank You** to members of The Fox Valley Unity Church for their efforts in procuring large amounts of much needed school supplies.*

Thank you Bob...

Bob wrote...

...this May, I had the opportunity to accompany Jens on his fourteenth humanitarian trip to Nicaragua. Jens and I were colleagues at Triton College for thirty years so I was very aware of his high personal and professional standards. Having donated to Jens work in the past, it was rewarding to visit the schools and senior citizen homes and see first hand those who benefit from his efforts.

Two young men, Rodolfo Aburto and Jose Herrera, were instrumental in helping us deliver the supplies and communicate with those in charge. Jens continues to expand his network of contacts in Nicaragua. This networking is essential to help him better identify and address those in need.

Being on the receiving end of the gratitude offered by so many being helped by Jens work was truly inspiring. One teacher at a school we visited stood up and said, "If there were more people like you, there would be fewer problems in the world". Since much of the work we were able to do was the result of contributors back home, I wished they could have been there to hear the sincerity of those words.

The need is great in a country where so many seem to survive by selling whatever they can. The efforts of this Nicaragua-Direct venture, with the emphasis on 100% direct humanitarian support, is definitely improving the quality of life for those receiving help. I look forward to assisting Jens in the future as he continues to help the people of Nicaragua.



Picture left: Robert Anthony with eight out of twelve family members living in this house in San Marcos , Carazo where we are having a new roof installed.

Picture right: Young boy by Jinotepe at 0730 bringing home wood for cooking.



*Humanitarian assistance received in 2008/ 2009 from:

Individuals:

Al-Wazzan, Christine Behrens.
Anthony, Robert & Mary Ann
Artola, Sonia & Manuel.
Bipin, Meena
Bolling, Birgitta R.
Buchenot, Frank & Gerry.
Campbell, Anna-Clara
Danzer, Gerald & Magdalene.
De Grado, F J.
Drosos, Jerome.
Dubey, Meena.
Erwin, Arlene.
Felbinger, Robert M & Susan J.
Fredricks, Denise.
Goranson, Eva & Gordon.
Hoffmeister, Steve
Karsbæk, Rune & Barbara
Lindblad, Charles
McGhee, Larry, Sr.
Maskell, Richard & Odette.
Nielsen, Jette Kofoed.

Nielsen, Leif & Valerie.
Nielsen, Marie Louise Behrens.
Orum, Peter & Irma.
Pelletiere, Dianne.
Pedersen, Paul F.
Plattenberger, William & Shirley.
Sindberg, Ole & Eva
Snick, Mary Ann & Jerry
Sonn, Marianne
Voss, Ronald L.
Walter, Hazel A Petersen
Wartan, Robert & Jeanine

In Nicaragua:

Castellon, Rodolfo Aburto, Sr.
Castellon, Rodolfo Aburto
Herrera, Jose & Family
Meiner, Carmen
Moreno, Rafael Ernesto Romero

*...If we, inadvertently,
omitted somebody from
the list, please accept our
apology and please let us
know, thank you.*

If any of the below listed business entities
can assist in serving your needs, we ask
that you consider supporting them.

Thank You

Businesses/Other:

Continental Airlines -
Chicago

PESCATORE PALACE, INC.
Franklin Park, IL
Vito Barbanente
Owner

STAPLES
Elk Grove Village, IL
Paul Whiteleather
General Manager

*Period from May 19, 2008
until June 4, 2009.

Dear Supporters and Friends:

The support that we receive on a yearly basis has always been carefully administered and only been used for the intended purposes. It has been of benefit to many entities in Nicaragua over the years.

Please contact us and/or visit our web-site to be kept up-to-date about our work in Nicaragua. Should you wish, at own expense, to come along one year to assist, please contact us. It would be an experience of a lifetime and not necessarily a vacation.

Every year, we are reminded about how important our work is by being introduced to every conceivable request for assistance. Our efforts are making a big difference in some peoples lives which we are being reminded of constantly.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

"Together, We are making a difference"

Unsolicited comments received from recipients 2009:

...all of the pens and pencils you donated will be put to good use in many schools. Thank you. Please convey to your donors how grateful we are. God bless you and your family

Carey Franklin – June 20, 2009

...I want to thank you for the help to get me walking again. I need to walk because I have to work. I wish you and your family a lot of blessings during your life. Persons like you make the world get better. God bless the persons who assist you.

Maria del Socorro Eslaquit – May 29, 2009

...We deeply appreciate your help. In this center we feed sixty seniors, serving breakfast and dinner every day.

Sonia Briceno de Gutierrez, Presidenta, Comedor de la Tercera Edad – Diriamba – May 29, 2009

...We appreciate your visit and kind help. The milk, rice, beans, oil and sugar are of great help for our residents. God Bless you

Sor Fanny Salinas, Hogar San Antonio, Masaya – May 29, 2009

Mr. Jens, - First of all, we wish you good health and welfare. We want to appreciate your help. Rosalba gave us USB memories that we will surely use. We are three teachers that often had problems because we didn't have a USB memory to store our documents. Thanks for your noble and altruist gesture. Thank you very much.

Gloria Calero, Juana Mercado and Amelia Talavera – May 29, 2009

...These school supplies are very useful for our school. We do not have any economic help from any institution and most of our students come from poor families. We currently have 120 kids in our center. Thanks very much and God bless you.

Samuel Calero School, San Marcos – May 28, 2009

... Good gave us senior Nielsen. In a very humble way, we the children of the senora Juana Mercy Romero Davila today thank you, senior Nielsen, for collaborating in the delivery of this wheelchair. We feel very thankful for people like you that come from another place to help people in need. We give infinities thanks we believe in God and we know that it has brought us to receive this humane aid of part you. We ask that God protect you and your family

Gutierrez Romero and Family – May 28, 2009

