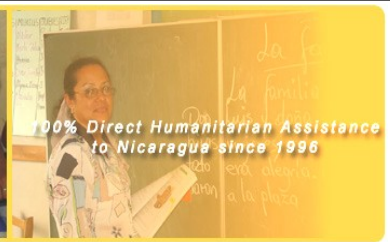


Nicaragua Assistance 2010/2011



15th Journey.

Dates: November 8 to November 23, 2010.

The status quo goes unchanged—will it ever be different?

Every year, I wish to come back and be able to state that the living standard for the 75+ percent of the population is improving. Unfortunately, since our first journey to Nicaragua in 1995, that is not the case and I doubt if it ever will be. I sincerely hope that I am wrong in my opinion, time will tell.

What we can and will do is to continue to make a difference and by so doing offer a glimmer of hope for the people we touch. We will continue to do just that to the best of our abilities for as long as possible.

This year marked the 15th Humanitarian Journey to Nicaragua. Our focus to-date have been on the west coast because of the logistics involved. This year, for the first time, we went to the east coast where we saw the disparity among the residents there.

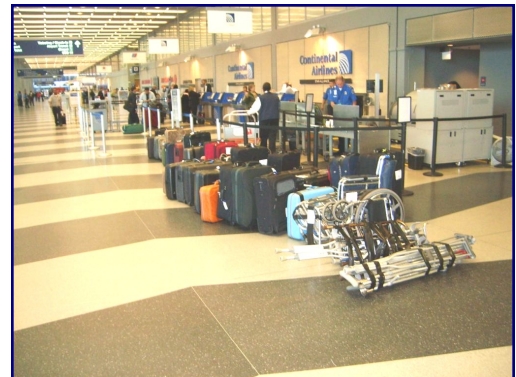
Unfortunately, due to difficulties in transporting items to the east coast, we were unable to bring much with us except for the 120 pounds, (4 @ 30 lbs each), we were permitted. In spite of this, we ended up purchasing food items for 20 families in the Pearl Lagoon community. This was done with the assistance of Reyna and Fred Ulrich, owners of **Casa Ulrich**, a Hotel and Restaurant. Fred has assisted us since 1995 on the west coast in so many ways, making our yearly objectives easier to accomplish. Now, we are fortunate to have the assistance of two fine families in San Marcos namely, the Rodolfo Aburto Castellon and the Jose Herrera families. Without their help we would, more or less, be lost. Thanks to all of you.

Our departure from Chicago was with 40 pieces of which 34 were luggage containing School Supplies, Eye Glasses, Clothing Items, Medical Items, Culinary Supplies, Computer Hardware and Software. In addition there were Wheel Chairs, Walkers and Crutches. A very conservative estimate of the value of these items including our direct cash disbursements for items such as Food, Medicine, Building Supplies and Direct Assistance, etc is US\$15,000.00.

Again, this year, Robert Anthony came along and not only participated to the fullest, but also facilitated the procurement of several suitcases of School Supplies and other Educational Materials from members of the **Fox Valley Unity Church**. Also included were 80 Solar-Powered calculators which were a great and needed item for the Teachers and Administrators in the schools we visited (see comments on next to the last page).



CASA ULRICH — Laguna de Perlas



Chicago O'Hare check-in on 8 Nov. 2010



For more information go to:
www.Nicaragua-direct.Org

Or contact:

Jens C. B. Nielsen
234 Forest Avenue
Itasca, IL 60143-2012-USA

Phone: 630.773.2552
Fax: 630.773.2550

nicaragua-direct@comcast.net



The beginning of the sorting process before deliveries took place. We noticed that one suitcase was missing 3 days after arriving. Had come in a day later and was picked up at the airport in Managua.



Food items: 400 lbs. of Sugar and Rice.—200 lbs. of Pasta.— 25 Gallons of Cooking Oil. 20 #10 cans of Powdered Milk being purchased in Diriamba, Carazo.

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. Solar Powered Calculators.
- 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: "NICARAGUA-DIRECT"

234 Forest Avenue
Itasca, IL 60143-2012

Funds are used for direct purchases of Food, Medicine, Emergency Situations and Building Materials. 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!



2010 Assistance - Items and Funds: \$15,000.00
Conservative Estimate of total Support since 1996 : \$88,000.00

Every year we are confronted with several situations that we can not ignore. One such circumstance came about when Jose Herrera told us about a Kindergarten school in outside of Diriamba in a small community.

The school “San Antonio Pre-School” had 23 students and one teacher, Ms. Meyling Suarez. Ms. Suarez is a High School graduate and taking evening classes five days a week to further her own educational goals. The community where she teaches and also lives are supposed to pay her US\$25.00/month but when we met her she had not been compensated the last three months. As can be seen from the pictures below, the facility is in need of some upgrades and the same goes for the teaching material. With the school-year coming to an end, we left a small suitcase with teaching materials for the start-up in January. In addition, Ms. Suarez got a Sony Vaio Laptop PC and US\$100.00 to help her out. She had no idea at all that this was coming so it was a pleasant surprise. We are committed to assist further with the interior and exterior of the school building as well as with educational material.

Another situation happened when we learned of an elderly lady in need of a wheel chair. She lives in Granada and we dropped by with the wheel chair, also totally unexpected by the recipient.

“Moments like these are worth a lot”



San Antonio Pre-School Building



San Antonio Pre-School Classroom



Rodolfo explaining the Sony Vaio Laptop to Ms. Meyling Suarez - Kindergarten Teacher



Wheel-chair being assembled by Jose and Bob

*Humanitarian Assistance received in 2009/ 2010 from:

Individuals:

Anthony, Robert & Mary Ann
Artola, Sonia & Manuel.
Barlev, Pauline
Bolling, Birgitta R.
Buchenot, Frank & Gerry.
Campbell, Anna-Clara
Clark, Helen
Danzner, Gerald & Magdalene.
Drewsen, Maureen B.
Drosos, Jerome.
Erwin, Arlene H.
Fischer, Richard C.
Gibby, Mabel & John
Goranson, Eva & Gordon.
Hewak, Jessica
Howanietz, JoAnne
Jacobsen, Boots
Karsbæk, Rune & Barbara
Lindstrom, Jacklin
Maskell, Richard & Odette.
McGhee, Larry, Sr.
Miller, Kristi
Nielsen, Jette Kofoed.
Nielsen, Leif & Valerie
Nielsen, Marie Louise Behrens.
Ørum, Irma & Peter
Pelletiere, Dianne.
Pedersen, Paul F.
Petersen Walter, Hazel
Pulsucki, Carmen
Simon, Gayle & John
Sindberg, Ole & Eva
Sonn, Marianne
Yosick, Emelia G.
Voss, Ronald L.
Walter, Hazel A Petersen
Zinga, Patricia & Joseph

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

Businesses:



Continental Airlines - Chicago

IL PESCATORE, INC.

Franklin Park, IL
Vito Barbanente

STAPLES

Elk Grove Village, IL
Paul Whiteleather

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

Thank You

In Nicaragua:

Castellon, Rodolfo Aburto, Sr.
Castellon, Rodolfo Aburto
Herrera, Jose & Family
Ulrich, Reyna & Fred

*Period from June 5, 2009
through November 8, 2010.



Cafeteria Staff picking clothing items.

To our Supporters and Friends::

We are humbled by the trust and the assistance that we receive on a yearly basis. We have always carefully administered the resources available and will continue to do just that. **Nicaragua-Direct is a 100 percent direct effort with no waste.** Any and all expenses associated with the procurement, shipping and distribution of donated items are paid by us. Likewise, all travel and lodging expenses are covered by us personally. All donations goes to work 100% to the benefit the recipients. We are proud of this and will never do it otherwise.

To-date, we have assisted many health and senior care facilities, families, individuals and students. All are extremely grateful for the support received.

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!

"Combined, we are making a difference"

Comments from recipients 2010:

... This donation is very important for our residents. We have a fix budget and your collaboration gives a solution to part of our needs. Thank you for your gesture, work and sensibility.

Hogar de Anciano Horizonte, San Marcos, November 10, 2010

... Getting this donation is a great joy for home and residents. It helps us to continue in the hard work of providing a worthy home and a better life standard our 38 residents. May God help you to continue your wonderful work.

Hogar de Anciano Dr. Agustin Sanchez Vigil, Jinotepe, November 10, 2010

...This donation will be used to feed elders that come to our home. From the bottom of our heart we appreciate your assistance.

Hogar de Anciano La Purisima, Diriamba, November 10, 2010

... This donation is of great importance to our hospital. They will be used for our patients.

San Jose Hospital, Diriamba, November 10, 2010

... On behalf of our residents we thank you for this donation. It will be of great help.

Hogar de Anciano La Providencia, Granada, November 11, 2010

... God bless you and may prosper the work you do.

Hogar de Anciano San Antonio, Masaya, November 11, 2010

...I deeply appreciate this donation that will be useful for the less privileged and sick people that come to our house asking for help.

Casa Natal Sor, Maria Romero, Granada - November 11, 2010

... All the resources that you have been giving us are of great help and we really need them. They support our teachers to develop the content and make a more interactive class. We deeply appreciate the assistance provided to our center.

Fernando Rojas School, San Marcos, November 12, 2010

... All you brought will contribute to the teaching and learning process in our school. It is wonderful to be visited again by you. Thanks for your gestures.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro School, Las Esquinas, November 12, 2010

... Teachers, students and the community of Los Marqueses thank you for this donation. This is a poor community and all you brought will be of great help for our school. Your help contribute to a better education.

Rafaela Herrera School, San Marcos, November 12, 2010

... The school supplies, posters and flash cards you donated will be a tremendous resource to the teachers in 3+ community schools where teachers are learning effective methods for interactive learning versus the usual rote memorization and lecture that is most common in Nicaraguan classrooms. The resources you have supplied will be transformed into amazing teaching tools for these teachers as well as inspire to create more of their own once they seem the in use within their classrooms. The dedication you have displayed to help as many people in Nicaragua directly through resources, food and encouragement is admirable and very much appreciated.

Carey Franklin, First Grade Teacher

Nicaragua Christian Academy, Educator Mentoring, Managua



**1996 - 2010
Snapshots**

