

Nicaragua Assistance 2011/2012



16th Journey.

Dates: November 9 to November 23, 2011.

Doing more with less...

...as we have entered 2012, it is our hope that everyone is off to a good start with good health and great plans for the coming year. For us it is, likewise, a good time to reflect on our activities in Nicaragua during the past year. We are amazed and thankful over the support that we receive in spite of the present soft economic times. Even with this, we are doing more each year and hope that this trend will continue. Much is in part because of the team we have in place both here and on the ground in Nicaragua. Here in Illinois, Robert Anthony and I are constantly at work to procure needed supplies and funds. In Nicaragua, we have Jose Herrera and Rodolfo Aburto Castellon assisting us with everything from the distribution of food, school, medical and building supplies to maintaining our web-site. Please look at the next page to see if there might be anything you can assist us with. The recipients ranging from families, schools, medical and senior care facilities are elated with any the support coming their way. Please also read the unsolicited comments we have received on this journey. Comments from prior years are on the web-site at www.Nicaragua-Direct.Org. All this is only possible because of you believing in us. We will never let you down.

The situation in Nicaragua has not changed. In fact, the population is increasing and some of the international NGO's—Non Government Organizations are pulling out because of political interference which then creates an ever greater need for assistance from organizations like ours. What we and many others are doing in Nicaragua is of the utmost importance for the people that do not have anything to look forward to and where daily survival is an ongoing uphill battle. We are offering a glimmer of hope to the people we touch and, at times, it becomes a life changing event. It is our hope that you will be able to assist us in this effort. Another possibility is to make a trip to Nicaragua to see for yourself how dire the situation is.

2011 marked the 16th Humanitarian Journey to Nicaragua. During 2011 we were able to ship several parcels to Nicaragua via Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners, <http://www.wisnic.org>. Please visit their Web-Site and you will be impressed, like we are, by this non-for-profit organization's work in Nicaragua for over 40+ years. We are grateful for their cooperation and like to be supportive whenever we can.



School-work time in San Marcos - Replaced Metal Roofing Sheets on this home



Children from San Antonio - Dolores

Continued need for these items:

Medical:

- Wheel Chairs (urgent), Canes and Walkers - Hospital and other Medical Supplies - Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, etc. - Bandages - Tooth Paste and Brushes - Eye Glasses and Eye Care items, - Hearing Aids and Batteries.

Other items:

- School Supplies: Pencils, Erasers, Water Colors, Ballpoint Pens, Markers, Notebooks, Dictionaries and Atlases. Solar Powered Calculators - Laptop or Notebook Computers - Hard Drives - PC Memory - Flat Panel Monitors - PC-Software: Educational and Productivity - Hand Tools for all lines of work - Sewing Machines/Tools/Fabric/Supplies - Culinary/Baking Equipment - Water Purification Equipment - Toys: Ages 2 to 10 (Non Battery Operated) - Sports Equipment - Soccer Balls - Large Suitcases or Roller Boards.
- **Other: Please ask us if you have something that you think might be useful.**

Funds should be directed to:

NICARAGUA-DIRECT

234 Forest Avenue
Itasca, IL 60143-2012

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 -
E-Mail: Nicaragua-Direct@Comcast.Net



Any size donation is welcome. Funds are used for direct purchases of Food, Medicine, Building Material and for any Emergency Situation. **There is no administrative expense. All expenditures associated with each trip are paid by us personally. - On behalf of all recipients to-date, a big... Thank you!**



Food supplies being delivered to **Hogar de Anciano La Purisima, Diriamba** on November 11, 2011.

2011 Assistance - Items and Funds: \$17,000.00 - Conservative Estimate of total Support since 1996 : \$105,000.00

Comments by Robert M. Anthony:

Reflections after my third trip to Nicaragua

There may be a basic desire in each of us to help others, whether its family, friends or perhaps those we don't even know. The opportunity to help others from a different country materialized three years ago when Jens invited me to join him on his annual trip to Nicaragua. This opportunity has helped me better appreciate the challenging conditions of those living in other countries, often lacking essential necessities that we in the United States too often take for granted. Working with Jens to address, in a small way, those needs has been a rewarding and gratifying experience.

One area that I have been especially involved with is providing school supplies to both students and teachers. With the financial support of church and family members, we have sought to increase the support to schools, providing not only needed supplies for the students but also providing charts and much needed items, like white board pens, for teachers.

When others support your efforts, you feel a responsibility to utilize those gifts as effectively as possible. While in Nicaragua we often receive requests for support. Many of these requests involve replacing leaking metal roofs. You can imagine the conditions that result from leaky roofs and dirt floors. One of our colleagues in Nicaragua, Rodolfo, receives and initially evaluates those written requests. We then visit the site and determine whether to fund the request. When funded, another colleague, Jose, delivers the materials and later checks on the progress. The following year we try to visit the homes, often to the smiles and appreciation of the recipients.

One gains a real respect for the culture, the strong family ties, and ingenuity of individuals to earn a living often selling various items on the street. One also appreciates the giving nature of those we come in contact with. For example Jose's aunt, a nun who helps the elderly in the city of Granada. When Jens and I visited Rodolfo's family, Rodolfo left us minimal Spanish speaking Americans with minimal English speaking family members as he helped a member of the community with questions about their English assignment. Although we struggled with our conversation, we appreciated his commitment to helping others. We also had a visit from a kindergarten teacher we had helped last year. She brought with her a half-inch thick packet of student papers. All of the questions and drawings on these papers had been written out by hand, no copy machine available. She also explained how she had utilized the blocks with various shapes donated last year, even developing different assignments for her students and then presenting that information to other teachers at a workshop.

I want to also extend my appreciation to individuals and companies that support our humanitarian efforts in Nicaragua.



Above: Mombacho Volcano near Granada
From Left: Robert M. Anthony, Jens C. Nielsen, Rodolfo Aburto Castellon and Jose Herrera.

*Humanitarian Assistance received in 2010/ 2011 from:

Individuals:

- Al-Wazzan, Christine & Noor
- Anthony, Robert & Mary Ann
- Anthony, Tara
- Armoover, Althea
- Artola, Sonia & Manuel.
- Bolling, Birgitta R.
- Calderon, Evelina
- Campbell, Anna-Clara
- Danzer. Gerald and Magdalene
- Dearborn, Frederick
- Diessel, Inger-Lise
- Drewsen, Maureen B.
- Drosos, Jerome.
- Dubey, Meena.
- Fischer, Richard C.
- Goranson, Eva & Gordon.
- Green, William R.
- Hart, Jim
- Herren, Carl and Patricia
- Hoffmeister, Steve
- Karsbæk, Rune & Barbara
- McKay, Marsha and Richard
- Maskell, Richard & Odette.
- Miller, Kristi
- Mitkova, Krasimira R.
- Nielsen, Jette Kofoed.
- Nielsen, Marie Louise Behrens
- Olson, Jean T.
- Orchard, Marge and Jim
- Oviyach, Raymond and Theresa
- Ørum, Peter and Irma
- Pelletiere, Dianne.
- Plattenberger, William and Shirley
- Pulsucki, Carmen
- Sathaye, Tuki
- Simon, Gayle & John
- Sindberg, Ole & Eva
- Skone-Palmer, Robin
- Sonn, Marianne
- Voss, Ronald L.
- Zack, Mary and Dan

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

Businesses:

HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS, INC.

Minocqua, WI 54548

Eric Lear

Itasca Bank & Trust Co.

Itasca, IL 60143

John Binneboese



Marshfield Clinic

Minocqua, WI 54548

Maureen B. Drewsen, P.T.

Steve Hoffmeister, P.T.

OFFICE DEPOT

St. Charles, IL 60174

Steve Rumbles

If any of the above listed business entities can assist in serving your needs, we ask that you consider using their services. *Thank you.*

In Nicaragua:

- Castellon, Rodolfo Aburto & Family
- Herrera, Jose & Family

*Period from November 9, 2010 through November 8, 2011.



Roofing Material delivered to family in San Marcos

To our Supporters and Friends::

We are thankful for the trust and the assistance that we receive on a yearly basis. We have always been very careful in administering these resources and will continue to do just that.

NICARAGUA-DIRECT is a One Hundred Percent Direct Effort organization with No Administration Expense and Zero 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 are at work 100% to the benefit the recipients. We are proud of this and will never do it in any other way.

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!

Together, we are making a difference

"Service Beyond Self"

Unsolicited Comments from recipients 2011:

... Thank you very much. On behalf of our home, we are very grateful as we are in great need of milk. Pampers is something we urgently need. God bless you.

Hogar de Anciano Dr. Agustin Sanchez Vigil, Jinotepe, November 11, 2011

...Your assistance is very meaningful and with perfect timing. We feed 30 men and 32 women daily in our facilities. We have big needs but your generosity is even bigger than our needs. May God bless you.

Hogar de Anciano La Purisima, Diriamba, November 11, 2011

...Mr. Jens C. Nielsen - Please receive our warmest greetings from our Hogar de Ancianos Horizontes. We are really thankful for your valuable contribution. God rewards your kindness towards the most needy people.

Hogar de Anciano Horizonte, San Marcos, November 11, 2011

... It was a blessing to receive the roof since we needed it so badly. The people who delivered the materials were very nice. Thank you very much to all of the people that generously donate to meet the needs of the most needy in Nicaragua.

Florentina Garcia Vasquez, San Marcos, November 24, 2011

... Thank you so much for all the school supplies you bring to us year after year. They definitely help us improve the teaching and learning process as well as alleviate the lack of these resources in our center. Thank again and God bless you. May the Lord continue touching your hearts to show love and kindness towards our kids.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro School, Las Esquinas, November 15, 2011

... God bless you for your cooperation. The food items will be used to feed the 60 residents we host at this home. It will be of great help.

Hogar de Anciano La Providencia, Granada, November 12, 2011

... God bless you. Your visit is familiar to us now. We appreciate it so much.

Hogar de Anciano San Antonio, Masaya, November 12, 2011

...God bless you. The donated funds will be used for a Christmas activity meant for children of La Basurera (The Dump), El Pantanal and other neighborhoods.

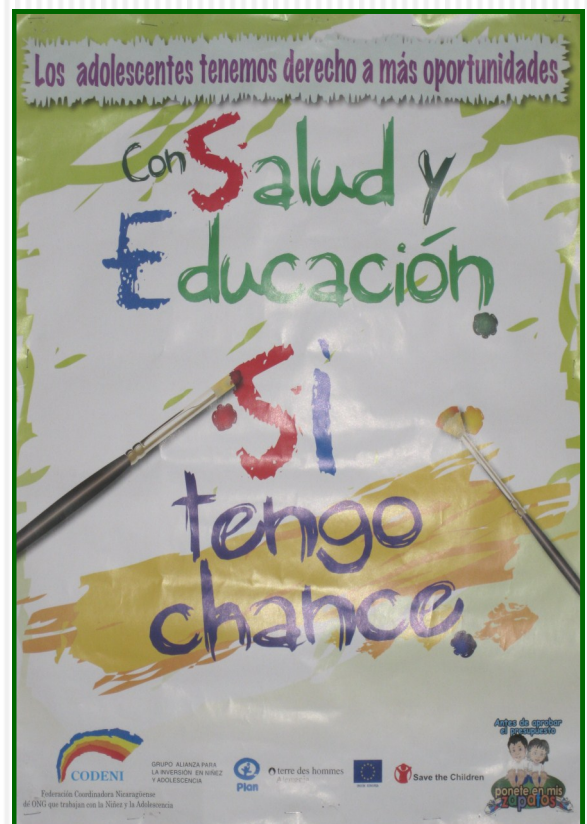
Casa Natal Sor, Maria Romero, Granada - November 12, 2011

... Thank you so much for your valuable help brought to our students. We guarantee that we will make good use of all the material. The posters are of great help as well as the globes and flashcards. May the Lord bless you. We always take good care of what you bring us.

Fernando Rojas School, San Marcos, November 15, 2011

... For several years you have been helping our center with school supplies which have been of great assistance to our students in the classroom. They let our students improve and accelerate the learning process. The items you brought now will, likewise, be of great value for the students and teachers.

Rafaela Herrera School, San Marcos, November 15, 2011



With Health and Education
I do have a chance!



1996 - 2012
Snapshots

