

November 14, 2014



Dear Friend of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners,

YOUR SUPPORT HAS MEANT SO MUCH THIS YEAR

On May 11, 2014, about 20 people were having a family gathering in a house near Nueva Guinea, a very rural and remote community in the southeastern corner of Nicaragua. **Suddenly, an explosion rocked the house.** A leak from a propane gas tank in the kitchen was ignited by the lighting of a match. Engulfed in flames, people ran out of the house screaming onto the street. Women, cleaning in a nearby church, threw their buckets of dirty water onto these burning people in an attempt to extinguish the flames. Seventeen people suffered serious burns, including numerous children; four died within the first few days after the explosion.

This is where you — as a past supporter of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners — have helped in ways that you could never have imagined. After only ONE YEAR in operation, our Burn Therapy Dressing Project has come to the aid of HUNDREDS who suffer in this impoverished country.

(1,017 garments have been made for 296 patients, many of whom have no other options for treatment)

Two months later, ten of the worst burn victims traveled eleven hours to the W/NP office in Managua. There the therapy dressing volunteer staff spent the day measuring and sewing custom-fit compression garments crucial to the healing process. The Nicaraguan women producing these garments learned these life changing skills through W/NP's sewing classes. **And, the sewing classes were made possible because of YOUR DONATIONS of money, fabric, sewing machines, and volunteer time to Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners.**



Photo courtesy of El Nuevo Diario de Nicaragua

WITH YOUR FINANCIAL GIFT, YOU CAN HELP US DO MUCH MORE

The Wisconsin/Nicaragua Chapter of the Partners of the Americas, Inc. has been wisely stewarding your investments in this nonprofit, humanitarian organization. This *past year*, **47 TONS OF DONATED ITEMS** from around Wisconsin were shipped from our warehouse in Stevens Point to Nicaragua, the second poorest country in Central America. Other activities include:



- **Learning Centers:** Currently 75 to 100 locations, these centers teach skills such as sewing, jewelry making, baking, gardening, small business entrepreneurship, youth sports, music, and more. Many centers also offer lending libraries in a country that has very few books for children and adults.

- **Chica Nica Doll Dresses:** Women from the Learning Centers sew beautiful dresses designed to fit 18" dolls. The sales from these dresses provide income, often the only money coming

into the household to support the family.

www.chicanica.org to order.

- **Martin Eyeglass Project:** In partnership with Lions Club International, critically needed eyeglasses are distributed to impoverished, rural Nicaraguans. Approximately 2000 eyeglasses are fitted yearly.
- **Farmer to Farmer:** Projects include quality milk control, food dehydration and production, farm management, square meter gardening, and beekeeping.



- **Firefighters United Project:** In partnership with the U.S. Denton Program, we began to airlift donated fire trucks/ fire fighting equipment and ambulances in 2000. Since then 30 fire trucks and 14 ambulances are now being used by volunteer Nicaraguan firefighters and paramedics to save hundreds of lives.
- **Stove and Chimney Project:** 3 million people die each year from household air pollution according to the World Health Organization, with poorer countries most at risk.



Photo courtesy of SSgt. Kelly Goonan (Galloway) 439th Airlift Wing



Working together with your

support, 23 W/NP Learning Centers are in line for a new durable and affordable stove that can be both used at the center and be a teaching model for people in the communities to improve indoor cooking and respiratory hazards.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

After witnessing the great work that Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners is doing in her country, Dora Alicia Solorzano-Pelley, who was present in Managua when the Nueva Guinea burn patients came to the W/NP Office for help, *"All of this would not be possible without people taking the time to make donations to continue the wonderful work of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners. I am proud to be part of this organization, and also considered my presence that day (when the burned patients came to office) to be a blessing to witness the work that can be done with volunteers and donations. The work does need to be continued with training firefighters and bringing equipment to remote areas of Nicaragua, so they don't have to resort to throwing buckets of water to people in flames."*

A Note from Dr. Bradford Martin, Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners President:

With our Annual Fund Drive underway for 2014, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support. The projects and activities seem to expand monthly and are meeting despairing needs. This letter includes just a sampling of activities; much more information and updates can be found at our website www.wisnic.org and W/NP Facebook Page.

We have never had more project activity and so, more than ever, we rely on your financial support. Please be generous in your donations, working together we make a difference.

Sincerely,

Dr. W. Bradford Martin, W/NP President



Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Online Option at www.wisnic.org With **GiveDirect** credit card processing service, no fees are taken on your Visa or MasterCard donation. W/NP receives 100% of your gift.

Charge my credit card: MC/VISA # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Monthly recurring donation to my credit card of \$ _____ Single donation

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

All monies donated are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law

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ANNUAL FUND DRIVE 2014