



## NICA Preschool Program

**\$110/month provides a nourishing meal each day for 103 children**

The NICA Pre-School Program initiated in 2013 is one of the 'Ongoing Programs' funded from our General Operating Budget.

The scope of the project has changed over the years. In 2013, there were 5 pre-schools under the umbrella of this project, but due to social and community issues in some of the initial neighborhoods being served, only one pre-school continues to be funded. Funding for 2019 was approximately \$2,800.00 CAD.

The school year at the "Arco Iris" (Rainbow) Community Preschool in the "Carlos Núñez-Sur" neighborhood in Managua has recently been completed. The preschool serves 3 age levels, with total initial enrollment in February 2019 of 103 children.

Registration with the Ministry of Education is required, although funding from the government is non-existent.

The teachers and assistants in the pre-school volunteer their time to provide their neighborhood children with various recreational activities which help them develop social skills such as respect, tolerance, and solidarity.

Another very important aspect of the pre-school day is the provision of a daily healthy snack to the children, most of whom arrive at school with empty stomachs.

It has been a difficult year for everyone at the pre-school as the socio-political situation in Nicaragua has affected low-income families. Job loss, job instability and fear of physical security has resulted in emotional issues for many of the children. The preschool provides them with a daily routine, where they are treated with love and respect, in a pleasant atmosphere where they can both play and learn.

FUNDACCO team members visit the preschool regularly to maintain relationships with the teachers, and to share the joy of celebrating events with the children, such as national holidays, graduation day for Level III students, and the school year-end party.

Maria Araica states, "We believe that the existence of preschool in this neighborhood is establishing the foundations that will allow children, in the future, to make sound decisions in their lives. The teachers, parents, and students have placed their trust in God, Canadian donors and FUNDACCO so that the project continues to benefit the students of the center."



### CONSEQUENCES OF A REDUCED BUDGET

For the 2020 budget year, FUNDACCO and the Foundation are faced with some hard decisions - Learn more on page 4

Check out our new and much improved website at [www.rootsofchange.ca](http://www.rootsofchange.ca)

### News, Events & Thank You's

- Thank you to the generous donor from Bonnyville AB who has donated the funding needed to complete the Las Mariitas - 16 Family Kitchens Project
- Our yearly audit trip to Nicaragua is scheduled for January 20 to the 26th. If you would like to join us please let us know by December 10th
- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us on our Mission of Hope this past year

## Nicaraguan Project Updates

### Education Programs

This year there were 10 students who received funding to help offset their costs of attending post-secondary education.

We thank the generous donors who continue to support this program year after year and who realize that education is the key that will unlock the cycle of poverty.

### La Carreta Well Drilling - Complete

Good News! This project has now been completed and families in the community are celebrating the clean water now available from a tap located next to each of their homes.

A satisfactory flow rate of 8 US GPM to serve the community was obtained with the additional 42 feet in depth drilled.

Members of the community have expressed their gratitude to the generous donors who sponsored this project; a project that will have a significant impact on the community.

### Las Maritas - 16 Improved Kitchens

Thanks to the generosity of a single donor from Bonnyville AB, funding for this project has been secured.

Sixteen families will now benefit from eco-stoves resulting in significant health improvements for members of each household.

Refer to our website for details on the benefits realized by moving away from the traditional method of cooking.

### San Ramon - Construction of 18 Latrines

Thank you goes out to the **Ontario Regional Council – Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** for funding and allowing FUNDACCO to assist with this project to bring much needed sanitary improvement to the community.

This is the third project FUNDACCO has assisted with which is part of the Twinning Program managed by the National Council of SSVP.

### Projects Awaiting Funding

#### F121904 - La Fragua - Water Distribution

34 Families, 131 people, Church & School

Only 1 of 3 water wells in the community has water during the dry season.

The project includes a water tower, well pump and distribution piping to each of the 34 households.

Project budget is US \$7,406.74

#### BUDGET INFO as of October 31, 2019

Active Projects:	19
Original Budget:	\$89,135.48
Sponsored Projects:	\$36,025.49
Revised Budget:	\$125,160.97
<b>Project Costs to Date:</b>	<b>\$86,526.28</b>
(\$US dollars)	

## La Ceibita Water Distribution System



La Ceibita, a community of 44 families, located in northwest Nicaragua, is now enjoying the benefit of having better access to that “vital liquid – potable water”, thanks to the funding provided by the **Ontario Regional Council – Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)** as part of the Twinning Program managed by the National Council of Canada.

The President of National Council of Nicaragua – SSVP, Mr. Antonio Montenegro, provided support at every stage of the project.



FUNDACCO has been assisting the Council with their ‘Twinning Program’ in Nicaragua by working with and coordinating projects put forward by different Conferences in that country.

La Ceibita community is one of only a few in the dry corridor of the country that has a water well with sufficient capacity to serve its members. Up until the completion of this project, people transported their daily water by hand from the well to their homes, no easy task when one considers the weight of this vital liquid. This project would see the installation of a water

tower and distribution piping to each home in the community.

The undertaking started in May 2019 with FUNDACCO providing organizational support for the establishment of a community Water Committee. The committee, in turn, established a team from within the beneficiary group, and proceeded to execute the work activities required for the project. This included:

- Ditching and installation of the main and household water distribution piping
- Cleaning and testing of the existing community well
- Construction of a 5 meter high tower to support the 10,000 litres water receiver tank



Despite a few delays which were overcome through collaboration with FUNDACCO and municipal authorities, this dedicated group of beneficiaries achieved their main objective for their families and their community. The project was completed on July 31st, 2019.



Maria Araica, Project Coordinator for FUNDACCO reports the following:

“These families recognize the members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) for the trust, love and dedication they bring to each favored project. You have improved the living conditions of people in vulnerable rural sectors located north of the department of Chinandega.

The work carried out has as its reward the smiles of children, adolescents, elderly people, and adult men and women who look at dreams realized through the finalized project. 234 people represented in 44 families are enjoying the water service in their homes thanks to God and noble hearts, full of love for others, who fulfill the commandment of our Lord Jesus:

“YOU WILL LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.”

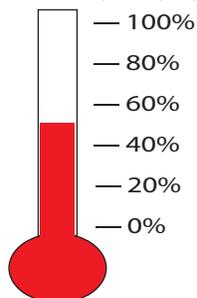
## NICA Preschool Program



### Scholarship Funding

This is a reminder to all those who support our Education Programs. The end of the academic school year is fast approaching for students enrolled in the program and we will be looking for your support again in the fall for the 2020 school year which begins in February.

2019 Fundraising  
Goal \$100,000 (US)



Donations to Oct 31  
\$53,180.00 (US)

This time last year we were at 98%  
of our goal - Please HELP!

## Looking to get involved?

The Foundation is looking for people with skills in the following disciplines. Volunteer hours range from a half hour to 3 hours per week.

- **WordPress Designer/Website Maintenance Skills**
- **Blog Writer**
- **Translator - Spanish to English**
- **Marketing**

If you are interested in learning more about these volunteer positions, please contact Rick LeBlanc at [rick.leblanc@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:rick.leblanc@rootsofchange.ca)

## Somotillo Region Five Water Well Project

The Dry Corridor of Nicaragua covers a large part of west central Nicaragua and is located in the departments of León and Chinandega. Of the 153 municipalities in the country, 33 are located in this Dry Corridor area, with Somotillo and Villanueva being part of them.



The inhabitants of these municipalities suffer the most from climate change. The current atmospheric conditions cause droughts that affect the crops and the living conditions of the inhabitants.

Water in these communities is sourced from underground aquifers that are not being replenished to normal levels during the rainy season.

Deforestation and longer dry seasons are contributing factors that cause shallow hand dug wells to dry up forcing people to walk to a neighboring community for their daily water.

It was the abundance of water from these shallow wells that created these small communities which have existed for generations. With change in global weather patterns these wells are drying up causing people to migrate in search for new sources of water – an impossible task for people who don't have the means.

Today some have been forced to dig small wells on the banks of streams or ravines to obtain water that will be used for family consumption. This exposes them to infections from ingesting water that may be contaminated. There has been a noticeable rise in water related infections in people of these communities.

Shallow poorly designed wells are also subjected to contamination during flash floods in the rainy season which renders them useless for human consumption.



Another consequence of the changing times are children remaining home from school during the dry season to help their families transport water from a neighboring community. This is not easy task in the hilly rugged north of the country.

The Roots of Change and FUNDACCO are embarking on a project that will see new water wells in five small communities in and around the Somotillo region. The \$150,000 (US) project will include a well, tank and distribution to the homes in these communities.

With anticipated matching contributions by Rotary Clubs in and around the Edmonton area, the Roots of Change is looking to fund half of the project costs (\$75,000) through fundraising efforts.

**We are reaching out to local businesses, Service Clubs and individuals asking for their support on a project that will have a significant impact on the lives of people in these communities.**

**Please consider supporting this worthy project**

If you would like to learn more, visit our website to find a copy of the full project proposal or contact us at [info@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:info@rootsofchange.ca)



The PayPal Giving Fund Canada provides a method to donate using a credit card that eliminates the fees the Foundation would normally be charged which is between 2- 3% of the donation - and every penny counts! Search for “PayPal Giving Fund” in your browser, click on ‘Donate Here’ then search for Roots of Change Foundation. PayPal Giving Fund Canada will provide a Charitable Donation Receipt for your donation and we will be notified once it is processed.

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**CONSEQUENCES OF A REDUCED BUDGET**

Donations received by the Foundation fall into three separate categories each of which are used to fund a different objective in Nicaragua.

The first are donations that have not been earmarked for a specific purpose. These donations are placed into the **General Operating Category** which is used to fund our six Ongoing Programs and FUNDACCO’s administrative costs.

The second category are donations from individuals or groups who have sponsored the entire cost of a specific project and the third are donations that have been earmarked for Education Programs which includes scholarships.

In recent years, we, like many other charitable organizations, have been experiencing a significant reduction in general donations. Along with the rising exchange rate this has had a significant impact on the amount of funding available for our **General Operating Budget**. Clinic and FUNDACCO staff draw wages from this budget and for most, it is the only source of income for their families.

For the 2020 budget year, FUNDACCO and the Foundation are faced with some hard decisions which may require letting staff go, some of whom have worked with FUNDACCO for over 10 years. This cannot come at a worse time because of the economic tailspin the country has been experiencing for almost two years.

We all need to step up and do what we can to keep these people employed. Consider giving a little extra this Christmas Season – it will go a long way to help those who we consider Father Denis’ extended family.



**Please help by supporting this ministry of hope**

Please consider making monthly donations to help us with our budget planning  
 Contact us at 780-405-8084

The goal for our 2019 campaign is \$100,000 (US) and the estimated cost of this publication is \$1,300 (printing and mailing costs combined).

**Did You Know??**

You have a number of options when making a donation to Roots of Change:

**Online**

On our website, [www.rootsofchange.ca](http://www.rootsofchange.ca) – Click on **DONATE NOW**

On Canada Helps website [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

**E-transfer**

From your bank’s Interac/E-transfer option - send funds to [donations@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:donations@rootsofchange.ca).

**By Mail**

Use the enclosed donation form to send funds via regular mail (cheque or credit card).

**By Phone**

Call 780-405-8084 to make a donation using a credit card.

The Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank these organizations for their significant contributions which help us to continue the missionary work of our founder Father Denis Hébert

To learn more about how to get the most from your donation dollar, contact Rick LeBlanc [rick.leblanc@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:rick.leblanc@rootsofchange.ca)



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