



# Roots of Change Foundation Source de développement

15 Years of bringing hope to people in need

Summer 2021

## Newsletter



### Sisle No. 1 Water Distribution

Community upgrade brings water to the doorstep of 29 families

Thanks to the financial support of three conferences from Ontario and a particular Council from British Columbia of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, community members of Sisle No. 1 no longer have to walk distances of up to 500 meters to fetch their daily water supply.



On July 13 2021 FUNDACCO, in collaboration with the National Council of SSVP in Nicaragua, the Padre Pio Conference of Jinotega and Sisle No. 1 community members completed the installation of a water distribution system to homes in the village. The significant improvement to the community consisted of a 10,000 liter water storage tank, over 1900 meters of distribution piping and the installation of a submersible well pump complete with overhead electrical supply line to the well location.

Water from the well is pumped to the tank which is located high on a hill in the community. Gravity is then used to supply water pressure in the distribution piping, bringing water to the doorstep of 29 homes in the community.

Water distribution projects like these help communities in many ways, the most significant being the elimination of physical stress on women and children who are tasked with transporting the heavy liquid long distances over hilly rugged terrain.

To learn more about this and other water projects visit our website at [www.rootsofchange.ca](http://www.rootsofchange.ca)



### FUNDACCO

### A Family of Friendship



Luis performs for staff at a recent baby shower for Maria Suarez, the clinic's doctor

The following are words written by Maria Araica, FUNDACCO Project Coordinator in a recent communication.

God created human beings with the objective that we enjoy the blessings we receive each day.

Being able to open our eyes is a blessing, and to this he adds the benefits of nature, family, friends and our work.

The Word of God says: "The human body is made up of many components each having a different function but together act as one. Thus we, being many, are one body in Christ, and all members of one another".

At FUNDACCO the Word of God is fulfilled because we are all one body, each one exercises a function that contributes to the proper functioning of the organization, to the fulfillment of work, maintaining harmony and respect.

Like a small family, FUNDACCO collaborators gather to carry out activities that allow us to improve interpersonal relationships, enjoy friendship and affection that with the passage of time strengthens, positively influencing the performance of our work with love and dedication.

Father Denis Hébert was full of God's love towards his fellow man and he transmitted joy and respect to everyone.

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## FUNDACCO - A Family of Friendship

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That spirit of LOVE is present today in FUNDACCO through his teachings even though he is no longer with us.

With this example of love and respect for our fellow human beings, FUNDACCO collaborators have shared beautiful moments of joy that help us overcome the stress of work, personal and family problems.



Father's Day



Mother's Day



## Hurricane Iota Disaster Relief



On April 14, 2021 FUNDACCO delivered 40 aid packages to the community of San Pablo and Santa María de Tasua located in the Jinotega Department approximately 260 kilometers north of Managua.

It was very difficult to reach these communities located in the mountainous area of Nicaragua. The roads are narrow and dangerous with many points along the route in poor condition.

Many of the houses in the two communities were destroyed as a result of the



hurricane and subsequent flooding that followed.

The aid packages contained 22 basic products including rice, sugar, oil, coffee, salt, spaghetti, sardines, cereals, milk, laundry soap, bath soap, dish soap, detergent, toothpaste, matches, toilet paper, deodorant for men and women, toothbrush and zepol.

The SSVP Padre Pio and San Francisco de Asís Conferences, located in Jinotega participated in the execution of this project by making visits to the beneficiary communities for a census of the needs prior to the delivery of food.

To view a copy of the final report on this project visit our website at [www.rootsofchange.ca](http://www.rootsofchange.ca)

## Message from the President

As the November 7 presidential elections in Nicaragua draw nearer, there remains uncertainty as to its outcome and the effects it will have on Nicaraguan citizens and relationships with the international community. The history of political struggle within the country continues today ahead of the elections and more than ever before, the Nicaraguan people are in need of our prayers and support.

FUNDACCO continues to deliver programs and projects under the new Foreign Agents Law introduced in November of 2020. The law monitors all funding that arrives from outside the country and resulting in a number of administrative costs that did not exist prior to its introduction.

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## El Alto Eco Stove Project



The success of a number of similar projects to improve the health of women and children who are subjected to smoke within their homes has prompted FUNDACCO to submit yet another proposal for the community of El Alto. The \$6,900 project will see the replacement of 25 traditional wood stoves with Eco Friendly cook stoves, a much healthier alternative.

Thanks to the support of a generous donor, partial support for this project has been received and the Roots of Change is seeking other donors to contribute to this project. If you would like to support this project please clearly mark your donation with the project **El Alto Eco Stoves**.

## Update on the El Portillo Water Extraction & Distribution

### Additional support needed to complete the project



In June, distribution piping to 24 homes in the community and the installation of the storage tank were completed in preparation for the final stage - installation of the submersible pump.

During the installation of the pump, a blockage was discovered at a depth of approximately 70 feet. The anticipated placement depth was 180 feet.

Although water can be drawn from this shallower depth, there would have been insufficient supply for the community.

In a subsequent investigation and while talking to community members, it was discovered that during a well cleaning process some years ago a piece of concrete fell into the well which is the likely cause of the blockage. This information was not conveyed to FUNDACCO during the initial planning for the project.

As a result, the manual pump has been reinstalled to insure the community has water until the well can be repaired.

FUNDACCO has obtained two estimates from well drilling companies to repair the well with the lowest quote being \$4000 (US). The repair would include new well casing and other upgrades to bring the well to its intended functionality.

The project has been put on hold until such time as additional funds can be raised to make the repair.

We are appealing to our supporters for donations to help cover the cost of this unanticipated event. If you would like to support this cause, please mark your donation with 'El Portillo Water Extraction'.

## Education Programs Update

Thanks to the generous support from a Vancouver area donor, Henry Sandoval Flores from San Benito will be attending a four year program to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Professional English.

Henry's course started in May of this year at the Universidad del Valle in Managua and consists of weekly sessions that take place on Sundays.

From Monday to Saturday Henry will be working in the maquilas (factories) in Managua to earn money for himself and to help his family.

The addition of this scholarship brings the total beneficiaries to 17 post secondary/ university students.

The Roots of Change sincerely thanks donors for their support, which has been greatly appreciated, particularly by those students who have been given a chance to find their way out of poverty.



## Roots of Change Gala Postponed for a Second Time

Despite our best efforts to make the November 2021 "Hope in Action Gala" a reality, the Roots of Change Board has made the difficult decision to postpone this event once again. With event planning deadlines approaching, and ticket sales scheduled to start in late September, we have too many concerns with the current COVID-19 statistics, and little confidence in how the next 10 weeks may evolve. We feel this is the prudent decision. The risks of limited capacity restrictions, or worse yet, a partial or full lockdown could potentially result in a financial loss should we have decided to proceed.

BUT, we will try again!! We are already looking at dates in early June 2022. We will be contacting our preferred guest speaker, Georges Laraque, to find a date that works for him.

Watch upcoming Newsletters or check our Website for updates.



Georges Laraque

## Agricultural Micro-loan Project Somotillo Region



In 2016, the Agricultural Loan Project was established in response to a reality lived by peasant farmers in the Somotillo region, which is located in the dry corridor of Nicaragua.

In this area of the country, the lack of rain most often results in minimal crops and sometimes the farmers are unable to harvest even enough food necessary for family consumption. This leaves them with no seed to plant their next crops.

Farmers in these low producing areas of the country are not able to access traditional sources of credit to purchase seed because they have no collateral to guarantee a loan and are considered a 'credit risk'.

Thanks to a generous donation from a Canadian donor in 2015, seed money was made available for a loan program to help the peasant farmers. Today 6 years later, the success of the program continues with the total initial investment amount still available every year to farmers in need.

There are currently 45 farmers who benefit from the loan program each receiving a \$200 loan to help purchase seed and supplies for their next crops.



President's Report - Continued from page 2

These costs are being paid from the small amount of savings which FUNDACCO has managed to accumulate over the years, and are making it increasingly difficult for NGOs like FUNDACCO to continue with their operations.

In spite of the many hardships that FUNDACCO has experienced in the past few years, Father Denis' vision of family culture continues to be an important part of the organization. Morale of its employees is strong thanks to group activities that take place throughout the year.

New posts are being added to our website on a regular basis and many now include copies of actual project reports submitted by FUNDACCO. We encourage you to visit the website often to see how FUNDACCO continues to bring hope to its people.

This year marks the sixteenth year since the Roots of Change was created and as many of you know I've been involved with the foundation since the beginning, serving on the board in various capacities during that period and helping to ensure Father Denis' vision of supporting the Nicaraguan people continued.

Like many who hold volunteer positions within organizations, there comes a time when one has to move on and it is for this and other personal reasons that I'm announcing my resignation from the Board effective December 31, 2021.

Although I will no longer be involved with the day-to-day operation of the foundation, it is my intent to continue supporting the Board when and where I'm able to and to ensure a smooth and seamless transition to the new President.

In closing, a sincere thank you to all of our donors who continue to support our cause, and to members of the Board who volunteer their time to ensure Father Denis' Mission of Hope continues.

Rick LeBlanc - President



Images from the Youth and Children Education & Development Program - Jan/21  
For information on our longest running and most successful program, visit our website.

### Thank You to our Supporters

Due to the lingering effects of the pandemic, the Board decided to cancel its spring fundraiser this past June for the second year in a row.

The Board would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who responded to the Fundraiser Appeal in July.

### A Special Thank You!

Thank you to the National Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) for the trust that has been placed in FUNDACCO to assist them with their Twinning Program in Nicaragua.

Collaborative efforts between FUNDACCO and the Nicaraguan Council are stronger than ever and it is this relationship which has provided FUNDACCO with another source of funding separate from the Roots of Change.

**For more information [www.rootsofchange.ca](http://www.rootsofchange.ca)**

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

#### 2020-21 Board of Directors

##### Officers:

- President - Rick LeBlanc
- Vice President - David Fréchette
- Secretary - Lucille Damer
- Treasurer - Mel Kammerer
- Project Administrator - Ken Handford
- Donations - Jocelyne Durocher

##### Directors:

- Rod Valdes
- John Schile - Scholarships
- Michel Lapointe - Delegations
- Lloyd Arcand
- Charla LeBlanc

### Would you like to get involved or have a talent to share?

We are always looking for people who would like to help us in our **Mission of Hope** for the nicaraguan people.

If interested, contact us at [info@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:info@rootsofchange.ca) to learn more on how to get involved.

The goal for our 2021 campaign is \$100,000 (US) and the estimated cost of this publication is \$1,300 (printing and mailing costs combined).

### PayPal Giving Fund

PayPal Giving Fund Canada provides a method to make a credit card donation 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.

Registered Charity Number 81320 5077 RR0001 ~ Canada Revenue Agency: <http://www.canada.ca/charities-giving>