



# Roots of Change Foundation Source de développement

15 Years of bringing hope to people in need

Spring 2021

## Newsletter



### Casa Esperanza Satellite Clinics - 2020 Update

In 2002, a program to bring primary health care to six of the poorest barrios bordering Lake Managua began as a one-year pilot project by Father Denis Hebert and a missionary friend Gordon Carter from Comox BC.



Today almost 20 years later the **Casa Esperanza Satellite Clinic** program continues to provide health care to five of the original six communities.

People in these barrios live in extreme poverty with the majority being unemployed and no steady income. Public health services are available outside of the community but many cannot afford the costs associated with visits to service providers let alone costs for medications.

The Casa Esperanza Satellite Clinic program provides walk-in consultations for members of the community for a minimal fee and is free to children under the age of 13. Medications are also provided free of charge to those families who do not have the means to pay for them.

In 2020, 2,579 consultations were provided, most of which included a medicinal product being offered free of charge to the patient or family.

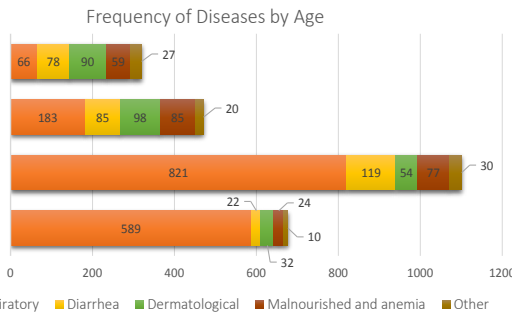
As noted in the chart, respiratory problems in young children continue to be a problem due to atmospheric conditions within

the homes where many still use a wood burning stove without proper ventilation for cooking.

Dermatological diseases found in the communities include scabies (scabies in the skin), pediculosis (hair lice) and dermatitis from sun exposure effects. These are diseases typical of overcrowding and the poor hygienic sanitary conditions in which they live.

With the arrival of Covid-19, a campaign was launched to promote hand hygiene in the neighborhoods. During the peak of pandemic contagion in Nicaragua, it was decided to suspend medical care in the barrios from May to July. There was no medication that could be administered for Covid-19 and the risk of contagion was very high because of the living conditions in the neighborhoods.

Upon the re-opening of the clinics in August, consultations were limited to 15 patients per barrio to avoid crowding and members of the community continued to be kept informed of preventive measures for communicable diseases.



As part of the Casa Esperanza Satellite Clinic program, your donations provide funding for medications and weekly visits by a doctor. The clinics are located in the home of a community member who is trained by FUNDACCO on basic first aid and health care.



### Merci ~Thank you

Chers amis de Source de développement, Durant cette année de pandémie nous, les membres de direction de Source de développement, étions inquiets si les dons suffiraient aux nombreux besoins de nos frères et soeurs au Nicaragua, la famille du Père Denis Hébert. Vous avez répondu à l'appel du pauvre et je vous remercie sincèrement pour votre grande générosité et votre appui continu.

Ensemble, vous avez réussi à soutenir les projets de FUNDACCO, notre organisme-partenaire. Vos dons ont aidé à soulager la misère, rencontrer les exigences de Covid et surtout à soutenir l'espoir que notre solidarité engendre.

Pape François nous rappelle souvent que le chemin du vrai bonheur est l'entraide des plus démunis et ceci surtout pendant ce temps de pandémie.

L'incertitude financière rend le prélèvement de fonds beaucoup plus difficile et ceci rend votre générosité plus remarquable. Je suis convaincu qu'elle sera récompensée grandement par Jésus mendiant.

Que Dieu vous bénisse et vous protège. Nos frères et soeurs du Nicaragua vous disent, "Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga".

David Frechette



## La Carreta Church Upgrades

Made possible through donations from the Olds/Trochu area of Alberta.



A November 2017 delegation travelling to La Carreta to fund and assist with the installation of a potable water system led to friendships and strong ties between the travelers and the families with whom they were billeted during their stay.

The group from the Olds/Trochu area of Alberta, led by Angy Spiller, soon recognized that the Catholic Church in the community was in need of improvements, and a commitment to the community and themselves was made to return to La Carreta to make that happen.

In Spring 2019, the second delegation from Olds/Trochu arrived and set to work with the 67 families in the community. The roof of the church was completed, a basic electrical system was installed complete with 8 wall fans, and ceramic tiling was added inside and outside the church. In addition, sidewalks were built on all four sides of the church and the Bell Towers were completed.

The completion of this project has provided spiritual support and a tremendous element of joy to the families involved. The inhabitants of this rural community take pride in their church, which is an integral part of their community.

The community has shared the following message:

***“We bless the people who directly and indirectly collaborated to beautify the House of God in the “La Carreta” community.”***

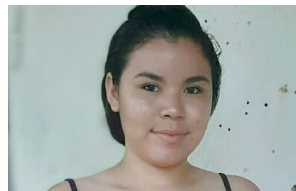


## San Benito Canaán Bakery Expanding

As part of our ongoing programs in San Benito which support collectives formed in 2008, FUNDACCO acquired and donated a pizza oven to the bakery along with professional training in the art of pizza making. Pizzas will be sold in the community in an effort to diversify the bakery’s income.



## New Beneficiaries in 2021



Ritza Nayelis Domínguez García - Nursing



Lesdy Paulina Martínez Reyes - Social Work



Glendys Johana Maradiaga Méndez - Social Sciences



Erika de los Angeles Santana Sevilla - Teaching



Luis Alberto García Calero Engineering

## Education Program Update

We are pleased to announce that three students who were beneficiaries of the Education Fund have graduated and have succeeded in getting jobs related to their studies.

Maria Gertrudis Perez Dinarte is teaching at the San Jacinto High School in San Benito. Katy Patricia Rios Lumbi is employed at the Fernando Velez Paiz Hospital in Managua and Aura Violeta Garcia has found employment as coordinator of the Arco Aris Community preschool.

We are very thankful to donors who are contributing to the Education Fund for their ongoing commitment to the program. The fruits of their contributions are being realized and have given these people the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families.

For the 2021 academic year, 5 new students became beneficiaries of the program making a total of 16 recipients.

To learn more or if interested in contributing to the program, please contact [john.schile@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:john.schile@rootsofchange.ca).

### Covid-19 Supplies

A \$1000 donation to purchase personal protective equipment for the clinic was received with gratitude by FUNDACCO whose staff are on the front line of the pandemic.

We sincerely thank the donor for this generous gift.

## FUNDACCO Provides Biological Risks Training

In February, staff at the St. Raphael Archangel Clinic received training to assist them in their work as frontline workers during the pandemic. Dr. Massiel Aguilar, the doctor who attends the Satellite Clinics and is currently the President of the FUNDACCO Board of Directors, delivered training that included: regulatory law, minimizing exposure to microorganisms through proper hygiene inside and outside the workplace, safe handling and disposal of hazardous waste, and personal protective actions.

FUNDACCO’s commitment and concern for staff is part of their culture.

Maria Araica, Project Coordinator at FUNDACCO conveys the following message:

***“Father Denis’ love for FUNDACCO was manifested in all aspects of the daily life of staff and the Nicaraguan people, and that love is maintained to honor his memory”***

Based on the sentiment of Father Denis, preventive alternatives are continually sought against diseases that can affect the staff at the Rafael Arcángel Clinic.





## Hurricane Iota Relief Update



File photo of ACHUAPA Disaster Relief Efforts - 2011

In November 2020, when Hurricane Iota ravaged the Caribbean coastline of most Central American countries, Nicaragua was not excluded.

FUNDACCO very quickly contacted Roots of Change to request financial assistance of \$3,000.00 USD to provide food packages and other necessities to affected families on their east coast.

We put out a special appeal to our donors and thanks to you, we were able to transfer a total of \$3,700.00 USD (\$4,800.00 CAD) to Nicaragua, which was gratefully received and put to use by the FUNDACCO team!

Since then, support for our relief efforts continues to be received by the Foundation and will be used to provide additional aid to the affected areas.

A sincere thank you to all who have contributed to this plea for help.

## Sisle Water Distribution

Conferences in Ontario continue to fund new projects through SSVP's Twinning Program



Mr. Antonio Montenegro, President of the SSVP's National Council in Nicaragua speaks to members of the Sisle community regarding a water distribution project for their community.

The Sisle community is one of a few in the area that have been blessed with a well that has the capacity to supply sufficient water for its inhabitants during the dry season. But, like most communities in the north of the country, people have to carry the vital liquid long distances from the well to their homes over hilly and rugged terrain – no easy task.

The Sisle project will include the installation of a gravity fed water distribution system consisting of a raised storage tank and a network of piping to bring water to each of the homes in the area.

Collaborative efforts between FUNDACCO and SSVP are continuing due to the ever increasing needs in the country. FUNDACCO is currently working on proposals for 3 additional projects, one of which will see the installation of 60 latrines in the La Estación region of the country.

If you would like to learn more about SSVP's Twinning program visit their website at [www.ssvp.ca/twinning](http://www.ssvp.ca/twinning)

## ~ SAVE THE DATE ~



Georges Laraque

Mark **November 6, 2021** on your calendar!!

Roots of Change Foundation is hosting a major awareness and fundraising event. Plan to meet with your friends, enjoy a great meal and hear from guest speaker, former Edmonton Oiler right winger and “enforcer”, Georges Laraque!!

Now retired, George is described as a “true humanitarian, an engaged citizen not only in his immediate community, but on the global stage as well.”

This event was originally planned for November 2020, but postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are hopeful that November 2021 will be a GO!!

More information to follow in our Summer Newsletter

## El Portillo Water Extraction & Distribution



Maria Araica, FUNDACCO Project Coordinator greets members of the El Portillo community to discuss details of yet another project funded through donations received from the Olds/Trochu area of Alberta

The community of “El Portillo” is located 9 kilometers from the Municipality of San Francisco del Norte in the northwestern region of Nicaragua.

It was founded around 1950 by families who owned large tracts of land in the area and decided to distribute it among their children. Initially, they had many difficulties because they lacked basic services such as water and electricity.

In 2008, an organization from Alberta, supported by the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA), drilled a well to supply water to the community.

Today, the well continues to provide enough water to supply the sector's population during the dry season when rivers mostly dry up and the area becomes an arid environment.

The goal of this project is to install a water distribution network of piping from the well to 24 family homes in the community thereby eliminating the need to transport the vital liquid by hand from the well.

The upgrade to the community will have a significant impact by improving the quality of life of the inhabitants and decrease infections caused by ingestion of contaminated water. The project will also improve the physical health of women who currently transport the liquid on their heads and shoulders causing back and neck problems.

Another significant benefit to the community during the dry season will result in greater attendance at school of the children and young people who stay home to support mothers in the transport of water.

FUNDACCO has completed a number of projects like this one which are considered a significant and sustained improvement to communities and the people that reside in them.

To learn more about FUNDACCO's work in this area, visit our website at [www.rootsofchange.ca](http://www.rootsofchange.ca)



## Youth & Children Education & Development Program

The Youth and Children Education and Development Program is the longest running and one of the most successful programs being delivered by FUNDACCO today.

The program began in 1996 when Father Denis organized a group of neighborhood youth aged 14 and up with the objective to teach them about human rights, family violence, self-esteem and leadership.

The concept was to give youth the tools to develop skills that would prevent them from getting involved in gangs and other undesirable activities that were prevalent in the community. The intent was also to promote healthy lifestyle options for vulnerable teens living in their community which had high incidents of substance abuse, social and economic strife, and poverty.



Pedro Rafael, (front center) poses with facilitators following a training session to make compost

As part of the program, the youth join a Youth Group called Cesar Augusto Bermúdez and become facilitators in creating activities for younger children in the community during the month of January which is considered summer holidays for grade school children in Nicaragua.

Young adults who attended the Summer Program as children are now facilitators in the program. The coordinator, Pedro Rafael, now in his thirties, was one of the children who attended the first program in 1996.

Many of you know Pedro as Father Denis' caregiver for a number of years until Father's passing in 2015.

The training program begins in May of each year and consists of 3 workshops per month for a total of 24 sessions

ending in December. In addition to the core topics of human rights, family violence, self-esteem and leadership, the workshops include training in arts & crafts and music consisting of children songs.

Upon completion of the workshops in December, the training is put into practice during the 3 week 'Summer Program' in each of the barrios. Although the number of children attending varies from year to year, participation averages approximately 500 children between the ages of 6 and 11.

The training program concludes in the last week in January with the facilitators assembling school supply packages for themselves and for each child that has attended the program.

Although the program officially ends at the end of January, activities and training of the facilitators is made available for those who want to participate.



FUNDACCO provides training to facilitators following the delivery of the summer program



Delivery of the summer program by facilitators in one of the barrios

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

Please help by supporting this ministry of hope

### 2020-21 Board of Directors

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### 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 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.

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