

Current Focus

F111101 - Upgrade Two Homes Cinco Pinos

One of the families is composed of Mrs Julia Osaba Maple, 80 years old and her daughter Ursula Osaba 56 years old and who live a small house made of plastic and zinc pieces. The youth from Canada and residents of the community will rebuild this humble family home with new material so that the family has better protection against the sun and winter rains.



Mrs. Julia lives in the community of *The Pools*, about 7 km from Cinco Pinos. The ground where Julia has her little House has been given by Mrs Francisca Vallecillo (51 years of age).

The doña Julia housing reconstruction has a dimension of 5.5 meters wide by



6.5 metres long.

The second upgrade is modifications to a kitchen and the replacement of a roof on an existing home.



F211102 - Pre-School Construction

A recent visit by Father to the poor community of Angeles Abriendo Caminos just outside Managua resulted in the creation of a project to help pre-school children in their ability to learn. Presently, preschool classes are held in the open with no floor or roof for the children or teachers. This project will provide a concrete pad and roof with open sides to shelter the children from the hot sun and to provide shelter during the rainy seasons.



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CONTRIBUTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In addition to the hundreds of individuals & families who generously support our programs, Roots of Change Foundation would like to recognize the following organizations and individuals for their generous financial support in 2010.

Organizations

Alphacom Consultants
 Bonnyville Medical Clinic
 Borrelli's Castar Collision and Auto Repair Ltd.
 D M Severin Professional Corporation
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Individuals

Jean-Marie Dargis	John & Raymonde Schile
Claude & Olive Duret	Richard & Rita LeBlanc
Ronald & Denise Merta	John & Pauline Delwel
Charles & Doreen Paches	David Fréchette
Mr. Eric Preville	Denis Schile
Raymond LeBlanc	

ROOTS OF CHANGE FOUNDATION

SOURCE DE DEVELOPPEMENT

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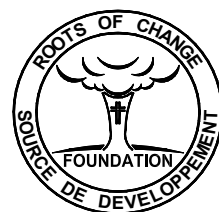
Email: info@rootsofchange.ca

Website: www.rootsofchange.ca

Copies of financial statements available on request

Registered Charity Number 81320 5077 RR0001

Canada Revenue Agency: <http://www.cra.gc.ca/charities>



A Message from the Project Administrator

Dear Supporters,

Another year has passed and we're proud to once again present a summary of the good work being funded by your donations.

The foundation sincerely thanks our supporters; who through their generosity, are helping people in Nicaragua ... "become principal builders of a new and more human future for everyone" (JP11).

More importantly, your support means hope and a positive future for the many people who benefit from our programs.

This annual report provides you with a summary of last year's programs and shares with you information on projects and activities that were funded by your donations.

The moral and compassionate principles of our founder Father Denis Hebert, continues to be our inspiration and mission as we move forward in the New Year.

Our approach in *helping people help themselves* has made a direct impact in the lives of the hundreds of people who benefit from our programs.

The Foundation has set goals this year that we hope will increase funding for projects in Nicaragua. The needs in this country are great and we must do what we can to improve the lives of these people.

The Foundation commits itself to the principles of transparency and accountability. It comes with responsibility and a commitment to insure your charitable dollar is used wisely. The Roots of Change will continue to follow these principles and we are open to anyone who would like specific information on the programs we deliver.

To members and volunteers of the foundation, I thank you for your continued dedication in 2010 and for the help you selflessly provide.

Once again, on behalf of the people of Nicaragua, I sincerely thank everyone for their donations and hope that you will continue to support the important work being done in this country.

Best Regards,

Rick LeBlanc

Project Administrator

Roots of Change Foundation

"The poor should be seen, not as a problem, but as a people who can become the principal builders of a new and more human future for everyone."

(449) *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

John Paul II, Message for the World Day of Peace 2000, 14: AAS 92 (2000)

What your support has accomplished in 2010

F11 - Provide Food/Clothing/Shelter

Nicaragua is one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. Despite improvements in the nation's economy and the implementation of government programs, almost half of the population lives in poverty.

Last year, through your generous support, the Roots of Change funded 8 projects in this area with total expenditures of \$6.8K.

Five of these projects supplied a monthly monetary amount to individuals who are the poorest of the poor and have no means of supporting themselves due to age, physical disabilities or having the hardship of being a single parent with young children. Payments range from \$30 to \$75 per month based on their needs and dependents.

Another project was to provide funding for a young lady in her late 20's (photo) who was in desperate need of surgery to replace a glass eye she had outgrown. The socket of the eye became infected due to the poor fit of the prosthetic she received as a young child. The \$700 cost was graciously funded by a two donors from the St Albert area.

Yet another project was to complete a home that was built in 2009. Total cost of this project was \$17.4K



with the majority of expenses incurred in the 2009 budget year. The home is located in the barrio where Father Denis lives and today houses one of the Neighborhood Libraries that is also funded by the Roots of Change under charitable objective F21 - Schools/Supplies/Equipment.

F12 - Assisting Persons/Economic Development

A significant portion of our 2010 budget was used to fund this charitable objective. Close to \$31K was spent on 5 projects; two in the north of the country near the Honduran border in a community called Cinco Pinos (Five Pines) and three in San Benito which is located about 35km northeast of Managua.

In Cinco Pinos, a project carried out by a group of adults from the Greater North Central Francophone School Division, involved the addition of a kitchen to the Escuela de Computacion Susana; a computer school and gathering center in the community. Expenditures on this project were close to \$1.8K.



Another project near Cinco Pinos was the completion of the El Chaparral Water Project with expenditures of \$2.1K in 2010. A group of community members expressed gratitude for this project to a delegation from Canada who traveled to El Chaparral in December of 2010.

San Benito is located on the east side of Lake Managua and like most rural areas is very poor. The Roots of Change along with our counterpart Fundacco work with 3 collectives in this area and together they form a cooperative that is registered with the Nicaraguan government.

F12 - Assisting Persons/Economic Development (con't)

Last year we provided \$4.5K of assistance to two of the collectives who are made up of poor farmers in the area and who work the land to raise money and to feed their families. Expenditures include funding for training, seed and irrigation equipment.



As part of our ongoing effort to help the cooperative, we have purchased land and built an office & meeting facility over the last few years. The building, among other uses is the home of the sewing factory



which is run by the third collective. Improvements last year include an upgrade to the electrical system, construction of a security fence & guard house, installation of a bathroom and upgrades to the roof support beams. Total expenditures for these improvements were \$13K.

The final project undertaken last year was by a group of students from Ecole des Beaux-Lacs in Bonnyville. The students assisted the 3 collectives in different capacities. Expenditures totaled \$9.4K

F21 - Schools/Supplies/Equipment

Education is an important part of our objective and has been the primary focus of Father's work for years. If people are to 'break the poverty cycle', education is the key.

In 2009 a project was approved to create 5 neighborhood libraries in the barrio of Edgard Lang, Managua with a primary objective to provide students of all age's access to books and other reference materials. This initiative is helping the community tremendously as the students would not have this access otherwise. One additional library was added last year at a cost of \$2.4K.



F22 - Scholarships



F22 - Scholarships (con't)



Scholarships form a large part of our work in Nicaragua. Last year a total of 56 individuals benefited from this program with 44 attending part time courses and 12 students attending 4 - 5 year university programs. Total expenditures which include tuition, books & supplies, travel and subsistence was \$19.9K.

F23 - Training Farming/Conservation

As part of our work with the two farming collectives in San Benito, we train the people on organic farming methods to minimize the environmental impact of using pesticides and fertilizers on their crops. Expenditures in this area were \$3.9K in 2010.



F31 - Promote Physical Fitness for Children

Each year as part of our health and wellness program, we organize activities for the youth in the communities where the 7 clinics are located. Young adults are trained throughout the year to deliver a 4 week program to children between the ages of 7 and 13. The main activities take place in the month of January which is the summer holidays for the children. They are given meals during the program and each child receives a school supply package worth approximately \$20. Total expenditures on this program were \$7.9K



F32 - Operating Medical Clinics

Promoting health and wellness for the people of Nicaragua is another objective of the Roots of Change. Last year, \$32.3K was spent on the operation of medical clinics.

In Managua we have built and operate the St Raphael Archangel Clinic which is located in the barrio of Edgard Lang. The facility has a full time doctor, lab technician, pharmacist and receptionist. Last year, 2457 patients attended the clinic.

Besides the clinic in Edgard Lang, we operate satellite clinics located in 6 of the poorest barrios in Managua. Expenditures include medical



supplies and basic first aid training for individuals whose home is used as the clinic. Once a week on a rotation base, each satellite clinic is visited by a doctor who attends to people in need.

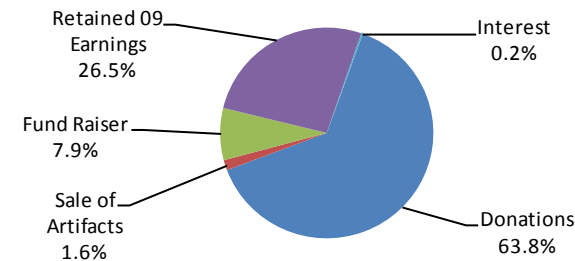
Year in Review 2010

The needs in Nicaragua are endless and the Roots of Change along with our counterpart Fundacco make the best of funding that becomes available. It's our goal to insure existing programs held each year are funded and that we are able to provide for the poor-of-the-poor who have come to rely on us for assistance.

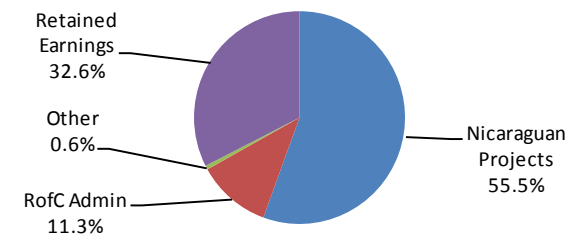
Our goal to raise \$250K fell short last year with \$164.2K in donations, \$20.3K from our fundraiser and \$3.9K in the sale of artifacts for a total of \$188.6K.

As an organization, we continue to insure costs of administration are kept at a minimum. The foundation is run by volunteers here in Canada while we do have some paid staff in Nicaragua. This insures your donations are administered properly; a cost we feel is justifiable. Presently, with all the programs administered by Fundacco, there are 22 people who work directly and indirectly with our agent and who receive compensation in varying amounts. For the most part, these people have no other source of income and the compensation is needed to help their families.

2010 Revenue/Assets \$257,560

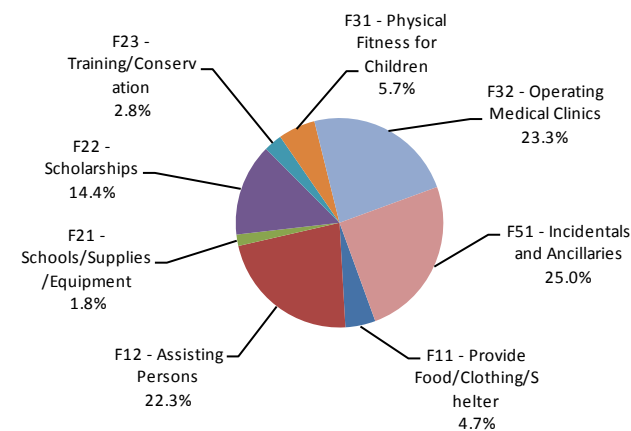


2010 Expenditures/Equity \$257,560



One of our goals for 2010 was to build one of the 6 homes that was destroyed by floods in 2009. Unfortunately, we were not able to do this and the main reasons was the difficulty of deciding which of the 6 homes would be selected. The need of these families, all of which have been neighbors for many years are equal and it would have been unfair to select one of them; not knowing when funding would become available for the other homes. Presently, we are pursuing grant money to cover the costs of all 6 homes.

2010 Nicaraguan Expenditures \$138,851 (\$USD)



Goals for 2011

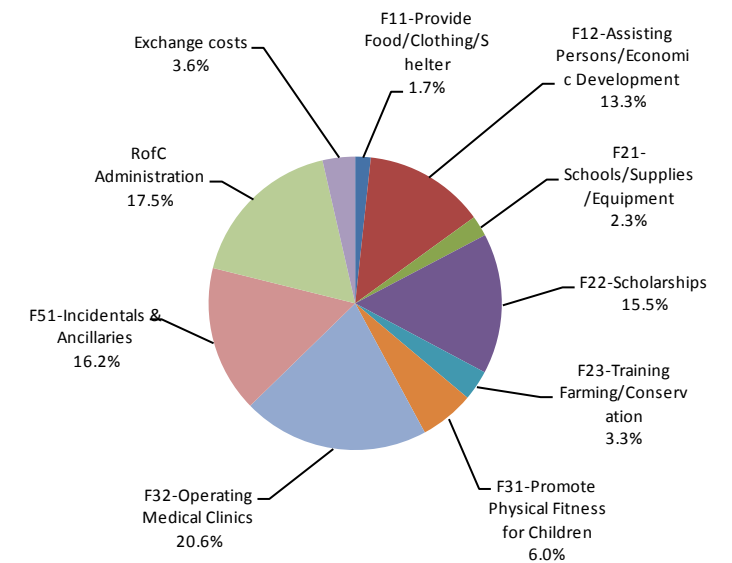
In the last two years we were not able to reach our fundraising objective. We have therefore reduced our goal in 2011 to \$179,800 an amount we feel is achievable based on income from previous years. We hope that with your continued support we are able to reach this goal.

The foundation has set four main objectives for 2011 in an effort to increase awareness of the good work being done with donations.

1. Increase our mail-out campaign from 2 to 3 per year. One in March, July and November. This will allow us to provide our donors with more current information on projects and the activities taking place.
2. Update our website and provide additional information on projects and the foundation.
3. Seek out individuals and/or firms that can advise us in marketing. As an organization, we feel that we've failed in this area. There is a tremendous amount of good work being done with little overhead cost and we need to get this message out.
4. Develop educational presentations that can be delivered by members of the foundation to groups and organizations.

The budget prepared for this year is based on current (and new) projects including those which were not completed in 2010.

2011 Budget \$179,800 (CAN)



Current Projects

- F111001-Yadira Quintero - Funding for food and clothing
- F111002-Daysi Martinez Fernandez - Funding for food and clothing
- F111003-Maria Teresa Chavarria - Funding for food and clothing
- F111101-Upgrade Two Homes Cinco Pinos (new)
- F120901-San Benito Family Garden
- F120902-San Benito Office Project
- F121101-El Cerrito Water Project (new)
- F121102-Cinco Pinos El Efuerso Cooperative (new)
- F210901-Neighborhood Libraries
- F211102-Angeles Abriendo Caminos - Pre-School Construction (new)
- F221100-Currently 23 full and part time courses (6 new for 2011)
- F230901-Organic Fertilizer Project
- F311101-2011 Youth and Children Education and Development Program
- F311102-2011 Children's Christmas Party
- F321101-2011 St Raphael Archangel Clinic Operation
- F321102-2011 Casa Esperanza Clinics Program

For detailed information and a complete listing of active and completed projects visit www.rootsofchange.ca.