



Roots of Change Foundation Source de développement

17 Years of bringing hope to people in need



Fall 2022

Newsletter

San Rafael Arcangel Medical Clinic Acquires an ‘Ultrasonograph’

The FUNDACCO Board of Governors, through the San Rafael Arcangel Medical Clinic, has always strived to provide better and more comprehensive health care services for the poor of Nicaragua in the Edgard Lang and surrounding neighbourhoods.

In the first half of 2018, two specialists in Internal Medicine and Gynecology joined the clinic, providing consultation one day a week. This has identified an increased need for diagnostic capabilities within the Clinic.



Of the 499 patients treated during the first quarter of 2022, 300 required a referral for an ultrasound to diagnose the root cause of their external symptoms. Many of the poor cannot afford the cost of this service through the Health System in Nicaragua.

This prompted the Clinic to submit a proposal to FUNDACCO for the purchase of Ultrasonograph equipment. The purchase was made in 2022 by FUNDACCO and the clinic is now offering this diagnostic service, but they are in need of financial assistance to help cover the equipment costs and training.

FUNDACCO has requested that Roots of Change make an appeal to their donor base to help offset their investment which, with this purchase, is another significant step in becoming self-sufficient.

Roots of Change is asking our donors and friends to continue to help meet the challenge of providing more comprehensive medical services at a price the poor in Nicaragua can afford.

If you are interested in contributing to this worthy cause, please consider making a donation today. Be sure to earmark your donation towards ‘Ultrasound Equipment’.

Message from the President

Greetings from the whole team at Roots of Change and FUNDACCO.

As we approach Christmas day, I am reflecting on how blessed we are as Canadians to enjoy an affluent lifestyle in the full security of a strong democratic tradition. Unfortunately most of us, having lived all our lives in this blessed environment, take it all for granted.

In order to have a fresh appreciation, one needs to know or visit someone in a developing country. What a privilege it has been for me to have travelled 5 times to Central and South America, befriending many amigas and amigos. They are my constant reminder of the many blessings I enjoy as a Canadian.

As you are reading this message, I am in Nicaragua accompanied by my wife Suzanne and 2 daughters Chantal and Isabelle. Two longtime supporters of RofC have also joined us in our travel. We will see and hear of the wonders your donations are making in the lives of our brothers and sisters, the poor in Nicaragua.

Part of my duties on this trip is to audit FUNDACCO’s operations. We do this every year in order to report to you our faithful donors and to the CRA, that your donations sent to FUNDACCO are indeed well spent and that all monies are accounted for.

In the spirit of Christmas, I give thanks to our Lord Jesus and Father Denis Hébert for having well prepared the administrators at FUNDACCO especially Luis Enrique Cruz the team leader. It is such a blessing working with Luis, his assistants Harol and Pedro and the rest of Father Denis’ Nicaraguan family.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



May the blessing of the Lord be with you and your family as you celebrate the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ

The Board of Directors sincerely thanks everyone for their support this past year. Support that brings Hope to the People of Nicaragua

Scholarship News

The following is a letter written recently by a graduate of our scholarship program. It is a testament to the benefits of the program and reflects the spirit of all those who are supported through your donations.

My name is Walmer Yassael Sánchez, originally from the municipality of San Juan de Cinco Pinos, in the department of Chinandega.

Below, I will express my gratitude and importance of the university scholarship received from FUNDACCO.

In the year 2015, I began my university studies and applied for a scholarship to FUNDACCO, however in that year it was not possible because they informed me that there was no sponsor to support me, but my desire to study a university career motivated me to enroll in the university to study Bachelor of Social Work

During the first two years of studies, my main support was my mother, limited by the expenses of the house and the expenses of my university studies, on many occasions I went to university without breakfast, without lunch and without money to buy food, that it affected my university performance to such an extent that my academic performance was not what I wanted.

When I started my third year of university studies in 2017, my mother told me that she could no longer cover the university expenses because she did not have the financial resources.

That news filled me with great sadness and I had made the decision to finish only the first term of the third year of studies and then abandon my university career.

In that process of starting the third year of studies, almost to abandon my university career, FUNDACCO told me that there was a person who would support my studies that my scholarship application had been approved

It was news that at the time I did not know how to describe it. It was a relief for me and my mother, a new motivation to continue with my studies.

When I received the first month of the scholarship, the first thing I did was pay pending monthly payments for studies and obtain study materials.

By the grace of God and the support of FUNDACCO, I was able to continue with my university studies.

For the year 2018, I did my pre-professional practices in the Mayor's Office of Masatepe and Masaya, 270km from the community, obtaining good work experience in this process.

At the end of the year 2019 I graduate with a degree in Social Work, a new challenge in my life, finding work in a country like Nicaragua where opportunities are few.

In May 2020, I started working in the National Penitentiary System as a security agent, ending my employment contract in February 2022.

In May of the same year, I applied for a job at the Supreme Electoral Council, where I currently work.

FUNDACCO's support through the scholarship saved my future, and I was able to finish my studies.

I want to thank all the people who make this scholarship program possible, the donors, FUNDACCO collaborators and other people for their kindness and support to those most in need.

Although I do not know the person who supported my studies, through this writing I want to let him know how much I appreciate and how valuable his collaboration is in my student development and in my life. God bless you.

Walmer Yassael Sanchez

Message from the President cont. from page 1

In closing, I want to leave you with something to reflect on. In this more than abundant country, where we can buy anything and everything we need or indeed just desire, what is the one thing money cannot buy?

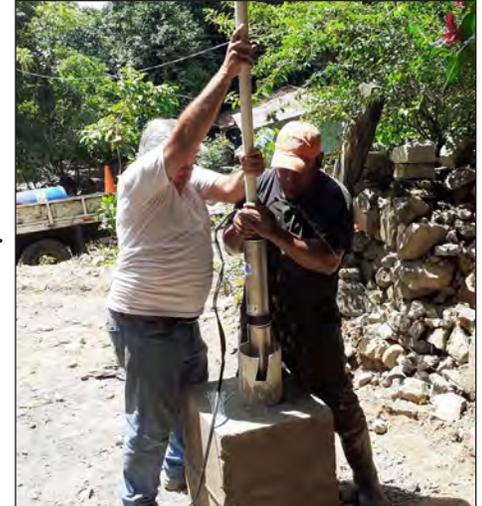
In my opinion this one thing that is free yet priceless is the gift of love manifested in caring. It's free yet more satisfying than anything you can buy. It gives our lives purpose and meaning. It connects us with our God, the source of all love and caring. Every time we reach out and donate to help the poor, we tap into this wellspring of joy and contentment. We become one with our Creator and Savior by caring for the poor. They in turn give us great joy when we see the smiles on their faces or hear their 'gracias' for the hope our donations generate. Yes, your gift goes towards a particular project or to help with the administration expenses of FUNDACCO but much more it gives hope to many in a country full of despair.

God Bless You. Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. David Fréchette

Chere amis a titre de président de Source de développement, je vous envoie la salutation de toute l'équipe ainsi que de FUNDACCO. Je m'inspire du prions en Église du 10 juillet dernier pour vous faire part de quelques réflexions. L'évangile de ce dimanche était la parabole du bon Samaritain. Jésus nous enseigne qui est notre voisin. Notre voisin est la personne qui a grandement besoin de notre compassion et notre support pour son bien-être. Quand nous répondons positivement, ce voisin devient notre soeur, notre frère et ainsi nous lient pour toute l'éternité. Je suis persuadé que chaque personne qui a goûté de notre compassion sera au rendezvous pour nous accueillir au paradis. Ce sera notre fan club, heureux de nous dire avec Jésus, bienvenue bon et fidèle serviteur viens jouir de ta récompense éternelle, celle d'avoir beaucoup de frères et soeurs avec laquelle tu partages ton bonheur. Je termine avec les mots du Pape François "Avec compassion, prenons soin de la fragilité de chaque homme, de chaque femme, de chaque enfant et de chaque personne âgée. (Fratelli Tutti no79) Cet amour actif du prochain est le chemin vers la vie éternelle.

Que Dieu vous bénisse - Joyeux Noël et Bonne et heureuse année prospère 2023

David Fréchette



Images from the El Portillo Well Repair Project - Now complete! Thanks to your donations

Projects Update (Your donations at work)

El Portillo Well Repair - The repair of the well commenced in September and will allow the placement of the deep-well pump. FUNDACCO has informed us that the project is now complete and they plan to provide an update with pictures in the coming weeks.

Cerro Rota Water Infrastructure Upgrade - This new project is sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP). The upgrade is managed and built by FUNDACCO and members of the community.

The upgrades will provide safe drinking water to the 150 persons in the Cerro Rota community. Other sanitary improvements include community bathrooms and laundry facilities with a gray water treatment system that removes soap and detergents from the laundry and personal wash-water. The treated gray water provides drinking water for animals raised in the community.

FUNDACCO is currently working on project proposals for people in other rural communities of Nicaragua where very basic needs are not available.

FUNDACCO continues to manage the scholarship students, operate the Rafael Arcangel Medical Clinic and Satellite Clinics, deliver the Youth and Children Education and Development program and the NICA pre-school program.

Project Funding

Roots of Change, through your generosity, provides funding to FUNDACCO for two types of projects, Specific (Sponsored) Projects, and Ongoing and Administrative Projects.

Specific projects are characterized by having a beginning and end date. These projects are well defined in the project proposals provided by FUNDACCO and specify the need for the project, the number of people who will benefit, and who will work on the project. Specific projects have great appeal for funding as they engage the donor directly in the realization of the project and progress reports show the immediate benefit to the recipients. We have had great success at fundraising for specific projects.

Ongoing and Administration projects are best defined as covering the day-to-day activities undertaken by FUNDACCO and require funding every year. Ongoing projects include the San Rafael Clinic and the Nica Community preschools.

Administrative projects include salaries, office supplies, and travel expenses to the communities served by FUNDACCO. It is important to recognize that without the FUNDACCO staff which oversees and manages all projects, no project would be successful. It is the FUNDACCO staff that carries on the philosophy practiced and taught to the FUNDACCO team by Fr. Denis, which focuses on gathering community members together to discuss their needs and help them find solutions to meet those needs. This process of consultation and direct involvement of the poor in their own projects is unique to FUNDACCO's work in Nicaragua. It can be very time consuming and sometimes requires many meetings to generate solutions for the needs identified by the beneficiaries, but the process has proven to be highly successful in giving the communities the responsibility for their own destiny, fostering dignity as they take ownership of the solutions, and ensuring the sustainability of the project for the community.

Recently, it has become more difficult to raise money to support these administrative costs, which are in themselves a project, providing employment which sustains the families of the very limited number of FUNDACCO staff. Lack of adequate funding ultimately jeopardizes the wonderful work being done by FUNDACCO.

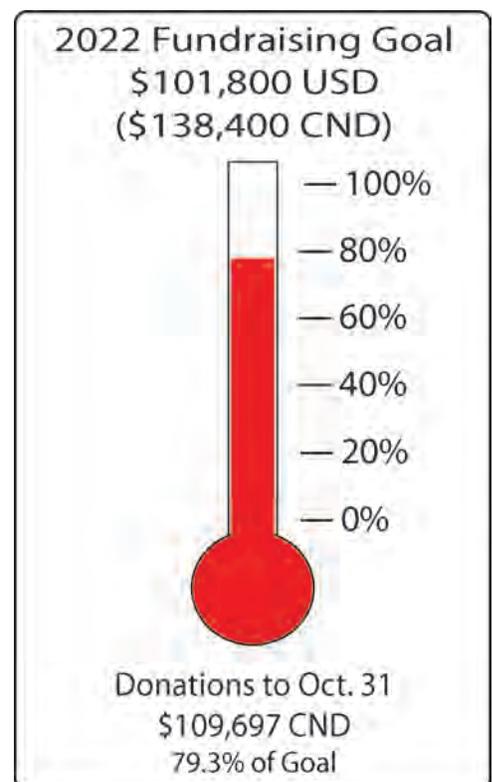
We thank you for your great generosity and ask you to ensure that the day-to-day activities of the FUNDACCO team are adequately funded with donations to the general fund in support of Ongoing and Administrative Projects.

Nicaragua experience 2022



We are excited to be visiting Nicaragua from Nov 24 – Dec 11, 2022. A team of 6 will be experiencing the people and culture of Nicaragua through the eyes of those who are supported by Roots of Change and FUNDACCO. We will be visiting locations throughout Nicaragua highlighting current projects including El Portillo water project which brought water to an entire community. As well, we will be visiting the staff at FUNDACCO, St. Rafael Clinic and meeting with Pedro Rafael who runs the Youth Community program which was started by Fr. Denis himself more than 25 years ago.

We are excited about this experience reigniting connections that have been made over the past several years. With recent travel restrictions it has been challenging to ensure face to face connections are made. We are blessed to be part of this opportunity and look forward to sharing all the details with you upon our return.



Board Of Director News

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank Michel Lapointe for his significant contribution and years of service on the Board. Michel has been the Delegations Coordinator since joining in 2008 and has led many delegations of high-school students and adults to Nicaragua.

New member Angy Spiller from Olds AB, a long time supporter will become the new Delegations Coordinator.

This role will not be a new one for Angy as she has organized many delegations to Nicaragua for people in her community who are avid supporters of Father Denis' work.

The Board welcomes Angy and the skills she will bring to the organization and look forward to working with her in our mission of bringing Hope to the people of Nicaragua.

Endowment Fund Webinar

Dear Donors,

In the footsteps of our founder and as a Board we are concerned about the long term future of FUNDACCO and our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua.

How can we assure funding to maintain Father Denis' mission even if we are no longer able to contribute?

Learn how by participating in a webinar that will address these concerns.

Please send a request to attend to info@rootsofchange.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you for your comments and suggestions.

The webinar has been re-scheduled for the spring of 2023.

Backpack Project



Father Denis Hebert, founder of the Roots of Change Foundation, was a strong believer that education is the key to unlocking poverty. Many of his initial projects provided education for those who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Some of those he inspired through education have established themselves as leaders of our sister organization, FUNDACCO, in Nicaragua.

Inspired by Father Denis' passion for education, we have created a pilot project that aims to provide students with the essential supplies to begin their school year.

In the community of Chinandega, approximately 220km from Nicaragua's capital, is a school called Los Chupaderos. There are 60 students who attend this school and range from ages 4-12. In preparation for their school year, which begins in February, our goal is to provide each student with a backpack which will include:

- Notebooks & Textbooks
- Pencils, Erasers, Ruler & Crayons
- Scissors & Glue
- School uniform (shirt, pants or skirt and shoes)

Backpacks with supplies and uniform range from \$54 to \$63 depending on the age of the student.

In today's global economic climate, we are reminded of how far our funds can stretch. This idea is magnified in Nicaragua and is a part of their everyday reality. By supporting this project, you are providing more than just tangible school supplies. You are planting a seed of hope, confidence and inspiration for these students which has the potential to sprout a 'root of change'.

Please consider supporting this inspired project. Thank you for your continued generosity.



For more information www.rootsofchange.ca

Please help by supporting this ministry of hope

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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 to learn more on how to get involved.

The goal for our 2022 campaign is \$100,000 (US).
The estimated cost of printing and mailing this publication is \$800.

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.

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