



Roots of Change Foundation Source de développement

15 Years of bringing hope to people in need

Spring 2022

Newsletter



Señor de la Divina Misericordia de Boaco

Bringing hope to people in the true spirit of our founder continues through the hands and hearts of FUNDACCO staff.

Despite economic and other hardships experienced by the Nicaraguan people today, FUNDACCO staff give back what little they have to help the elderly.

Harol Alvarez, Project Coordinator for FUNDACCO made the following comments in a recent email communication regarding photos they sent to RoFC.

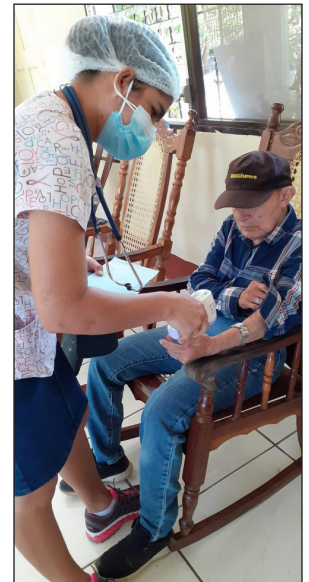
“... As you mention the Nursing Home Assistance project, Señor de la Divina Misericordia de Boaco is no longer an active project for Roots of Change, but considering the importance of this project in the lives of the more than 25 elderly who remain in this center, all of us who work at FUNDACCO have agreed for 4 years now to continue with this social work, contributing from our salary, organizing small activities and inviting friends to collaborate with money or materials for them, an activity that we carry out between November and December of each year.”

During the activity, we deliver to the center the food they need, according to a list we receive from Sister Reyna Almanza, director of the center, having as main objective a medical check-up for each elderly person and delivering medicine according to the medical prescription of the doctors of the Rafael Arcángel clinic.”

FUNDACCO is a testament to the legacy Father Denis has left behind and we must continue to support them in their work of bringing hope to their own people.

We invite readers to tell their friends and relatives about our mission and how we support the work of FUNDACCO.

Consider making a donation today. The needs are greater than ever.



Scholarship News

The success of our **Education Program** continues to improve the lives of those students who benefit from the program.

In 2021, 17 students were funded by the program and despite difficulties due to the pandemic, all maintained their grades and attendance, which is part of their commitment to receive funding.

At the end of the year, students are encouraged to write letters to FUNDACCO and to their sponsors about their experiences during the year.

The Roots of Change would like to share with readers this letter written by Yeirin Melixa Carrasco who is taking a Degree in English and will complete her studies in 2023.



Yeirin Melixa Carrasco Ordoñez

Dear, Maxian and Rick

December 20th, 21

I hope you and your family are doing fine, enjoying and celebrating this beautiful month with the ones you love. I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude for sharing your love with us and to tell you what I have been doing during these previous months.

First, I thank God for having my family and you "my second family" by my side, always supporting me and I am pretty grateful because all of us are healthy. In addition, I want to share my happiness with you, I am done with my 4th year of university studies, I am highly glad and so are my parents and my siblings. In this year I learned a lot and I did many things as well; I got my two certificates from courses, I learned how to teach highschool students and how to create a lesson plan in my professional practices. Moreover, I worked in a research project with my brother and a classmate and then we defended it.

Every year in November we celebrate the English Festival and this time I was the master of ceremony. Furthermore, I participated in the spelling contest and I won. God is good all the time.

Once more, thank you so much for your support, that is a blessing for us, my family is so thankful with you, we pray for you all the time, take care always, we hope to see you again, may God bless you, all our love for you, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Love,

Yeirin Carrasco

Message from the President

As I write this article as interim president I am overwhelmed with a feeling of gratitude.

Gratitude for the many people who work tirelessly to bring hope to our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua.

First I want to thank Rick Leblanc for his many years of service as president and for his continued help in countless ways.

A great big thank you to all board members who daily each do their part to assure that the tasks are done well.

Mucho Gracias to all the dedicated people at FUNDACCO for their perseverance in adverse conditions and their dedication to making a difference in the lives of so many in Nicaragua.

But especially a heartfelt thank you to all donors who have faithfully given and continue to support our cause. I am truly humbled by your generosity and steadfast support.

The greatest thank you goes to Father Denis as he continues to intercede for us, and to the Holy Spirit who multiplies our offerings in amazing ways.

May God bless you all with health, happiness, and prosperity.

À tout mes amis francophones, je tiens à vous remercier d'appuyer cet oeuvre de charité. Vous êtes nombreux à répondre au cri du pauvre, et je suis très fiers de vous. Que notre Seigneur

Jésus Christ nous bénisse et nous comble de graces pour continuer l'oeuvre du bon Père Denis Hébert.

Please pray for the success of our goal to increase our donor base and to increase substantially our fundraising.

With all my admiration for your kindness,

David Fréchette - President

El Alto Eco Stove Project



The replacement of traditional wood stoves with new and improved Eco Stoves in the community of El Alto is close to completion with a final report expected in the coming weeks.

This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of two donors who recognize the health benefits to families who would normally be subjected to constant smoke within their homes.

Respiratory problems have been prevalent in these poor communities for generations and upgrades like these provide a significant improvement in the lives of beneficiaries.

The success of similar projects that improve the health of women and children have prompted a number of communities to make similar requests to FUNDACCO for Eco Stoves.

If you or a group of friends are interested in funding an Eco Stove project, we would be happy to provide you with additional details.

Please contact us at info@rootsofchange.ca.

Roots of Change Foundation Webinar Endowment Funds May 19, 2022 7pm

Join us for a one hour webinar to learn how you can maximize your donation by contributing to our endowment program.

To register, contact us at info@rootsofchange.ca

There was once HOPE but now an uncertain future

A 2006 letter to supporters from founder Father Denis Hébert following a visit to Canada reflects optimism in its tone and a sense of joy in his heart to be back in Nicaragua with his extended family.

In the years that followed, a lot was accomplished to improve the living conditions of the people. Roads were being paved, sewer and other infrastructure projects were implemented throughout the country and life was good for the Nicaraguan people. Hope for a better future was on the horizon.

A lot has changed in the country since then. In a span of just 4 years following the unrest in 2018, major portions of the gains made over the previous 20 years have been lost. Today, the economy is in a tail spin, unemployment is soaring and the Nicaraguan people are once again struggling with the challenges of these times.

In the world we live in today, it is relatively easy to keep oneself informed on what is happening on the world stage. As an organization whose mission is to improve the lives of the Nicaraguan people, we encourage our readers and supporters to educate themselves about the conditions in Nicaragua and the changes that have taken place in the country in recent years.

Today your prayers and donations are more important than ever before. FUNDACCO continues to do what they can to enhance the living conditions of their own people but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to do so.

The future of Father Denis' Mission of Hope, through the hands and hearts of FUNDACCO, is uncertain and more challenging than ever before.

Please keep the Nicaraguan people in your prayers during these unsettling times.

"The poor should be seen, not as a problem, but as people who can become the principal builders of a new and more human future for everyone." (John Paul II – World Day of Peace 2000)

Rev. Denis Hébert
Apartado 4604 -- Managua Nicaragua

Telefax.: (505) 268-2785 -- email: hebert.josephdenis@gmail.com

October 6th, 2006

My very good Friends:

After a three-month absence from the barrio, it is surprisingly satisfactory to notice that so much has changed and yet so much has remained the same. Children grow in height and appearance, and keep their ready smiles; persons involved in group work are steadily discovering clearer attitudes toward the reality of their lives; young people keep smiling as they jump through a series of familiar crisis-hoops with the hope of entering into Adulthood with as few bruises as possible. The Popular Education programs are bearing fruit. **There is an overall consciousness that gives hope in the future.** The Lord showers upon the people a constant stream of Life and Love in the Truth as revealed in the goodness and tenderness of the human heart. It is good to be back!

The National Election of a new President/Vice-President and 90 Parliamentary Members of the National Assembly is just around the corner. Five political parties are doing their best to bring home the bigger share of voter support, at times overindulging with exaggerated and unreal promises in their appeal to the masses. Polls indicate that approximately 75% of the eligible voters will cast ballots. The secret ballot of November 5th will tell the tale! Please keep Nicaragua in your prayers!

Writing this letter helps me remember how good and generous you are to our people by your recent contribution towards our various projects.

"Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears the Lord and does what is right is acceptable to God" (Acts 10,34).
Blessings and prayers.

Mes Bien Cher(e)s Ami(e)s:

J'ai fait un voyage à CINCO PINOS (5 Sapins) à la fin d'août. C'est le village où le Groupe SOLIDARIDAD ESCOLAR de l'Ecole Maurice Lavallée va dresser sa tente. La réunion avec les Jeunes de la paroisse CINCO PINOS s'est faite avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme. Je ressentais qu'elles(ils) vibraient de joie dans cette Rencontre. Une expérience nouvelle qu'ils(elles) veulent préparer avec beaucoup d'attention pour bien recevoir les jeunes d'Edmonton en Alberta, Canada. Je retourne à CINCO PINOS à la mi-octobre. Ainsi nous avancerons dans l'élaboration du programme qui se déroulera du 16 au 31 mars, 2007. J'apprécie l'intérêt de Mme Suzanne Foisly-Moquin, la directrice du Projet scolaire, à connaître et savourer notre petit coin du monde. Je félicite les jeunes albertains dans l'effort qu'ils(elles) mettent à apprendre assez d'espagnol pour se sentir à l'aise avec les jeunes de CINCO PINOS et les familles qui les hébergeront. J'ai reçu avec gratitude votre donation et je prie le Seigneur vous choyer de grâces choisies.

"Il est bon, le Seigneur, pour qui l'attend, pour celui(elle) qui le cherche.

Il est bon d'espérer en silence le salut du Seigneur" (Lam 3,25).

Benedictions et prières.
Denis Hébert

"...le vrai développement, qui est le passage de conditions moins qu'humaines à des conditions toutes humaines" (Encyclique: SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES PEUPLES #20)



2011 file photo of founder Father Denis Hébert



Hope In Action
gala



**Georges
Laraque**

**Mark
your
Calendar!**

The new date has been set for
November 5th 2022.

Our objective is to fill a large hall with current and new potential donors drawn by our guest speaker former Edmonton Oiler Georges Laraque.

This event will sensitize a large crowd to the plight of the poor in Nicaragua and the wonderful work that FUNDACCO does to awaken hope for a brighter future.

Please pray for the success of this event and that we will be able to host it without pandemic restrictions.

2022 Fundraiser

We are happy to announce that our in-person fundraiser is finally here after a 2 year absence. We look forward to seeing you all once again!



Mark your Calenders

Saturday June 11, 2022

Holy Family Parish Hall

Mass 5PM - Cocktails 6PM

Tickets \$80/each

(\$50 tax receipt with each ticket purchased)

available May 1st

www.rootsofchange.ca

or call 780-405-8040

This event is an important part of our fundraising efforts for the year.

Please plan to attend and invite your friends!

El Portillo Water Extraction & Distribution

Over the years FUNDACCO has had success in a number of community projects that have brought water to the doorstep of families thereby eliminating the daily chore of walking distances of up to ½ a kilometer to fetch their supply of water. These projects provide a significant improvement to the health and wellbeing of a community.

The water well in El Portillo had been serving the community with a sufficient water supply for years and in communications with community members, there was no reason to question the well and its ability to supply water.

The final step of a water infrastructure and distribution project is to remove the manual hand pump from the well and install a submersible electric pump. During the installation of the pump, a blockage was discovered at a depth of approximately 70 feet. The anticipated placement depth for the pump was 180 feet based on documentation from the original installation of the well indicating a drilled depth of 200 feet.

Although water can be drawn from this shallower depth, there would have been insufficient supply for the new infrastructure installed in 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.

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

We are appealing to our supporters for donations to help cover the cost of this unanticipated event. While we have received some response to our plea in the last newsletter, we are still short of what is needed to make the repair.

If you would like to support this cause, please mark your donation with 'El Portillo Water Extraction'.

Annual General Meeting

The Foundation will be holding their in person/Zoom AGM on June 25, 2022 2PM.

The meeting will be open to all our supporters and donors via Zoom.

If interested in attending, please contact President David Frechette at

david.frechette@rootsofchange.ca or call 780-265-3714

For more information www.rootsofchange.ca

Please help by supporting this ministry of hope

2020-21 Board of Directors

Officers:

President - David Fr chet te

Vice President - Rod Valdes

Secretary - Lucille Damer

Treasurer - Mel Kammerer

Project Administrator - Ken Handford

Donations - Jocelyne Durocher

Directors:

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 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.

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