



Nicaraguan Children's Friendship Committee

October 15, 2015

Dear Friends:

During my August trip to Leon, I met 31 year old Jacquelin, who sells "chicharones" (pork rinds) on the streets of Leon, seven days a week from dawn to dusk to barely sustain her three sons.

Jacquelin greeted me with the customary Nicaraguan hug but wouldn't release me. Sobbing intensely, she thanked me for the tutoring Michael is receiving at the carpentry program. Without the tutoring, she believes Michael would have quit his first year of high school.

She then told me her life story: at age 15, she had her first child, at 16 she had Michael, and at 18 she had her third son -- all from different fathers who abandoned her. Embarrassed, she told me she didn't know how to read and write.

NCFC's academic tutor, Manuel, confirmed that Michael's math skills are at a fourth grade level and he needs lots of remedial work because his public school education has been so poor. Jacquelin also credits NCFC's program with changing Michael's aggressive behavior. Finally, breaking a smile, Jacquelin told me Michael is one of the carpentry program's best rataan weaver. He earned extra money weaving the backboard of three beds.

Listening to Jacqueline and accepting her gratitude on behalf of all our donors, was one of the most powerful visits I've had during my twelve years of traveling to Nicaragua as a volunteer. Michael is one of 36 students NCFC is helping this year -- all with similar stories of family poverty and perseverance. Thanks to NCFC's generous donors, their lives are improving because of the vocational and educational opportunities we offer.

Muchas gracias,

Veronica

Veronica Sanchez

NCFC Board of Directors

- Veronica Sanchez, (President) • Jody LeWitter (Secretary)
- Raul Hernandez (Chief Financial Officer) • Lynne Blair
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“ I don't have enough words to thank you and all las personas bondadosas” (the kind people) for helping Michael, ”

— said Jacquelin, mother of Michael (15), a student at NCFC's carpentry program for high risk boys.



Michael and other carpentry students receive remedial tutoring after their daily carpentry classes. This year all of the carpentry students attend school.



NCFC's carpentry students visited a toy woodcraft shop during the students' first trip out of Leon. Also pictured: Veronica Sanchez, Professor Juan, their carpentry teacher and shop owner. They also visited an organic farm cultivated by one of NCFC's graduates, and took a boat excursion on Lake Nicaragua. Thank you Giving University, Power Plus Corporation for making this educational trip possible.

SEE BACK FOR HIGHLIGHTS OF NCFC'S OTHER PROJECTS

AT LAS ESPERANZAS PROGRAM FOR HIGH RISK GIRLS

The after school tutoring program has become a model learning center for math, computer literacy and English classes. The girls, passing their classes and advancing to higher levels of study, surpass their classmates at the nearby public high school!

☀ New Interactive Teaching Methods

Professor Lenin, NCFC's dedicated math teacher, learned new teaching methods from Dr. Carol Langbort, an expert on girls' math education and Professor Emerita, San Francisco State University. Dr. Langbort, also an NCFC Board member, visited Las Esperanzas this past March, and brought down materials for Professor Lenin to keep the girls engaged in learning math. Impressed by Professor Lenin's English fluency and computer capabilities, Dr. Langbort recommended he travel to the Bay Area to attend a summer institute for high school math teachers.

☀ New materials & equipment

Professor Lenin returned to Leon with math workbooks, and educational games donated by the math program at the Lawrence Hall of Science and a laptop projector donated by St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School.

☀ New Ways to Learn English

Fran & Madeline learn lyrics to Rachel Platten's "Fight Song" by watching a YouTube video for the end-of-school year Karaoke. This is a fun and practical way for the girls to learn English grammar and pronunciation. Thank you Sasha & Jordan, the teenage daughters of NCFC supporter, Jonathan Carey (LegalVision) for selecting the songs for this project. Las Esperanzas is now filled with sounds of Nicaraguan girls singing English tunes by Katy Perry and Bruno Mars.



Professor Lenin attended a summer math institute for math teachers organized by the Lawrence Hall of Science Center for Mathematics Excellence & Equity held in Larkspur. **"I learned group solving teaching methods, a radical concept for Nicaraguan teachers because we rely on memorization,"** said Professor Lenin.

NCFC thanks Giving University, Power Plus Corporation, whose employees visited Leon this spring for funding this valuable training opportunity.

Scholarship Program

Veronica Sanchez with electricians Jessica and Gabriela, former NCFC scholarship recipients (December 2014 graduates). Two current NCFC scholarship recipients: Jessel, industrial mechanic student, and Darwin, an auto mechanic student, are pictured in the back.



In 2015, 13 students are attending high school, vocational schools and university with NCFC scholarships. Last year's graduates are working as electricians, industrial mechanics, an auto mechanic, and an organic farmer. Two girls, with learning differences, a cosmetologist and baker started their businesses from their homes.



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