



Nicaraguan Children's Friendship Committee

September 2016

Dear Friends:

In July, I attended the commencement ceremony of NCFC's first university graduate and felt so proud when I heard her name called to receive her diploma: **"Licenciada en Enfermería Ivania Marcela Narváez" (licensed nurse).**

Ivania, one of the first girls who enrolled in NCFC's Las Esperanzas Project for high-risk girls, earned the respected professional title of "Licenciada" to her name! Prior to enrolling in Las Esperanzas, Ivania graduated from high school but lacked work skills. Her widowed mother could not afford to pay her studies.

At Las Esperanzas, Ivania learned to sew and found a vocation. Her humble sewing teacher, inspired her to study nursing. **"I wanted a career where I could show compassion towards others like Doña Fran showed me," said Ivania.** She also found a supportive environment, away from her home made out of plastic walls and dirt floors.

Ivania is searching for a job with help from NCFC's teachers. Meanwhile she continues helping at Las Esperanzas, teaching classes on contraceptive methods. She is developing interactive, after-school reproductive health workshops for local high school girls. The older Esperanzas girls plan to teach the classes in 2017 as a community service. According to the research Ivania conducted at the local public health clinic, 30% of the births are to adolescent mothers.

A retired American nurse, Sarah, generously funded Ivania's NCFC scholarship for her five years of nursing studies. Ivania said: "Doña Sarah's confidence in me kept me going during long nights of study and hospital clinicals."

We thank all our donors for helping NCFC's 40 students obtain job skills, finish their education and inspire other young people like Ivania is now doing.

Veronica Sanchez, President
Board of Directors

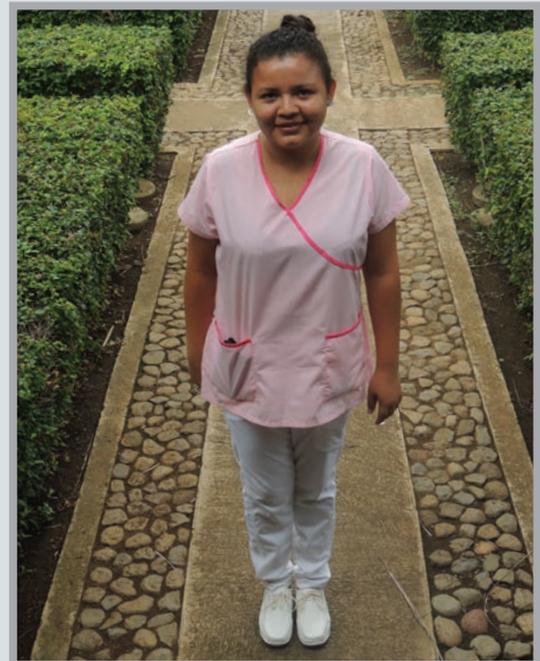
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“ I want to be an independent woman, have a better family life and not be manipulated by a man, ”

— said Ivania, NCFC scholarship recipient and new nurse!



“ I came from extreme poverty. I walked to school barefoot because my father couldn't afford to buy us shoes and he would not let my mother work. ”

— Ivania said about her childhood. With NCFC's scholarship assistance, Ivania purchased her nurse uniform. The uniform shoes cost half of her mother's monthly maid salary.

SEE BACK FOR HIGHLIGHTS OF NCFC'S OTHER PROJECTS

NCFC's Carpentry Program Opens Job Opportunities

Great Results: 88% of the 51 graduates of the carpentry program from 2010-2014 are employed or own their own businesses! Of those employed, **61% are working in jobs related to carpentry.** The remainder of the young men work in other trades, factories or own their own business.

The carpentry program's two teachers interviewed graduates and compiled this valuable data. Here are examples of two young men whose experience at the carpentry program helped them get jobs.

**Angel, Occupational Safety Officer
Heraldica Funeraria (a coffin manufacturer)**



Angel started at the coffin factory varnishing coffins, a skill he learned at the Carpentry Program. Later, he was promoted to work in health safety where he is applying training he received at the vocational school he attended with an NCFC scholarship. Angel is saving to start a yogurt-making business out of his home so he and his mother Doña Inez can generate extra income.

Jose Ramon, City of Leon Firefighter



Jose Ramon volunteered for the fire department while he was working in the carpentry program's cooperative where graduates make and sell wooden furniture. The department recruited him because he had great work skills. Jose Ramon frequently drops off scrap wood and materials he finds for the basic carpentry classes.



UPDATES



Girls at Las Esperanzas are getting younger! The enrollment age was lowered below 13 to impact the girls before they enter adolescence. **Twenty-one girls attend Las Esperanzas** after-school tutoring, computer lab, and vocational classes. On Saturdays they enjoy dance class and health classes are taught once a month. The program's psychologist helps girls and family members in individual counseling sessions.



"Amigas" with SF High School Girls - Las Esperanzas' girls are working on on-line lesson plans developed by the juniors in the AP Spanish class at Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA), San Francisco. Celeste's "amigita" prepared a research packet on "Five Wonders of Central America." She liked learning about Nicaragua's Island of Ometepe the best. NCFC's thanks ICA's Spanish teacher Judit Rivera, whose family emigrated from Nicaragua, and her students for broadening the girls' horizons with this fun educational activity. Special thanks to Power Plus Corporation's Giving University for donating the funds to purchase greatly needed laptops!



Celeste (11) and Johana (12) are among the youngest girls that enrolled in 2016.

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