



Raíces y Ramas

Roots & Branches

100,000+

Estimated number of volunteer hours since Planting Hope's inception

13,591

Kilometers traveled by Mobile Library for Peace

5,400

Meals served at Coffee Camps

3,500

Visits to La Chispa Library last year

3,321

Student visits to Mobile Library

495

Nights volunteers spent with Planting Hope homestay families in 2012

55

Jobs and scholarships created in Nicaragua



Rural schoolchildren greet Planting Hope's Mobile Library for Peace with excitement.

MOBILE LIBRARY FOR PEACE GETS WHEELS ROLLING

One of Planting Hope's most ambitious and long-hoped-for programs, Biblomotil, went into full swing earlier this year with the long-awaited delivery of our very own yellow bus. Now, school-age children in nine rural communities around Matagalpa have access to educational and early literacy material.

Through the Mobile Library program, teams of Planting Hope scholarship students and staff visit several communities each week to provide children's story time and activities, homework assistance, use of text and reference books, and the opportunity for teachers to borrow books for the week.

Vermonters Jenna Cameron, a Skidmore College graduate, collaborated with Planting Hope to write a proposal to the Davis Projects for Peace foundation. Additional

PLANTING HOPE WELCOMES NEW STAFF INTO THE FOLD

For the past 12 years Planting Hope has grown at a remarkable rate, due to the diligence, foresight and hard work of its staff, volunteers and supports in both the U.S. and Nicaragua.

To help support the programs we now have in place and to grow the organization as a whole, we have hired five key staff members. The new staff, four in Nicaragua and one at our Montpelier headquarters, have all hit the ground running and have already shown that their work ethic and key insights will be huge assets to the organization.

IN NICARAGUA:



Hazel Mariela Rivera Quintero, a bright new scholarship student, has undertaken the role of Project Assistant, working in the Full Cup Cafe, the “Chereques” reuse store and the Mobile Library while studying to get her bachelor’s degree in sociology on weekends.

Hazel lives in a small community just past San Ramon. She writes:

I began working for Planting Hope as a scholarship student four months ago. I have come to feel right at home at La Chispa working with my new colleagues in the Full Cup Cafe, the “Chereques” reuse store and the Mobile Library.

The Mobile Library is the work that I like best and where I have had the opportunity to share many things with teachers and kids at the rural schools we visit. I am so happy to engage in activities in which the kids are so interested and with these kids who have such a desire to learn more.

One of the best moments is when we look at the smiles on the lips of children that lets us know that we have the hearts of each one of them with humility, love, respect.

Working with Planting Hope has changed my life so much—it has opened doors both economically and in my professional life. Thank you.

Claudia Rizo joined Planting Hope as the La Chispa Administrator in May. After a long process of looking for the right candidate, Claudia fills the position left vacant by Maria “Sonia” Castro, who had been with Planting Hope for more than a decade. Claudia lives with her family, including her 3-year-old son, Jose Andres, in Matagalpa. She writes:

I started my work in Planting Hope in May 2011, as the new Administrator. It has been a very rewarding experience because not only have I worked in an office but I have also worked in the rural communities benefiting by the organization through your help. For me it is very important to be around humble people who are eager to succeed and improve their living standards.



Claudia

I did not know of Planting Hope previously, but in the time I’ve worked with them, I have fallen in love with the work being done in our communities, schools and the children of my city. I am very committed to supporting this wonderful project so that it may go further and grow.

I appreciate the opportunity and the trust you put in me to be part of the team of Planting Hope. Thank you very much for helping children of my city.

Oscar Moncada, a part-time psychology professor on weekends, has taken on the newly formed position of Director of Human Resources. Oscar, a Matagalpa native, received his high-school education in Miami while living with his parents there. He has a 7-year-old daughter, Maria Guadalupe. Oscar writes:

I have worked with youth and children for a long time but my most important role now is guiding, directing, advising, assisting and motivating the young men and women inside and outside the organization to fulfill their goals and objectives in life. For me, this is very rewarding.

I see Planting Hope as an organization, which despite the difficulties, moves forward and fights in every way possible to provide the necessary assistance to the communities that need education and food.

As a Nicaraguan and very personally, I thank you for that, as this motivates me to be better in all aspects of my work within this organization. Thank you for the opportunity and we are at your service.



Oscar, left, and Miguel

Miguel Angel Perez Rocha coordinates Planting Hope’s rural projects. He fills a vacancy left by Mercedes Guerrero several years ago, when she became the Director of Planting

I am continually inspired by the stories of those we serve.

—Daniel Staples, Vermont director of operations

Hope Nicaragua. Miguel lives in a newly formed neighborhood, across the valley from La Chispa in Matagalpa with his girlfriend and their son. He writes:

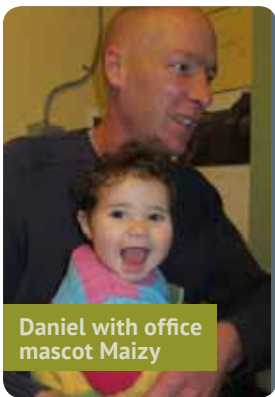
My name is Miguel Angel Perez Rocha. I am 28 years old in the town of San Ramon, Matagalpa. I'm the oldest of five siblings and am considering a technical career teaching English as a foreign language. I have accumulated quite a lot of experience in teaching, sales, and supervision, among other things. I have worked for the education system in my country and several private companies.

I currently work with school children in rural Ocalca, trying an experiment with school gardens (vegetables and fruits), I am currently managing this small project, as well as a supplemental food project in five rural preschools and also responsible for food purchases for the project coffee camps 2012–13. I've enjoyed interacting with the children and teachers through my work.

I currently live with my partner, Xiomara del Carmen Cerro, and our son who is nearly 3, Miguel Angel Rocha Cerro, nicknamed "Chino," whom I love so much.

IN VERMONT:

Daniel Staples joined Planting Hope in October as the Director of Operations, another newly formed position. He has come



Daniel with office mascot Maizy

to the organization with an infectious exuberance and energy. Daniel was raised in the Northeast Kingdom town of Newport and attended the University of Vermont. He lives in Worcester with his wife, Tracy, and their 2-year-old son, Elias. In his free time, Daniel enjoys numerous activities, including writing fiction, cooking gourmet meals and volunteering his time with community organizations. He writes:

My name is Daniel Staples and it has been a mere two months since I've joined Planting Hope as the director of operations. Prior to working for Planting Hope I spent seven years as a journalist in Vermont, working for several publications including the Northfield News, Times Argus and Rutland Herald. In my capacity as a reporter I was continually researching and reporting on local and state-wide governmental organizations, nonprofits and businesses. In fact, I first learned about Planting Hope through an interview with Beth Merrill, our executive director. I was simply awed by the work the organization had undertaken and jumped at the opportunity to serve as the Director of Operations.

Since starting at this newly-created position, I have been continually amazed at the depth and breadth of the programs Planting Hope administers both here in Vermont and in Nicaragua. What has been the most compelling aspect of this organization for me is how dynamic Planting Hope is, both in its ability to identify the needs of those in Nicaragua and to design and implement programs that address those needs.

Having delved into the 12-year history of the organization, I am inspired by the accomplishments that have been achieved by our small army of dedicated and hardworking donors, volunteers and leaders. Of all the achievements through the years, from the building of La Chispa Library to the acquisition of the Mobile Library of Peace and the multiple programs administrated through these conduits, the greatest accomplishment of Planting Hope has been the assembly of devoted individuals who are so progressive in their vision, enthusiastic for the cause and tireless in the work they do.

In keeping with the tradition of continual growth at Planting Hope, I have taken great efforts to increase our earning potential by expanding fundraising efforts and broaden our base of support. I began my work by expanding the Solidarity Craft Fair into a second venue, the Montpelier City Center, and partnering with several organizations including Montpelier Alive and the Touch of Vermont Holiday Gift Market to create the Montpelier Craft and Art Weekend. These efforts will help increase our exposure and draw even more crafters and participants.

In November, I asked a consultant to lead our board of directors in an exercise to identify several goals for the organization and develop a strategic plan to see those goals through fruition. I have taken the proposals set forth by this effort very seriously and will make every effort to make sure Planting Hope continues to move toward those goals.

I hope that the adventure I have undertaken by joining Planting Hope is as fruitful for those we serve everyday as it is fulfilling for me.

Lastly, I want to thank every one of you for giving me the opportunity to put my energy and enthusiasm into the philanthropic and humanitarian endeavors of Planting Hope.

I am continually inspired by the stories of those we serve and hope to use my time and talents to grow and sustain Planting Hope by spreading the message of the organization.

I want to thank Beth and the board of directors for placing their trust in me as I guide Planting Hope into its next adventure.

RIDERS & CHILDREN AGREE: WE HAVE THE BEST BUS DRIVER

There's no doubt Don Alvaro Arauz is a colorful fellow. For years, he's been engaging and entertaining Planting Hope visitors with his stories and cheerful demeanor while driving them safely to its projects via back roads and major highways of Nicaragua.

Not only is the 51-year-old Alvaro a dedicated service provider, he's also a family man. Married for 20 years to one of Planting Hope's most esteemed host moms, Margarita Valdivia, he is the proud father of eight children: Alvaro "Enrique," Melvin, Milagros "Mili" and Ana Belen, as well as four older sons from a previous relationship.

"My first jobs with the organization were making trips to different parts of Nicaragua (with the service learning delegations), in a rented bus," he recounts. "Then last year they offered me the full time job of driving the new bus."

Alvaro began working for Planting Hope full-time a year ago, delivering food and school supplies to the Coffee Camps. When school began in February, Alvaro hit the road with Planting Hope's Nicaraguan staff and volunteers, bringing books and desperately needed school supplies.

"As the driver of the bus which we now proudly call 'Mobile Library,' I have been working with the rural communities and helping Planting Hope's volunteers carry the responsibility of bringing education of all kinds to the children and teenagers in all the different places the mobile library visits."

Alvaro's job does not end when the bus arrives at its destination. Alvaro actively volunteers at the schools during story hours and creative writing and drawing classes, encouraging even the youngest and shyest students to express their ideas on paper. Then back in San Ramon, Alvaro makes sure the bus is clean and in excellent working order.



"My working relationship with Planting Hope is a great one, not solely based on my work as the driver, but also on the camaraderie and good treatment we show each other in this organization and the communities we serve."

"I hope to continue to strengthen Planting Hope and thus provide greater support to children. [We] also extend our praise of the brigades who come to visit and as we give them [our] best. We would like more people to come to know what we do. I hope you visit us soon and so [we can] show you the beauty of this project and the beauty of my country. We wait with open arms!"

BUS, from page 1

partners Henniker-San Ramon Sister Communities Project and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters came on board to make the project a reality.

Acquiring the bus saw its own difficulties when Jenna traveled to Nicaragua to see the bus begin its service. Instead she and Planting Hope staff were faced with bureaucratic red tape and long lines as they worked through the approval process to have Planting Hope's nonprofit status exempt the bus from Nicaraguan taxes.

Undeterred by the holdups, the BiblioMovil team began collecting books from local residents and issuing a library card system for the 800+ new rural patrons. They began hauling books to school children along the dirt roads of rural communities by any means available, including on the backs of Planting Hope staff and volunteers.

The bus has come with some lessons for Planting Hope as well as some unexpected rewards. Although the bus's arrival was eight months later than expected, it has quickly become Planting Hope's most successful microbusiness. To date, the bus has generated nearly \$9,000 by being rented out to tourist and charter groups. So that it doesn't interrupt the mobile library's schedule, another vehicle is utilized when the bus is making other trips. The income generated by the bus is enough to cover the cost of all Planting Hope scholarship students.

The bus has also been a fantastic asset for Planting Hope's reuse store, "Chereques," as the bus can be seamlessly transformed into a mobile home-goods store, stopping in the communities we serve and setting up shop for a few hours before it's off to the next destination.

The bus also serves as transportation for our many delegations and long-term volunteers. Before the arrival of the bus, Planting Hope had to rent a bus to get trip participants to service sites.

DEAR PLANTING HOPE SUPPORTERS,

For the last twelve years Planting Hope has been facilitating educational opportunities and community development in the poorest country in Central America. Through our grassroots initiatives and your support we have more than a dozen programs we operate both in Nicaragua and here in Vermont.

From the building of the La Chispa Library in 2001 to delivery of our very own Mobile Library for Peace, the rate of growth of Planting Hope is simply astounding. It seems that each year a new need is identified and a solution to fill that need is created.

Even as Planting Hope grows, the scope of our work continues to be outpaced by our ability to reach the ever-widening population of those we serve.

Each year has posed new financial challenges and Planting Hope directors and staff have nimbly come up with unique solutions, from using the funds of microbusinesses to support staff salaries and scholarships, to creating new revenue-generating events in Vermont.

This year Planting Hope has focused attention on developing programs here in the United States. These programs include the implementation of a mentoring program for high school students, who, in exchange for their work with Planting Hope, earn the opportunity to participate in a delegation to Nicaragua.

The program this year included three Vermont high-school students, Grace Baker-Whitcomb, Rhea Costantino and Amber Lokatys. The students worked closely with Planting Hope's board chair, Darryl Bloom, to create, develop and implement the first annual ReUse Fair. The girls were diligent in their work and were able to organize and host two very successful fund- and awareness-raising events in central Vermont.

Likewise in Nicaragua, we continue to work with a young but emerging staff, eager to reach out to the rest of their country. Scholarship students and staff strive to make a difference in the lives of others, just as Planting Hope reached them at a critical moment in their personal development. Now they help transform the lives of others through education, social work, nutrition, computer technology, ecotourism, rural projects and small-business development.

Planting Hope continues to broaden our base of support through grants, events and earned income, but we remember that Planting Hope began because you believed in our mission. Please give a donation in any amount you can to enable us to continue to grow both in Nicaragua and Vermont.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Staples
Director of Operations

Beth A. Merrill
Founder, Executive Director



PLANTING HOPE, INC FINANCIALS

October 2011–September 2012

REVENUES

Individual Giving	\$24,229
Grants	\$87,938
Earned Income	
Delegations & Volunteer Program Fees	\$24,814
Events & Craft Sales	\$5971
Nicaraguan micro-businesses	\$10,113
Total Revenues	\$153,065

EXPENSES

Programs and Projects	\$89,936
Administration	\$37,785
Delegations	\$11,095
Fundraising & Development	\$9,547
Capital Improvement Projects	\$3,286
Total Expenses	\$151,649

THANK YOU!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Pam Laser
Eric, Daniel & Corey Hart
Kirsten & Tom Dunn family
Hannah Wirth
Meg Miller
Brandon Poginy
Anna Van Fleet
Joka Montalvan
Abby Colihan
Sally Cargill
Janet Poeten
Peter & Janet Merrill
Cara Robecheck
Nell Sather
Lou Cherry

INTERNS

Nicaragua

Molly Thoms
Claire Puleio
Sarah Moore
Sarah Van Note
Hannah Wirth
Laila Copperansky

Vermont

Grace Baker-Whitcomb
Rhea Costantino
Amber Lokatys

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Merrill founder and executive director

Darryl Bloom president

Kris Hammer treasurer

Pam Laser secretary

Emily Sloan

KC Whiteley

Paul Angell

DONORS

Paul Angell
Marcia Bellas & Rick West
Darryl & Barney Bloom
Amy Darley
Candace & Steven Koenemann
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Abby Colihan
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Joanne Vyce
Erica Campbell
John Andrews
Lorna & Richard Guttormson
Marie Connors
Cornelia Emlen
Lucy Nichol
Peri Chickering
Frances Solin
Unitarian Church of Montpelier
Ingrid Robecheck
JM Morgan
Richard, Rose & Sarah Allen
Valerie Bluhm
Constance & Conrad Daigle
Cara Robecheck
Karen Schleske
Hilari Farrington
Renee & Doug Kievit-Kylar
Jane, Paul, Wilson & Ginger Knight
Susan Mesner

Kathleen Ross
Mark Yorra
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Jerome Bernstein
Marnie Weston Boivin
Mary Creedon
Gail Kilkelly
Judith Chalmer
Rhoda and Robert Chickering
Hal Cohen
Dorothy Conlon
Paul Costello
Sara, Ruth & Laila Copperansky
Deborah & Paul Markowitz
Daniel & Alyse Moore
Sarah Morgan
KC Whiteley
Randy & Kim Crowell
Cathy Sargent
Rebecca Sheppard
Emily Sloan
William Doelger
Shirley Melville
Marjorie Rowe
Beattie-Buckley Family
Michelle Champoux
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Daniel Wetmore
Liz Dowling-Sendor
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Chip Darmstadt
Ron, Pam & Jenna Cameron
Thomas Watkins
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Yamileth Franklin
Bradford and Kaitlyn Schroeter
Anna Van Fleet
Brandon and Alicia Poginy
Meg Miller
Tides Foundation
Caroline Ells
Foundation Source
Ruth Einstein
Harris and Eleanor Webster
Mercedes & Juana Guerrero Arista
Wyomissing Foundation
Lawrence Walbridge Re-Use Fund Program of CVSWM
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
Harwood Union High School

DELEGATIONS

Green Mountain Coffee Roaster Origin Trip: Sarah Whitehair, Blaine Paxton, Cynthia Hester, Martin Wells, Liz Dohrman, Rachel Reid, Roxanne Garcia, Mark Vanderheyden, Gregory Scott East, Colleen Bramhall, Rick Peysner.

Skidmore College: Hannah Gorfinkel, Luke Conley, Catherine Luckhardt, Skylar Beth Sasson, Jennifer Brooke Evans Paul Treadwell, Caleb Treadwell.

South Burlington High School: Cooper Brown, Taylor Shea, Christian Dubrul, John Dubie, Kristen Gokey, Amber Lokatys, Jim Shields.

Vermont Multi-High School: Linsey Brand, Nina Brand, Grace Baker-Whitcomb, Alexis Powell, Quinn Mcveigh, Rhea Costantino, Nell Sather, Asa Rubin, Colleen Purcell, Paul Angell.

Cornell University: Nancy Schaff, Rocky Kambo, Rod Howe, Charles Malone, Helene R. Dillard, Paul Lachapelle, Shawn Smith, Mary Wrege, Paul Treadwell.

CATCHING UP WITH PLANTING HOPE

Editor's note: Pam Laser joined the Planting Hope Board of Directors after a 15-month Service Sabbatical with her husband, Eric, and sons Daniel and Cory. In July, Pam and her family returned to San Ramon for 10 days when they once again connected with their beloved host family.

I took advantage of my visit to meet with the new employees since I was there: Oscar, Miguel and Claudia, all of whom are terrific! I also met with as many others as I could to learn about new programs and how things were going. So many new projects are happening, it has been hard for me to keep track since I left 2 1/2 yrs ago!

I visited La Chispa and it looks great! The new cybercafe and its computer stations, the new cafetin offering cooking classes and selling tasty products, generating traffic and income for the library, and the revised library space upstairs, all open, colorful and friendly. Such a great change from its former, dark corner. The San Ramon office is amazing as well! PH rented its space there several months after we left the first time. There is so much space to work with. It is exciting to think of the possibilities!

Given all the new programs, I created a list with a short description of all the ones I went over with Claudia.



Summer Coffee Camp begins at La Hermandad for children of the coffee harvesters. Planting Hope teachers Cristhell Martinez and Aleska Ubeda stand with the initial group of campers under a new structure which will serve as a camp shelter.

PROGRAMS & COSTS

La Chispa Library

Operating Cost \$10,691

Rural Communities Project

including the fund for rural scholarship students and preschool teachers

Operating Cost \$5,395

Supplemental Meal Program

provides extra food for students during the school year

Program Costs \$9,439

Mobile Library for Peace

delivers books to students in nine rural communities

Program Cost \$7,371

Coffee Camps

providing education and supplemental meals for the children of migrant coffee workers during the 10 weeks of coffee harvest

\$18,006

Microbusinesses

Providing opportunities for Nicaraguans to explore microbusiness opportunities.

\$1,095

Fulltime Scholarship students

\$7054

Delgations to Nicaragua

\$11,095

INTERNSHIPS MAKE AN IMPACT ON STUDENTS AND PROJECTS



Left, Sarah Moore with children in La Hermandad, on a return trip in 2012, ten years after her first trip as an intern, above.

by Beth Merrill,
founder and executive director

My story of Planting Hope begins in sixth grade. My mother counseled me to study Spanish in junior high, based on her belief that Spanish was easier than French as well as an important language to know in this country — a simple choice she could have no idea would play such an important role in my life. From there, my tale winds through an eye-opening high-school trip to Mexico, longing to get to know other youth and speak their language. And finally, we arrive as far south as Nicaragua and my college semester abroad. This was the semester when I felt like my college career came alive; the internship where I was completely overwhelmed by 40 young schoolchildren who needed me to teach them things and awed by the way that life could be so simple and rich at the same time. Back then, the seeds for Planting Hope still blew in the tropical breeze, only to become a tangible offshoot 10 years later, when we founded the organization.

In 2002, when La Chispa Library opened its doors, I was fortunate to have a high-

school intern at my side. Sarah Moore, a family friend, was then a senior in high school and, as I had been years before, looking for a meaningful way to spend her service-learning weeks.

When we had an unbelievable turnout for English classes that evening, I was grateful to have Sarah's support in attending all the patrons who were using the brand-new library.

Last year, **Sarah Moore** returned to La Chispa. After her high-school internship, Sarah went on to study international politics and Spanish. Now a high-school teacher serving Latino students in the Bronx, Sarah offered a photography workshop for children in the same neighborhood she had visited as a high-school student. "It wasn't until I returned 10 years later that I realized what an important and sustained effect the library has had on the community," she says. "Many of my former students are now managing the library/community center. Biblioteca La Chispa has been a cultural center in the community, helping support community members in various aspects of their lives. The library serves as a source of academic support, from helping patrons gain access to reference material to being

a general positive hang-out spot. It was incredible to witness the transformative power that this institution has had on the community."

This year, Planting Hope was able to offer internships for high-school students in our Montpelier office. High-school senior **Rhea Costatino** interned at Planting Hope this summer, organizing a giant tag sale and reuse fair. Through her work, Rhea earned a trip to Nicaragua this winter.

"The concept of reuse between communities that are as far away as Vermont and Nicaragua was really eye-opening to me: the idea that items that no longer seem to have a place here can be utilized somewhere else. I think it's wonderful to have such strong ties between Vermont and Nicaragua," she says. "The internship taught me a lot of useful skills in terms of community outreach and organization, and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I'm very thankful for that. Can't wait to go back to San Ramon this February!"

Grace Baker-Whitcomb participated in a service delegation in April. "I went to Nicaragua this past April and I loved it," she says. "When I came back I was excited about Planting Hope and all the things that they were doing for San Ramon and the surrounding communities. I didn't want to lose the feeling of being a part of

Interning for Planting Hope was one of the most rewarding experiences I could imagine.

—Molly Thoms, 2012 intern

something that was bigger than me and the idea that I could make a small yet important difference.”

At age 10, **Molly Thoms** visited Nicaragua on a Planting Hope Service Learning trip with her parents. She returned on four more 10-day service trips before becoming a Planting Hope Nicaragua intern last summer. Molly spent five weeks working with the mobile library project, improving her Spanish immensely and hanging out with her Nicaraguan peers.

“I’ve developed a connection to Matagalpa on five multigenerational trips with Planting Hope,” she says, “but really living there this summer allowed me to assimilate and deepen all of my relationships with people much more. I feel as at home in my host family’s house as I do in my own.”

Now a high-school senior, Molly realizes the impact her time in Nicaragua has had on her growing up.

“I plan to major or minor in Spanish and teach in a Latin American community,” she says. “I now tend to think in terms of the whole world and not just the communities I know best.”

“Interning for Planting Hope was one of the most rewarding experiences I could imagine,” Molly continues. “My trip was the perfect balance of work, cultural absorption and adventure. I loved being incorporated into the day-to-day workings of a family that is so loving, silly and interconnected. The people of Nicaragua — old and young — are welcoming, curious and extremely patient with faltering Spanish speakers such as myself.”

In addition to interns from the U.S., Planting Hope also provides work-intern scholarships for young adults in Nicaragua. Of the 40 part- and full-time employees in Nicaragua, more than 30 are under age 25. Mentoring and invest-



Above, Molly Thoms on her most recent visit to Nicaragua. Below right, the author’s first class, circa 1992.

ing in Nicaragua’s young workforce has been key in forming the strong organization we are today.

Mercedes Guerrero began with Planting Hope as the homestay coordinator for service trips in 2005 and is now the Director of Nicaraguan Operations. “My experience with the organization has been phenomenal,” she says. Mercedes talks of the transformation she has undergone from being a young teen to a mature adult with major obligations and responsibilities.

“Through Planting Hope, I have started and finished my bachelor’s degree in sociology. Planting Hope is the only organization that has given me the opportunity to work and improve my living conditions through the income I receive every month. I have learned to see life differently, to be more supportive and to realize that what matters is not the material, but the smiles you can share with children and mothers. Every day I learn and that makes me stronger and gives me tools to address the situations we live in.”

“Planting Hope provides an opportunity for all employees, interns, visitors, volunteers, children, youth and adults to share

our lives and through cultural exchange and internship programs, to connect directly with people and to be one, no matter what country we are from or how old we are. The important thing is to want to work together and unite to fight poverty. We accomplish that by investing in education.”

Planting Hope has always counted on young people to move and deliver our mission of creating educational opportunities and promoting cultural exchanges. We have many opportunities for short and longer term volunteers to fill meaningful roles in engaging projects in Nicaragua and Vermont. For more information about our internship program, please write to us at beth@plantinghope.org or see our website: plantinghope.org.

And never underestimate the significance of these experiences in your life.



TRAVEL TO NICARAGUA IN APRIL WITH PLANTING HOPE

APRIL 21–MAY 1, 2013

Service Adventure for Families, Teens and Adults

- ✦ Stay with homestay families
- ✦ Be immersed in Spanish language and Nicaraguan culture
- ✦ Stay in child-friendly village
- ✦ Visit nature reserve and coffee farm
- ✦ Work with elementary and high school students

Approximate Total Cost: \$1,600 per person
Includes airfare and all in-country expenses. Family discounts available.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY JANUARY 16

(802) 778-0344 or daniel@plantinghope.org



**THANKS TO GREEN MOUNTAIN
COFFEE ROASTERS FOR SUPPORTING
OUR PROJECTS IN NICARAGUA!**

Newsletter layout & design by Dana Dwinell-Yardley.



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