



Planting Hope

Sembrando Esperanzas

Winter
Newsletter
2006-2007

Creating opportunities for education, development and inter-cultural exchange in Nicaragua and the United States.

Year in Review: 2006 at La Chispa Library in Matagalpa, Nicaragua

By Sarah Allen, Library Director

What a busy and productive year here at the La Chispa Library! One of the biggest triumphs of the year has been the construction of the second floor. We started last December by removing the roof, lacing the 100 square meter space with steel rods and pouring concrete. In Vermont, the Planting Hope family raised \$18,000 for the project. The walls were raised and finished in the spring and we opened the doors to the new space with great pride and excitement in July.

We now have a large open space that is used as a study area and meeting place. It was greatly needed because on some days we have as many as 120 students here within a few hours. With the new space we can fully accommodate the study needs of the students in the neighborhood.

Another accomplishment is the creation of the mural which beautifully decorates the outer retention wall. We wanted to make a space that is representative of Nicaragua. We put the word out to the students of the neighborhood to submit drawings of what Nicaragua, Matagalpa or La Chispa meant to them. We were pleasantly rewarded with a great variety of truly beautiful drawings and paintings which we were able to incorporate into the mural. When the Planting Hope brigade came to Nicaragua in the Spring, they participated in painting the wall. The final product is an eye-catching combination of striking colors and images. It gives the library an exciting and vivacious energy. It catches the attention of the people walking by and causes them to pause and admire while inviting them to come inside and have a look around.

Other than improvements to the library's physical structures, we continued offering a wide variety of classes. Our traditional classes of computers and English continued with strong numbers of students. We even began an advanced English class

meant to challenge students who have been studying English since library opened its doors in 2002. Painting class became even more popular this year. And, thanks to a donation of a guitar by the PH brigade in April, we were able to start guitar classes. Exercise for women and girls also continued to be popular, attracting women ages seven and up. And, in an effort to continue promoting female athletics, the library supported the purchase of soccer uniforms for a girls' soccer team.

Sadly, this will be the last time that I will write from this position. I am preparing to move back to the US with my Nicaraguan fiancé. As I depart Nicaragua and Planting Hope, my final wish would be to convey to you how very important this organization is to the people of La Chispa. It fills very real and urgent needs. Without the library I have absolutely no doubt that many students would have already dropped out of school.

And as a testament to this, the neighborhood school in La Chispa has also been expanding. Next year will be the first year that it will serve as a complete high school.

When the library opened in 2002, it was just an elementary school. I can't help but believe that the library has contributed to the staying power of the students and thus the growth of the school.

As I leave Nicaragua, I will carry the memory of the people strongly rooted in my heart. Their drive to get ahead in the midst of great economic and social difficulties will in-

spire me when times are hard. Their lighthearted laughter and their quickness to make jokes will lighten my mood when I am sad or frustrated. And the recollection of the warm tropical Nicaraguan sun, just as strong and warm as the people themselves, will warm me on cold winter days.



La Chispa Library Caretaker, Luis Martinez Urbina shows off the library's new 2nd story.



Children spread out their games and homework in the library's new space.

Service Learning Trip to Nicaragua Participant's Return to the US

Karia Young-Eagle

The biggest challenge of traveling to San Ramon, Nicaragua was not the language barrier or the housing situation, but adjusting to life back in the United States upon return.

Returning to U-32 High School, in East Montpelier, Vermont, was the most challenging because we came back as slightly different people—more mature and experienced—yet everything was the same as when we left.

We traveled with Planting Hope, a non-profit organization based in Central Vermont and founded by Beth Merrill, a U-32 graduate. The main objective of Planting Hope's trips to Nicaragua is to support education and grassroots initiatives, including building and stocking a library in a poor neighborhood in one of Nicaragua's biggest cities.



Karia paints the mural with La Chispa neighborhood children.

Each of the 16 delegation members stayed with a host family. They provided us with everything we needed, especially Gallo Pinto, a traditional rice and bean dish. These host families put into perspective how important family is in their culture—a cultural value that many in the United States appear to have lost. Although cable television was a bigger priority than indoor plumbing, families made plenty of time to sit in their living rooms and talk to one another every day. Families were also expected to eat three meals a day together. It was enriching to participate in this daily routine because it was not only a chance to practice Spanish, but also a chance to connect with individuals and learn their cultural values and views.

Through the course of our trip we visited many different places, including three schools, a special needs center, weaving cooperative, and coffee plantation. We also gained a new appreciation for Central Vermont Medical Center by visiting a rural health center. This “health” center consisted of three rooms, one doctor, and minimal medical supplies. The facility had no water.

Women had been waiting in line for hours with their children, hoping that they would not have to delay their domestic duties again the next day.

Walking down the streets and meeting new people who live in a world thousands of miles away from the one we know seems like it could be a challenge, but the people of Nicaragua made it easy. Everyone wants to know who you are, what you're doing, and where you come from. They have genuine interest to learn more, but also to share their lives with us. We learned more about Nicaraguan culture through the time and conversations we had there than we could ever learn in a classroom.

Returning to a classroom at U-32 once we got home wasn't the real problem. The true challenge was wanting to share what we had done and all that we had seen and heard and learned. We live in a small, sheltered community in Central Vermont and there's a lot more to see in the world. The importance isn't to go “help” people in developing countries and make their lives “better.” It's more important to travel with an open mind and listen to what others have to tell you. They want to share their stories, history and culture and ask only that you share yours in return.

A CONVERSATION WITH STUDENTS FROM LA CHISPA...

The following conversation was held between library director, Sarah Allen, and students from her level one English class about life before and after the library. Participating in the conversation are Marily Orozco, Skarleth Gutierrez, Denis Garcia, Margery Rodriguez, Domingo Mejia, Yemmy Urbina y Jader Hernandez.

Sarah: Before the library was built, what did you have to do to complete your homework?

Yemmy: I would go to other libraries like the one that is in front of the Cathedral (two miles away). I had to walk there sometimes because my family didn't have money to give me for the fare.

Margery: Me too. I had to pay 4 Cordobas round trip (US\$.22). It was very difficult because I didn't have a place to study.

Marily: Sometimes I just didn't do my homework.

Domingo: Sometimes I would have a friend lend me their homework to copy.

Sarah: How has the La Chispa Library helped your in your studies?

Margery: It has helped me so much because I have a closer place to study so that I can get ahead in class.

Skarleth: Things are much better. The library has helped me a lot. Now I don't have to go downtown to be able to do my homework. Since the library has come to La Chispa everything has been better for me.

Marily: Thanks to the library I am doing well in class.

Sarah: What other classes do you participate in at the library?

Domingo: I come to English and painting class.

Yader: English, Computer and the best class: painting!

Marily: English, computer and the reading program.

Margery: Reading program, English, research.

¡Muchísimas Gracias! A Multitude of Thanks!

Beth Merrill, Executive Director

After five years of hoping that it would happen someday, Biblioteca La Chispa now has a large second story space, which doubles our previous space, and you, and other individual donors like you, made it happen. Inspired by their 2005 trip to Nicaragua, participants came back determined to fundraise, in whatever way necessary, to provide the overflowing and too crowded La Chispa Library with a large, open second floor space.

The future: In this coming year, we are hoping to expand our support of grassroots and educational organizations, like the El Chile Weavers Collective and the Los Pipitos Early Stimulation Physical Therapy Center in San Ramon. We've been helping more and more people get to know Nicaragua through our service learning trips. This year we're hosting a high school trip to Nicaragua, as well as two other trips: an education-focused trip and a natural medicine trip. We're also working with colleges to arrange alternative spring break trips.

The hope has been planted and the harvest keeps getting bigger. Students now count on the library as if it had always been there. No more excuses for undone homework. Community-based organizations come to Planting Hope looking for support in their endeavors. More and more people in the U.S. want to understand the realities of Nicaragua and to work toward solutions to these and other global challenges. Planting Hope envisions global equity, sustainable growth and mutual understanding through the exchange of social, cultural and material riches of Nicaragua and the US.

Thank you for your contribution to that vision.



Frequenters of the library, Cindy Arauz and Wendy Sanchez hold new library patron, Ezra Merrill-Triplett.

Thank you on behalf of La Chispa Students

Yaneira de la Paz,, La Chispa, Matagalpa, Nicaragua

I direct myself to all of the ladies and gentlemen from North America who have made possible the construction of the library in the La Chispa neighborhood in the city of Matagalpa, Nicaragua. I want to congratulate you in a very special way for having constructed a very important place for all of the students of the La Chispa neighborhood since we all need the library to realize our studies.

Before they built the second floor, the library was very small. We would come and would not all fit. But, even so we still came to do our homework and to study English, computer, painting, guitar or exercise class.

Now, since the second floor has been in use, there is a huge difference. There is a very large space with a very attractive design and a great view! And, thanks to God, we are no longer like we were before with such little space.

I can say with complete security that since the library has come to exist, I have been able to receive different types of studies and can always come to do my homework. Without the help of our North American friends the construction of the library would have been impossible since this is a very poor country. In our schools there are many students and very few economic resources. We cannot go to a library in the center of town because it is too far and we don't have the economic resources to pay for transportation. The library has been an excellent idea and I give thanks to God for giving this idea to our North American friends.



Yaneira (center) with friends Neredya Urbina (left) Sandal Cate, who has participated in two Planting Hope service learning trips.

Planting Hope's Connection In San Ramon

By Molly Thoms, Age 11, Montpelier, VT

I went to Nicaragua with Planting Hope in April and had the time of my life. Everyone there was very kind to my mom, dad, and me. We stayed in the village of San Ramon with the most amazing family, which included Mama Chenta, an 83 year-old woman who was like everyone's dream grandmother, Juanita, who was her 28-year old grand niece, and Eliazer, a 15-year old grand nephew. Lots of other relatives came to visit all the time. They were very kind-hearted and loving and it didn't matter that I didn't speak Spanish, though my mom could which was a big help! They made us tasty meals and I just loved the fresh juices every morning!



Molly Thoms with Host Grandma, Vicenta "Mama Chenta" Campos, In San Ramon.

... painted a mural and met people of all ages. At first the Nicaraguans were not sure about helping us to paint it. Then, by our second day of painting, there were just as many Nicaraguan kids painting as people from our group! When we were all done, we could see the mural from miles away.

We also went to a weaving cooperative outside of San Ramon up in the hills. We watched women weave. They showed amazing skill and patience. Then some of us went to play baseball, while a member of our group taught them how to make quilted pot holders using simple patterns and fabric scraps.

On one of our trips to visit a school, Walker and I taught some students how to make origami cranes. This was hard to do because neither of us spoke Spanish, but Beth the other adults helped. Walker was another girl on our trip who was close to my age.

One of my family's favorite times was when the electricity went out one night. Martita who was seven and Norvin who was about ten, who were other relatives came over. We played marbles by candlelight and had so much fun.

I learned so much while I was there. Also, I made many friends. The people were kind and had amazing talents and gifts. I learned that you may not have a lot of things, but you can still be happy. Now, back in the U.S., I try to be more open-minded and generous, just as the amazing Nicaraguans taught me. I want to go back again, more than anything else. I want to see my friends there and I want to be with my adopted family.

We took a bus almost every day and went to places outside San Ramon. We went to the La Chispa Library where we

Mercedes Guerrero Arista, Service Trip Assistant San Ramon, Nicaragua

A seed was planted in
beautiful fertile San Ramon,
you germinated it,
and in the second planting
an immense and beautiful night was born,
with galaxies and within them stars,
brilliant emblems of love and friendship,
pain and truth.

These words are to express what I feel and see.

You all have planted that
seed
which one day we will see
flower
I hope that this work that
you have done,
all the way from Vermont
is an endeavor that will
bear fruit
and produce a great harvest...



I want to thank you,
as someone from the community of San Ramon,
for all that you have done to change this unjust world,
this world in which we all live.
I want you to know that we are part of this world
and we don't feel crushed.
We want to continue to work together with you,
opening our minds and hearts, and the physical borders.
We want to live and fill our lives.
I also want to thank you for filling with happiness all those
little faces in San Ramon who don't have the words
to express the gratitude and joy that they feel.
Thank you Vermont for giving, taking and sharing.
Thank you San Ramon, for giving, taking and sharing.
A hug for everyone from Mercedes.
I hope that the links that have united us



2 Planting Hope Trips to Nicaragua

Second Annual Service Learning Trip to Nicaragua

April 15-23, 2007

Service Projects at:

La Chispa Library, Los Pipitos Physical Therapy Center,
El Chile Weavers' Cooperative & Health Post, Rural school in
Pueblo Viejo, Home-stay Families in San Ramon,
Trip to Lake Nicaragua & Ometepe

***Estimated Cost plus airfare: \$400-\$500
per person includes all in-country home-
stays, meals & transportation***

For more information, call Darryl at 229-4145



Natural Medicine and Service Trip

May 5 to May 13, 2007

• Cross-cultural herbal medicine workshops and clinics with Nicaraguan Herbalists

- * Work in herb garden
 - * sponsor an herbalist scholarship
 - * Side Trips to El Chile Weaver's Coop, school, & health Center
 - * Trip to Lago de Apoyo, Masaya Market
- Limited to 10 participants
Estimated Cost \$800-\$900 plus airfare



For more information, call Sylvia at 476-3825

13th Annual 2006

Solidarity Craft Fair



to benefit Planting Hope

DATE: Saturday, December 9th

TIME: 10:00-5:00

PLACE: Unitarian Church

130 Main Street, Montpelier

**Local and International Crafts,
Huge Silent Auction,
Homemade Soup, Chili & Baked Goods
All for a good cause!**

For more information, call 229-4145

Planting Hope is a Vermont-based 501(c) (3), non-profit organization which seeks to reap a harvest of global equity, mutual understanding and sustainable growth by exchanging the social, cultural and material riches of Vermont and Nicaragua.

Message from Planting Hope Board Chair

Darryl Bloom, Chair

In August Planting Hope held a Board Retreat, a time to affirm our personal and collective commitment to Nicaragua and the work of Planting Hope. At the retreat we discovered that we have all been to Nicaragua and that for each of us, the experiences and the warm friendships we developed with our Nicaraguan hosts and colleagues inspire our current dedication to Planting Hope. Long-term and immediate goals emerged as we brainstormed and articulated our Beliefs, Vision and Mission for Planting Hope. Our revised mission is to “serve communities in northern Nicaragua by supporting the La Chispa Library, enhancing educational opportunities and providing assistance for grassroots initiatives. By organizing service-learning trips to Nicaragua, Planting Hope promotes global understanding and fosters new friendships between Nicaraguans and Vermonters.”

We see Planting Hope as a partnership, citizens of both countries benefit from the programs, projects and activities; we want to maintain and expand our educational programs, exchanges and involvement in Nicaragua and Central Vermont; we want to support self-initiated, grass roots development projects in Northern Nicaragua; we are pleased to continue to increase our Nicaraguan staffs’ salaries, bringing them close to livable wage; and we must seek additional funding sources in order to pay our Executive Director a livable salary. This last goal is upper-most in our work as we apply for grants to supplement the generosity of our broad membership.

In August, at Planting Hope’s annual meeting, several long-time supporters of Planting Hope resigned as Board mem-



bers and as Chair of the Board. We thank all board members for their years of hardworking service, including former chair, Jane Knight, La Chispa Library building crew delegation member, K.C. Whiteley and VT fundraising and publicity specialists, Sean and Kate Costello. We greatly appreciate the work you have done to create a strong and successful Planting Hope.

In December, we also say good-bye to Library Director, Sarah Allen, who has given the La Chispa Library stability and innovation in programming, and a dedication to Nicaraguan students and youth for the past year and a half. Thank you Sarah, for your service you will be missed dearly by La Chispa and the Planting Hope Board. We are currently seeking a new library director for 2007. Beth Merrill will continue to direct Planting Hope in both Vermont and Nicaragua.

During the year, Board and Delegation and community members have worked on several successful community, fundraising events, including the Spring Yard Sale, Annual Meeting, Buffalo Mountain Coop and Salsa Dance, and the Solidarity Craft Fair. These events have been good fundraisers, but what’s more, they foster community Nicaraguan style: through working hard together. Planting Hope has also established supportive relationships with some Central Vermont businesses. The Buffalo Mountain Coop of Hardwick gives us the profits from El Chile Weavings and a Spring Plant Sale. Sean & Nora’s Restaurant in Barre, VT, donated 15% of one evening’s profits to Planting Hope.

In five short years, Planting Hope has become a strong and effective organization, known by many in the community and dearly loved by all who participate in it and benefit from it. I look forward to working with the membership as we continue to strengthen Planting Hope and fulfill our mission.

Volunteer View: Rachel Compton, ICADS Student Intern, Fall 2006

Before coming to La Chispa, I had many fears. Upon arrival my first thoughts were formed by the stereotypes held by many people of Matagalpa about this neighborhood, La Chispa: gang involvement, uneducated youth, drugs, unemployment, violence, and danger. As the taxi struggled to climb the hill, I felt nervous. I had no idea that what I would find in La Chispa and what I would learn would not derive from a specific project or a certain group of people with whom I worked, but rather from my everyday experience.

Hoping to come give all that I could and create huge successful projects, I was forced to be flexible with my dreams. I had to adapt to the limitations of time and to the needs of the community. In the past two months I have taught two English classes, planned a fair to raise environmental awareness and promote proper disposal of trash, and helped kids with their homework.

While these experiences have been moving and I have grown through them, I have grown the most through the things I have seen and my daily experiences; from the interactions with my students and with people in the street, the conversa-

tions with my family and with kids in the neighborhood. From watching, listening, and absorbing, I have found myself closely aware of many complicated social and cultural issues. What I have learned is that these issues are not unique to La Chispa, nor are they problems that are created by individuals. They are the results of larger, structural problems, that exist throughout the world. When children do not have enough money to buy their school uniforms or pay their fees, when they need to quit school in order to work, when there is an overflow of young men without jobs, and high numbers of young, single mothers problems arise. From the disparity that exists between the poor and the rich, and the lack of access to education and work, grow many problems.

As my understanding of life in Nicaragua unfolded, I learned that organizations like Planting Hope are essential. To me, the brightly colored mural and the library itself represent the ongoing efforts to overcome obstacles. The library helps individuals of the community stay strong, survive and flourish. Here in La Chispa, I have learned to open my mind and heart, and to work to make positive change. I leave with sadness, but also with new energy to spread what I have learned, and to encourage the people in my life and country to consider the world from a new perspective.

Tax-Deductible Donations from Individuals Sustain and Grow Our Projects: We need your continued support!

Names

E-Mail Address

Mailing Address

Please send donations to:

**Planting Hope, Inc.
P.O. Box 56
Montpelier, VT 05601**

www.plantinghope.org

**E-Mail:
planting_hope@yahoo.com**

(802) 229-4145

Alternative Gift Giving: Donate a book or scholarship in someone's name as a gift. We'll send a card of recognition to the address that you designate.

_____ Please donate a book (minimum \$15 donation)

_____ Please donate a scholarship (minimum \$25/month)

As a gift for _____
(Name and Address of Recipient)

From: _____
(Name of Giver)

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Dawson & Maggie Fearnow, Cohen Family, Bill & Betsy Fearnow, Dee Miller, Dick Miller & Karalyn Morgan, Ami Magisos by Jeff & Sarah Fearnow

Thanks to so many donors in 2006 who made hope possible

The many names on this list are a true sign that Planting Hope is made possible by people like you.

Thank you all!

Anonymous, Linda & Gary Adams, Kate Kim & Omer Algar, Richard, Rose & Sarah Allen, David, Jody & Aneleisa Gladding-Hinton, Carlene Bagnall, Hedi Ballantyne, Sue & Robert Barasch, Brenda Bean, Bear Pond Books, Kenneth Becker, Marcia Bellas & Rick West, Marilyn Blackwell, Sarah & Anita Blakely, Snra. Maria Blakely, Darryl & Barney Bloom, Valerie Bluhm, Margaret & Richard Brigham Anne Brin & Mark Billian, Scottie & Robert Brower, Didi Brush, Beattie-Buckley Family, Buffalo Mountain Coop, Judy Carpenter & Karl Stein, Pat Carstensen, David Cate, Central VT WILPF, Rhoda and Robert Chickering, Mike Clark, Hal Cohen & Shelley Barsanti Cohen, Teri & Brandon Collings, Dorothy Conlon, Deborah & Bill Connors, Dorothy Costello, Paul Costello, Randy & Kim Crowell, Constance & Conrad Daigle, Lucy Davignon, Carol Dawes, Belinda & Tom Deal, Anne DeVaughn, Cara Robechek & Donald DeVoil, Jean & Charlie Dickinson, Karen Schleske & Joe Dickinson, Gail Falk, Amy Farr, Dorothy Ferguson, Kirk Fernald, John & Helen Fisher, Tim & Amelia Fritz-Robinson, Zak Fugazy, Olivia Gay, Charlotte & Ernest Gibson, Kristen Glaser, Nicole & Graylin Gogolak, Joanne Greenberg, Darlene & Dave Grundy, Carlos Haase, Nancy Chickering & Kris Hammer, Robert Heald, Sara Henderson, Wayne & Elissa Henderson, John Holden, Ethan Hubbard, Averill Huff, Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS), Ellen Kahler, William Kaplan & Catherin Buni, Chelsea & Michael Katzenberg & Linda Prescott, Jane Knight, Candace and Steven Koenemann, Nancy & Eugene Kornmeier, Ryan Lamberg, Lynne & Stanford Lamberg, Georgia Landau, Helene, Mike & Mia Laurenti, Starr Lecompte, Andrea Lee, Linda Leehman, Bridget Houston & Linda Leonard, Michelle Lesnak, Francine Levine & Kevin Wilkinson, Adam & Stephanie Lindquist Scoville, Sara Lisniansky, Judith & George Logan, PJ Long & Michael Sampson, Jean Lowell, Allan Mackey, Margaret Allen Malley, Carol Maloney, Lawrence Mandell & Marcie Andres, William & Mary Markle, Barbara & Robert McKay, Marie & Jim McWilliam, Machado Mead, John Mele, Mary Mello, Kim Merrill, Janet & Peter uelle Monteith, Gary Moore, Kathleen Moore & Paul Treadwell, Eric Remick & Rotary Club, Susan and John Mulcahy, Nichol, Teresa & Jack Novick, Old Meeting Katherine & John Paterson, Victoria & Margot Childs Prendergast, Sara Rappaport, David & Joyce Richards, Marcia & Steven Stephany Romano, Margaret & Anthony Ryan, Kenneth & Barbara Kohn-Saxe, Ed Sean & Nora's Restaurant, Jennifer & Larry Sellers, Rebecca Sheppard & John Bloch, Rebecca Singer, Scott Skinner, Phyllis & Es-cott Smith, John & Liz Snell, Frances , Solin & Joe Famiglietti, Gretchen Stahl, Jane & Dick Staudt, Albert Stone, Caroline Strauss, The Sturgis Family, Lisa Szucs, Christine Terry, Alexandra Thayer, Carol Thompson, Peter Thoms & Abby Colihan, Vivian Tozzi, Emily Ufford & Nery Trigueros, Social Responsibility Committee, Unitarian Universalist Church, Helen Jean Reindel & VT Community Foundation , Joanne Vyce & Allen Castellanno, Renee & David Wahler, Charles Wanzer & Lydia Faesy, Tanya Waters & Jason Winston, Harris & Eleanor Webster, Betsy Weiner, Thomas & Joan Wetmore, Jo Romano & Dan Wetmore, Karene, Craig & Lindsay White, K.C. Whiteley & Emma Rowe, Deb Wolf & Maya Wolf Pollina, Mark Yorra & Catherine Gates, Shari Young,



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IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO HOST A NICARAGUAN DINNER! Thanks to the Buffalo Mountain Coop in Hardwick, VT (Planting Hope's Sister Coop) for hosting this event and to all its donors: Bonnieview Farm, Misty Knoll Chicken, Hunger Mountain Coop, Grand Union, Hardwick, Hall's Market, Hardwick, Price Chopper, Morrisville, Sweetgrass Farm, Riverside Farm, Green Mountain Gringo Salsa, Buffalo Mountain Food Coop, Mark Lichtenstein and Cynthia West, Amy Holloway, Elaine Lane, Kathy & Steve Light, Judy & Bruce Kaufman, Kristen & Neil Yuri, Jeff LeCours, Rusty Ferland & David LeBlanc, Patti Foster & the Kitchen Crew, Sarah Morgan, Helen Beattie, Jim Worcester, Myrna O'Neill, Keith and Diana Morgan, Jodi Lew-Smith, Judy Carpenter, Karl Stein, Elaine Lane, Hazen Union High School, Hazen Key Club, Hazen Union Janitorial Staff, People's Academy Spanish Class & Jen Bickart, Jairo and Gabriel Sequeira, Tomas Kalmar, Terry Bouricius & Cate Lamb, Bobbie & Tim Nisbet & the 250 + people who attended and donated a total of nearly \$1700 to benefit Planting Hope! ¡Muchas Gracias Buffalo Mountain Coop!

**Delegation Members &
Volunteers
in Nicaragua:**

Marcia Bellas &
Rick West
Sandal Cate
Rob Chickering
Alison Gauthier
Tim & Walker Hartt
Chrissy Lefavour
Sarah Mele
Laura Sturgis
Abby Colihan &
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Rick West
Dan Wetmore



In Memory of Jose Antonio



This Newsletter is dedicated to Jose Antonio, who was Planting Hope's youngest scholarship recipient. Planting Hope helped pay the transportation costs for Jose and his mother Maria Cristina to travel from their rural home to the Los Pipitos Physical Therapy Center in San Ramon. Jose Antonio passed away in August, due to complications from Down's Syndrome. He is remembered fondly and dearly missed.



Planting Hope, Inc.
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