

June 5, 2016

Dear

Greetings from Planting Hope in Vermont and Nicaragua!

As you may know, I recently went on one of Planting Hope's Service Learning Adventure trips to Nicaragua. We lived with Nicaraguan families and hiked through the heat each day to get to a remote elementary school. At the schools, we played games with rural Nicaraguan kids who were very excited to have us there. We learned firsthand about a sometimes very different and sometimes very similar culture and people, making new friends along the way and realizing that the world is a little smaller than we thought. Check out the photo collage in this letter!

Here's something I want to tell you about my trip:

Planting Hope does amazing work, providing hands-on and dynamic educational opportunities for kids in many rural and urban elementary schools in and around Matagalapa, Nicaragua. I am excited that I could share my own rich educational experience with the kids and staff there. Even when groups from Vermont aren't in Nicaragua, the staff does a great job of keeping kids interested in learning. This is especially tricky when there are so many kids in each classroom and so few resources. Most schools don't have any picture books for kids to read. Planting Hope brings resources like books and games and teachers who want to make their learning experience fun!

Because they feel that it's important for these cultural exchanges to go both ways, this fall, Planting Hope is hoping to bring a group of Nicaraguans to share their culture with students in Vermont, making visits to our elementary, middle and high schools and universities. Staff will promote Planting Hope's work and also share traditional dances and skits, teach workshops, prepare traditional meals, practice their English and have their turn to see another place. We would like to welcome them, as they welcomed us when we were there. They don't have the resources to pay for their trip, so Planting Hope and I are raising funds to make this and all of their programs, possible.

If you could help out with any donation, that would be fantastic! Here's how:

Send a check to Planting Hope in the enclosed envelope. Feel free to indicate that you would like your donation to go to Planting Hope's **work in Nicaragua**, the Nicaraguans' **trip to the US** or the **general fund**.

Visit the website www.plantinghope.org where you can donate online

I really hope you will help out with whatever you can by the end of June. Your donation is tax-deductible and if you provide your address, Planting Hope will send you a receipt.

Thank you for considering this,

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