

NEWS FROM LA ESCUELITA - SEPTEMBER 2017

WHAT'S GOING ON AT LA ESCUELITA? How Medical Care Affects Education

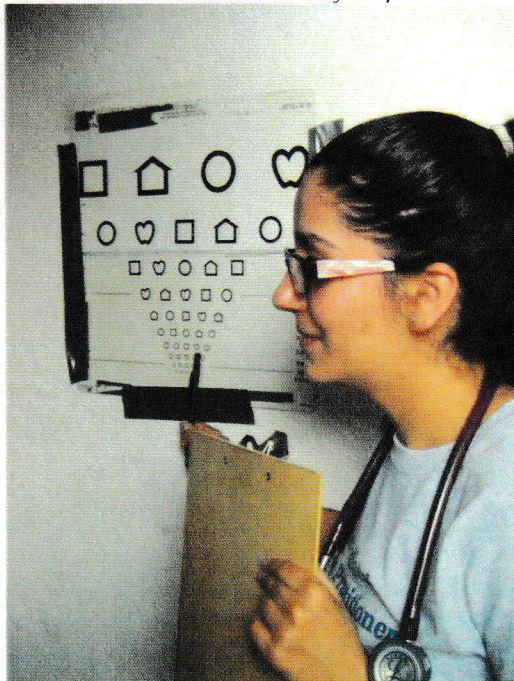
Things have been a little slow at La Escuelita this Summer. Illness has kept many of the children out of class, sometimes for extended periods of several weeks. It started with an epidemic of measles. This should not be happening because the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health has an excellent annual program of free vaccinations. However, parents need to bring their children to make sure that their vaccinations are up-to-date. Even though La Escuelita urges parents to make sure their children get vaccinated, some parents don't comply. Some children lost several weeks of school because of measles.



Dr. Redcay Examines a Child During the 2017 Medical Trip

Just as the number of measles patients was going down, another problem developed – conjunctivitis! Several children were kept home from school either because they were suffering from Pink Eye, or their parents were afraid that they would be contaminated by other children in the school. The teachers sent affected children home, but it still took a couple of weeks of the teachers' redoubling their efforts to teach proper hand-washing to bring it under control.

Vision exams are very important



The poverty of the area around La Escuelita adds to both of these problems. Some of the parents lack education about the need for vaccinations, and once in a while poorly trained health workers slip up on administering them properly. Also, because many of the families cook with wood fires, the smoke is a constant irritant to the eyes, making them easily subject to conjunctivitis.

Finally, the word has spread about the school that accepts all children with a warm meal each day, and no costs. Some parents from the area known as “La Chureca” have started bringing their children. La Chureca is the city garbage dump. Even though there are efforts to clean up and dispose of garbage in a more sanitary way, children in this area are still constantly exposed to dust, decay and smoke. Unfortunately, some of those children bring these health problems into the school.

We are very thankful to Evangelical Community Hospital of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for their donations that have provided medicine for these children.

“DÍAS DE LA PATRIA” ARE COMING

Nicaragua celebrates three different “Independence Days.” The overthrow of the corrupt and brutal Somoza dictatorship in 1979 is celebrated on July 19, but the other two are celebrated together on September 14 and 15. Gifts from generous people like YOU make it possible for the children of La Escuelita to celebrate these days in the same way that other children do.

September 14 is “San Jacinto Day.” In the 1850's Nicaragua was invaded by a group of mercenaries from the United States under the leadership of William Walker. The battle of San Jacinto, on September 14, 1856 was a turning point in the war that drove these mercenaries out of Nicaragua.

Going back even further is the celebration of Independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. The various colonies that now comprise Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica all declared their independence on the same day.

Each year, every school in Nicaragua participates in local or city-wide parades and special events to mark the September 14-15 “Días De La Patria” (The Days of the Fatherland). La Escuelita helps these children to celebrate like other children from wealthier neighborhoods so that even the poorest child can celebrate that he or she is a proud Nicaraguan.

MINIMUM REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION

Do you have a 401.k, a 403.b.9, or any other deferred income plan for retirement? Are you now over 70 years old, so that you are required to take a minimum distribution of the income from that plan whether you need it to live on or not? Have you sometimes received that minimum distribution and given a large share of it to charity? IF SO, INCOME TAX WAS DEDUCTED FROM THOSE FUNDS BEFORE YOU RECEIVED THEM!

The IRS makes it possible to have the minimum distribution given directly to a non-profit group without paying income tax on it. Check it out with your tax preparer. You may be able to increase the amount of your gifts by sending it directly to the group of your choice without having the taxes withheld, (Thank you for making La Escuelita your choice.)

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