

NEWS FROM LA ESCUELITA - SEPTEMBER 2019

The Building Is Finished And Ready BUT What's Next?



So many of YOU contributed so generously to the construction of the second floor of the school. The work proceeded slowly, sometimes hindered

by unexpected construction problems, and sometimes stopped by the massive civil unrest that struck Nicaragua last year as the second floor was nearing completion. The delays and the damage to the Nicaraguan economy and infrastructure caused by the civil unrest added to the cost of construction.

But in all that, with YOUR help, the school has persisted and the second floor was completed.

However, new and unforeseen problems have developed!

The original plan was to increase by one grade level each year, until the school could extend to the Third Grade. Elementary educators know that children who reach the third grade reading level are much more likely to continue reading and learning than those who don't reach that level. However, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education is insisting that the school must go through Sixth grade, and be able to offer all six grade levels right away in order to open as anything other than a pre-school. This would necessitate hiring several more teachers. The Ministry of Education won't allow incremental steps; the school needs to open all six levels at once, or nothing at all!

Additionally, all of these teachers must receive the government minimal salary and benefits, which is more than the teachers who founded the school for the love of their community are now receiving.

We are still working out the financial details, but we know that we will need to more than triple our fundraising income in order to complete this expansion. As a group of three people in our 70's (Bev, Doug & Penn), we are not quite sure how to proceed. This will require a larger group of people raising funds, and long-term commitments for giving.

If you have ideas that can help, please contact us: dougorbaker@yahoo.com or penngarvin@gmail.com. Thank you!

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DENGUE EPIDEMIC

This year the problem of Dengue Fever has been worse than usual, with many children sick, and many parents afraid to let their children outside for fear of getting bitten by an infected mosquito.

Dengue comes in two varieties: The Common Dengue, weeks of high fever and joint pain; and Hemorrhagic Dengue, which can cause death.



The teachers have been working very hard to prevent the spread of Dengue in the area. They have invited the Ministry of Health to the school to spray, and have purchased bug repellent for themselves and the children.

We are thankful that none of the children of La Escuelita were infected by the serious Hemorrhagic Dengue. We hope that the rainy season will end in about a month and the children will be able to finish out the school year.

Look For Us Online

www.littleschoolnicaragua.com

Facebook - LaEscuelitaNicaragua

YouTube - La Escuelita Nicaragua

DREAMS TO REALITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND STUDENTS GRADUATING

Many of you have given generously over several years to the scholarship fund for some students seeking higher education. We are thrilled to tell you about two graduations:



**Rosa Angelica
Riveras Lopez**

With help from her church, and from many of you, Rosa has finished Law School, to become one of Nicaragua's newest lawyers.

**Gerald Enrique
Hernandez**

Gerald recently completed Nursing School. There are not many male nurses in Nicaragua, but with help from people like you, Gerald has been able to complete his studies.



**Donations Can Be Sent To
CEPAD-USA**

**c/o Beverly Kirkman
5605 Groomsbridge Court
Raleigh, NC 27612**

**Please earmark for "School" or
"Scholarship Fund"**