

# NEWS FROM LA ESCUELITA – SEPTEMBER 2015

## EXPANDING THE DREAM

Many of you have supported La Escuelita for a while. The teachers always speak with such appreciation about those from outside Nicaragua who care about these children (that means YOU).



These teachers grew up in this poor neighborhood and know and appreciate the strengths of those in the neighborhood. They grew up in families that were not literate. The teachers had the dream of a school that was community-based – a school that was OF, BY and FOR the community-- and addressed the special needs of poor children from non-literate homes.

Since the beginning the teachers have struggled in spite of no or low pay, lack of a building, lack of any funds. Over the years the school has expanded to include a lunch program, a library, and annual health check-ups and dental visits.

When the school was started, the teachers were dedicated community people with only some years in high school.

Now both Alicia and Leonor are ready to graduate from college as fully licensed and certified teachers. We had expected that when they graduated they would begin to look for jobs in other schools that could pay a reasonable salary and provide some job security. But this is not the case! Instead, their dream has gotten bigger!

They are now working to make their school the BEST school in the community. They are dedicated to providing a good education for these children so that they have a fighting chance for a better life.

As the dream expands, so do the opportunities and the challenges. Will there be a need to enlarge the school to a second level? Will it mean hiring more teachers? Will the requirements of the Ministry of Education stay as they are or become more stringent?



In all of these questions, the dream remains. It is the dream of the children at the right of the mural, watching longingly as other children get the chance to go to school, to learn, and to reach for the stars – the dream that even the poorest of children might get an education. The dream is always expanding.

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## SCHOOL FUNDS STOLEN

Each month Alicia Narvaez, the Director of La Escuelita, withdraws from the Projects Fund (which would not exist without YOU!) the cash needed to operate the school. In August, when she took a taxi back to the school, Alicia was robbed by the taxi driver and an accomplice. This is the first time in 19 years of the school that anything like this has happened. Even though a pistol was involved and threats were made, we are most joyful to report that Alicia was not injured in any way, although she was terribly shaken by the robbery.

As the disparity between wealth and poverty in Nicaragua (and elsewhere) increases, events like this are becoming more frequent. We are working on preventive measures to keep Alicia-- and all the teachers and those who work with the school-- safe.



## SPONSORS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN



The average cost of keeping a child at La Escuelita is about \$200 per year. This includes school materials, a hot meal every day (even during vacation break), annual medical and dental check-ups and follow-up.

All the children at the school come from low-income families. Each year the teachers identify those who come from especially needy families who could really use a sponsor.

### YOU COULD BE THE SPONSOR OF ONE OR MORE OF THESE CHILDREN.

The Sponsor receives the name, photo and information about the child. Sometimes sponsors even send a special gift for their child, like the little girl in the photo below who received some new clothing from her Sponsor.



**If you would consider being a sponsor, contact Penn Garvin at [penngarvin@hotmail.com](mailto:penngarvin@hotmail.com)**

**Donation can be made to  
CEPAD-USA  
c/o Beverly Kirkman  
5605 Groomsbridge Ct.  
Raleigh, NC 27612**