



CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND FAMILIES

by Charlene Meyer

As I pondered about what to share with you, my mind kept flashing back to my Mother. I knew she had medical issues, but I suppose we were in denial of just how much time she had left. It was just a few weeks ago that we all enjoyed a barbeque dinner at a restaurant and she savored each bite. We chatted about aunt Ruth, her sister who recently passed away. She was in such good spirits.

With the preparation of each trip to Nicaragua I worried about whether we should leave town. Mother would proudly talk about us helping children in this faraway country, but she always dreaded us being so far away. Our July trip was quickly approaching. Folks who were traveling with us had their passports and were anxiously awaiting their trip.

Three days before our scheduled departure we were sitting in the funeral home. I don't remember any of the words spoken by the pastor. There were many friends and family members in attendance, but I can't remember their words of comfort. I only remember seeing my Mother playing some of her favorite old hymns on the piano as she did years ago when we had family gatherings. I could hear her softly join-



ing my sister, brother, and sister-in-law as they sang her favorite hymns. It all seemed to be a bad dream.

HELPING FAMILIES

On the way home from the cemetery Al and I had to decide whether to cancel our trip or continue with our plans. I could feel my Mother encouraging us to go. After all, what could we do here? She no longer needed the down-home cooked meal. We were more needed in Nicaragua and to share time with first-time travelers. With a heavy heart, we boarded the plane.

Struggling with the pain of loss, I wondered how I could possibly see and do what we normally do while on our trips. I would soon learn that the memories of my mother and grandmother would have a great impact on this trip. As we traveled throughout the countryside I witnessed mothers and grandmothers bring-

ing their children close, just as my mother had done. I saw mothers and grandmothers cooking their home-cooked meals, just as I remember in my childhood. I shed tears with a mother as she was told her child was very ill, just as I remember my grandmother's sorrow at the loss of her grandson, and myself in the very recent loss of Mother.

As I think about Nicaraguan families we have met over the years, I ask myself what is the goal of The Tin Roof Foundation in regard to families? Our goal for the youth in Nicaragua is giving them the opportunity for a better education, giving them skills to grow into self-sufficiency. I believe our goal is moving families to the next level. A life not lived in the depths of extreme poverty...where families are faced with sorrow and despair each day.

In this issue you will read about some of those Nicaraguan families. Together we can help even more families move to the next level.

NICA NOCHE 2014: THE UNEVENT PROVIDES MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY

by Charlene Meyer

Once again, you can help us. Though we won't be having a Nica Noche get-together in 2014, last year's event is still fresh in our hearts and minds. We've continued our focus on "taking families to the next level," as we saw in our powerful skit at Nica Noche 2013. Our programs that help accomplish this include:

- More children are attending school thanks to scholarships—primary through university.
- Families are implementing school garden concepts at home, leading to improved nutrition and additional income from the sale of produce helping the family economy.

- Families who are affected by special-needs now have a completely renovated facility and updated equipment to make their all-natural yogurt in a clean, safe environment. This facility makes jobs available to those with special-needs, in addition to helping severely malnourished children return to good health.



- We continue to provide healthcare for hundreds of families in remote areas.
- We continue to fund all types of therapy to special-needs children.

Year and year again, our matching donors and sponsors step up in their support of Tin Roof programs that help us take families and kids to the next level. Working with our partners on the ground in Nicaragua, we know we can continue making a difference.

This year, our matching donors have challenged us to raise \$60,000. With your help, we are confident that we can reach our matching goal! **Together We Can Take Families to the Next Level.** Please send



your donation today marked "matching gift" to support these very important efforts.

On behalf of each family climbing to the next level, Thank You!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THOUSANDS: VISITING OLD AND YOUNG

by Romona Baker

Below are excerpts from Romona Baker's journal that she kept while on a trip to Nicaragua. Her descriptions of two families we visited are examples of one day in the life of thousands of families. The good news is, with your help, we can make life for these and others living in extreme poverty so much better...moving them to the next level.

I bent to enter the four-foot door into a smoke-filled house letting my eyes adjust to the darkness. A woman sat on a tall wooden bench, which turned out to be where two grandchildren sleep on the worn boards. There were others in the house standing and sitting on another "bench," her daughters and several other children. But the woman draws my attention and my love. Bent and elderly she welcomed us, amazingly undisturbed to have half a dozen, giant, white-skinned strangers loaded down with packs and cameras come through her door.

I moved to greet her with more than the usual handshake but the warmth of a hug and touching cheek-to-cheek with a gentle kiss. She had a rag tied around her head like a bandana, with one corner hanging over one eye. Someone asks about her eye. It had been sore and matted for several days but she had not seen the doctor yet. She rose to blow the fire from its smoky smolder to a flame as I filmed the big black pot of water with little un-ripe bananas floating in it. That meant there was no rice or beans in the house for the family to eat that day.

As we walked away we meet her husband, a discouraged, older man with a machete who was returning from working in his small field of coffee. He did not have the money for the supplies needed to return his plants to healthy production. It turns out this elderly couple is my age and I identify even more with their plight as I turn my back determined not to for-

get them. Perhaps I can help others see them through my description and encourage another friend to give a little money that will permit them to get food for their children, medicine for her eye, and the few dollars it takes to make his coffee productive, for them and the hundreds of similar homes I did not see or come to love.

Perhaps that day it was the smoke that made me wipe my

eyes as I left, but today it is the memory of her graciousness, a grace she willingly shared with others. She was so willing to tolerate our invasion of her hovel on a day when, like other days, she was sick and her grandchildren were hungry.

A PHOTO WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Will God use my photos to touch others? Sometimes people are offended. I occasionally receive objections that we should not show pictures of the skinny dogs, as though it is okay to show skinny children but not "cruelty to animals."

I understand their reaction more thoroughly than I care to disclose to you from a defining moment the last day of my trip.

We looked through a window into a tiny room. A young teenage girl was almost hidden there. A few years ago she had attended school and carried water like others, then she began to lose weight and have mental problems, perhaps "hurt by the evil spirits" that explain such things. The mental institution said there are so many so much worse, so she stays hidden and hiding in that little room, reduced to skin and bones, unable to provide her most basic care or receive much from her family. I was reluctant to look again.

I did not want to stare; yet she obviously was beyond caring about my looking, perhaps used to those who came to stare.

My translator talked with her a short time. She was hungry and thirsty and we gave her a little package of cookies. I did snap a picture, but just wanted to leave this place. I've been taught to keep my water bottle, because we North Americans cannot drink just anything, nor did the Nicaraguans with me offer to get her a drink. In fact, we were told that her family limits her intake "to keep her from pooping."



BUILDING ON THE STRENGTH OF FAMILY

by Peter Schaller
Executive Director, Rayo de Sol

It's easy to focus projects and programs on children because nobody likes to see children suffer. Many nonprofits deposit all of their energy and resources into improving conditions for children, which is very valid and necessary. But, in order for the process of transformation to be more impactful, we believe that it is necessary to go beyond children and build on the strength of family.

For this reason, we design program interventions that involve all members of the family and provide the tools for building stronger families, which contribute to more resilient communities, a formula that will eventually change the world.

A perfect example of this is the Rostrán family, from the city of Matagalpa. Oscar and Carmen are both 36 years old and have five children: Johanna, age 16; Johnny, 14; Brian, 11; Erwin, 10; and Michael 6. The family was living in a very remote, rural community outside of Matagalpa, but they realized that their children would have very few educational and economic opportunities if they stayed there.



Working together, the family has made great progress towards achieving their goals. They participate actively in our programs, which provide them with the skills and knowledge they will need to continue to build productive lives, strong families and healthy communities.

MEET ERWIN, BRIAN AND JOHNNY

Erwin, Brian and Johnny are attending the public primary school in the community. Johnny is in sixth grade while Brian and Erwin are both in

SKILLS EQUAL CHOICES

So, with a great leap of faith, they moved to the Nuevo Amanecer neighborhood, on the outskirts of the city. Oscar had been buying and selling vegetables in Matagalpa for some time, so he had some knowledge of the city. Carmen and the children were anxious to experience a new environment, where they could grow and learn.

MEET MICHAEL

Michael is the youngest of the Rostrán family and is currently in preschool. One of the greatest benefits for Michael is that his preschool teacher is currently being trained in our Montessori program, in order to improve the quality of early education. His classroom is now equipped with educational toys and learning materials. He also receives a nutritious lunch every day through our school nutrition program. Michael and his classmates also have art classes, preventative health activities and school gardening built into their school day. With high quality early education Michael will have the skills and abilities that will allow him to succeed in primary school.



fourth grade. There are many program activities at their school in which they can participate in order to enrich their educational experience. The three boys participate in sports activities (soccer and volleyball), reading clubs, environmental education, school gardening and art classes. They also receive a nutritious lunch at school every day so they have enough energy for their studies and extracurricular activities. Their teachers also participate in regular training activities in order to improve their classroom performance and create a better learning environment for their students. With better quality primary education Erwin, Brian and Johnny are more likely to go on to high school and succeed in their studies.

MEET JOHANNA

Johanna is the first in her family to attend high school. She is currently in her second year of high school and was selected this year to participate in our high school scholarship program. She is very committed to her studies and dreams of being an agronomist one day, as she loves plants.

Johanna receives school supplies, shoes, and a school uniform as part of the scholarship program. She also receives a small monthly stipend to cover her daily expenses at school. As part of the scholarship program Johanna also participates in sports activities, school gardening, environmental education, violence prevention training and other workshops. She has also worked in the school library, helping younger children, which she really enjoys.



MEET MOM CARMEN

Carmen is one of the most faithful volunteers at the primary school. She often helps to prepare lunch at school for the students, and has also put many hours of work into the school garden. Carmen only made it to the fifth grade, due to her family's situation when she was growing up, but she wants all of her children to have the opportunity to get a high quality education.

Carmen is also active in the parent's committee, which meets regularly to plan ways to continue improving the school. The parents also participate in workshops to learn about nutrition, communica-



tion, preventative health and violence prevention. Carmen is proud to have all five of her children in school and is willing to work hard to support them.

MEET DAD OSCAR

Oscar never had the opportunity to go to school when he was growing up. He and his 12 siblings helped with the work in the fields, where their family grew subsistence crops of beans and corn. When he started his own family he was determined to ensure that his children would be able to get a decent education.

Oscar goes to the market in Matagalpa each day to buy fruits and vegetables. He has a small wooden cart that he pushes through the streets, selling the produce throughout the day. He is also an active participant at his children's school. He has worked on several improvement projects at the school and also participates in the workshops for parents. Oscar is proud that his children are growing and learning in a supportive environment and is committed to helping them to succeed.

A COMMITTED FAMILY

Together, the Rostrán family is building their own future. We facilitate that process by offering programs designed to improve health, nutrition and education. However, the programs themselves do not change lives unless families are committed to creating change in their own lives. We provide the vehicle, but they are the fuel that powers the process of transformation. We are confident that the Rostrán family will continue to work to strengthen their family, improve their family and change their country.



THANK YOU TIN ROOF FROM TIAS ESPECIALES — YOGURT CON AMOR

by Cynthia Martinez, Coordinator
Yogurt Tias Especiales Matagalpa

Our Tias Especiales — Yogurt Con Amor's (Yogurt With Love) Inauguration Day started with the national anthem. After that Sister Rebecca shared the gospel with the audience.

The welcome words were by Cynthia Martinez, the coordinator of the yogurt program. The engineer in charge of the production area, Francis Saenz, shared with the audience about how important are the products of Tias Especiales (all-natural yogurt, granola, and cheeses).

We had a wonderful time sharing our happiness with all the people who came to the ceremony. Claudia Meza gave a special thanks to Techo de Zinc (Tin Roof Foundation) for giving us this opportunity of a new beginning.

We shared a beautiful time in this ceremony. We did it as the



family we are, helping each other.

We really appreciate what you've done for us. We don't have enough words to tell you how grateful we are.

The Tin Roof Foundation provided funds for the total renovation of the yogurt facility.

MEMORIAL GIFTS... HONOR GIFTS

DONATED BY:

Virginia Dieselberg
Marilyn Dittrich

Earl & Dianne Edmonds
Dennis & Magdie Faul
Brenda Haskamp
Marvin & June Jacobs
Kathy & Jeff Kent
Alice Laub
Susan Leonard
Joseph Lohmueller
Al & Charlene Meyer

Laree Mugler
Janet Norton

Terry Patrick
Cathy Quinn
Karen & Larry Readnour
Claire & Rick Richtmyer
Eleanor Schaller
Patricia Sharp
Linda & Don Teasdale
Karl & Walt Thesing
Tin Roof Foundation Board

Dorothy Weaver
Xavier University
Health Center

IN MEMORY OF:

Charlene Farrell
Bob Dittrich
Thom Lautenbach
Carol Anne Blessing
Aunt Kitty
Elva McMannis
Charlene Farrell
Kitty McMannis
Charlene's Mom
Elva McMannis
Dorothy Theler
Tom Jolley
Uncle Lester
Philomena Chambers
Mrs. McMannis
Jerry Norton
Dorothy Dixon
Kitty McMannis
Kitty McMannis
Betty Lindner
Kitty McMannis
Elva McMannis
Elva McMannis
Kitty McMannis
Elva McMannis
Elva McMannis
Tom Jolley
Glen Weaver
Winifred Farrell

DONATED BY:

Gerald & Debbie Albright
Sam & Lorelei Bangs
Ann & Wayne Barfels
Chris & Erin Barfels
Katherine Bontrager
Harry & Judy Brumbaugh
Larkin & Bryan Bundy
Marieli Colon
Chris Combs
Michele Combs
Jack & Diane Douglass
Lyndon Farmer
Jennifer & Michael Fridley
Mr. & Mrs. Garretson
Carol Griesel
Laurette & Roger Hart
Tammy Haverland
Stace & Patty Howard
William & Clara Howe

IN HONOR OF:

Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Stace & Patty Howard
Wayne Barfels
Genesis' Birthday
Carl & Barbara Marinacci
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Al Meyer's Birthday
Al Meyer's Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Moms everywhere
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Dennett Howe

DONATED BY:

Robert & Angela Kushner
Kimberly Long
Carl Marinacci

Elizabeth McCarty
Al & Charlene Meyer
Dawn Miller
Peggy & Russ Monjar
Laree Mugler
Lyn Oliver
Barbara Parker
Sarah Rademacher
Debbie Schaller

Ann Siders
Linda & Don Teasdale
Lisa & Timothy Titus
Pat Curran Van Stone

IN HONOR OF:

Your Work!
Genesis' Birthday
Kevin Marinacci's
25 years serving the poor
Wil Fisher
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Carl & Barbara Marinacci
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Henry, Samuel, & Walker Guy
Genesis' Birthday
Al Meyer's Birthday
Al & Charlene Meyer
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
Genesis' Birthday
My four grandchildren

WHY GIVE TO THE TIN ROOF FOUNDATION?

- 100% of your gift goes directly to the project
- No salaries (all volunteers, all the time)
- No administrative costs paid from your donation

Note: We will never share your name or information with any other organization.

2013 SUMMARY OF TIN ROOF FOUNDATION'S MAJOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

“I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against, but we must sail, and not drift nor lie at anchor”. —Oliver Wendell Holmes

At The Tin Roof Foundation we will keep moving toward the ultimate goal of providing the path to self-sufficiency for families in Nicaragua. Over 40 percent of the population lives in poverty making Nicaragua the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The country's education system is one of the lowest performing in Latin America.

Our mission of “Bringing Hope to Kids” by definition must include not only basic nutrition and healthcare, but also needs to include vocational preparation for older students and parental training to begin addressing long-term social problems. Teaming with reliable and respected organizations in the country we are able to sail efficiently.

We sail with the wind on our backs or, when need demands, we sail against the wind, but we never drift or lie at anchor. There is too much that needs to be done.

Fabretto Children's Foundation: \$110,490 for school supplies, school gardens, and playground construction.

The SAT program supports the development of the Rural Secondary Education Program that will improve secondary education standards in rural Nicaragua. The focus is on agricultural courses and student income-generating projects with the goal of preparing youth to attend higher learning institutions, obtain employment, and/or start their own business. Nearly 800 students in the San Isidro, Somoto, Las Sabanas, and Cusmapa regions are expected to be impacted as a result of this project.

Funds were provided to construct a playground and expand the school garden in La Cruz, a community surrounding the Esteli city dump. Since 2010 Tin Roof has been working to improve the lives of families who make their living by picking through the trash to find usable or saleable items. With the help of The Tin Roof Foundation, a school has been built and furnished with a kitchen and a community garden was planted. In 2013, through the gift of a generous donor, a playground was created. The children of La Cruz now are not only being educated and have a nutritious hot meal each day at school, but they can swing and slide... play and smile and see hope for a better future.

Rayo de Sol: \$88,064 for continuing work in Nuevo Amanecer community in Matagalpa.

This project is an integral education initiative that will address the different areas of educational quality and personal development for children, adolescents, teachers, and parents in Nuevo Amanecer and surrounding neighborhoods. The main objective of this project is to contribute to the growth and development of children and adolescents in Matagalpa, through integral education and health activities.

This project will directly benefit:

- 450 preschool and primary students at the 15 de septiembre school
- 50 adolescents from Nuevo Amanecer and surrounding neighborhoods
- 150 mothers and fathers of students at the 15 de septiembre school

Familias Especiales: \$25,000 for therapy and health programming.

A horse therapy program for 55 children who have conditions such as autism, schizophrenia, and auditory problems continues to be funded as well as other healthcare requirements for children with special needs. Pregnant women, pre-term and malnourished infants are provided with nutritional supplements, including the lifesaving yogurt produced in an expanded facility. Physical and occupational therapy programs for children with various disabilities are also supported by Tin Roof.

Mulukuku Clinic: \$10,191 for healthcare.

A large part of this gift helps people get to and from hospitals and be able to get the tests and medicines they cannot afford. New this year are workshops and follow-ups with the health promoters in the mountain com-



munities. These campesinos are trained to handle many kinds of health needs; common illness, suturing wounds, channel pregnant women to services in the hospitals, and recognize serious health problems within the communities where there are no doctors or health facilities. A midwife program will be starting in 2014.

High school and University Scholarships: An average of 90 students received scholarships for high school and/or university. These studies include education, healthcare, business administration, social work, accounting, tourism, engineering, marketing, journalism, and computer sciences.

At the Tin Roof Foundation we never drift or lie at anchor. At times we sail through stormy seas as we see needs greater than our ability to provide. Our donors and supporters keep our sails in the wind...indeed, they are our wind and the children of Nicaragua are our compass.

THANK YOU TIN ROOF!

Dear Tin Roofers,

This week I received a call from Rebecca with the wonderful surprise that you had been in Matagalpa and had brought a check for \$5,000 for the health program here in Mulukukú. We are very, very grateful.

The program continues to expand and last month 10 more health providers received equipment (estoscope, tensiometer, thermometers, etc.). Next month they will receive their supply of basic meds to use in the communities. The meds are sold at reduced prices and the small supply pharmacy here at our center buys the meds at reduced prices in Managua. So far it is working well.

In October the midwives will receive basic materials also. A small part of your dona-

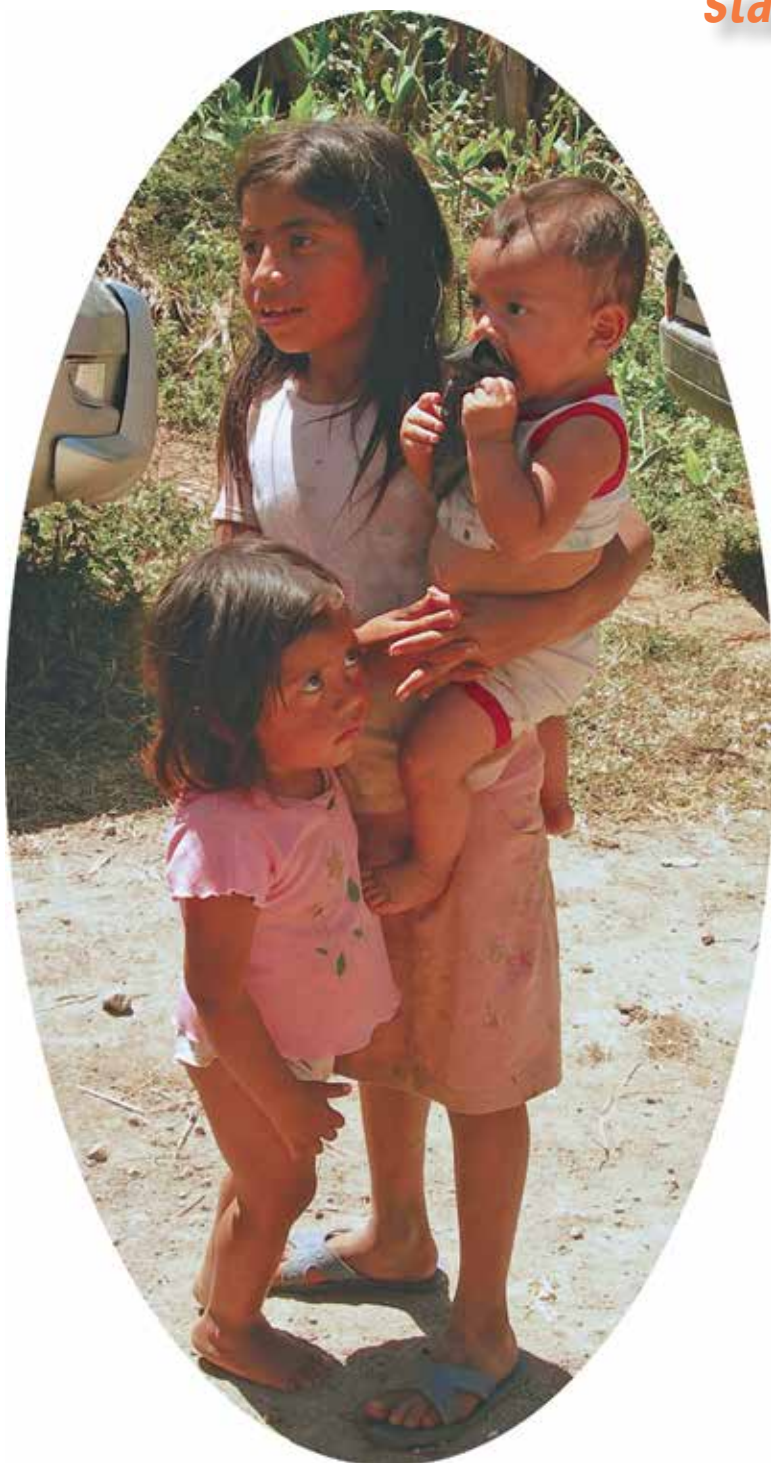
tion allows us to bring the health providers to Mulukukú every three months to continue their preparation. The largest part of the money goes to direct assistance so that people can get the specialized tests, care, and meds they need.

One dramatic case this year was a woman who has been going to the hospital here in Mulukukú for over a year and they could not find any cause for her illness. She didn't feel well, had constant fevers and every test was negative. She came to the center and with help from Tin Roof I sent her to a Cuban doctor in Matagalpa. Three days later she came back with a diagnosis of active TB. She had tested negative on three occasions here. Today, after 15 days of hospitalization and a couple of weeks more of injections she is MUCH better and at home with meds to continue her treatment. Thank you.



Melvin, age 8, is one of many children receiving help from The Roof for medical expenses.

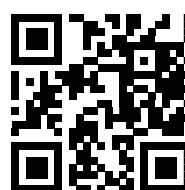
"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." —Anne Frank



How can I help?

- Make an online donation at www.tinroof.org
- Have a fundraising event with your friends and family
- Give a gift of stock—call Charlene Meyer, (513) 474.4540
- Set up automatic monthly contributions through your bank or our website
- Send your check or money order to The Tin Roof Foundation

The Tin Roof Foundation, Inc.



1047 Nordyke Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255
Phone: (513) 474-4540
Fax: (513) 474-1342
Email: hope@tinroof.org
www.tinroof.org