

# NEWS FROM THE ROOFTOP



**THE TIN ROOF  
FOUNDATION INC**

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## BEHIND THE SCENES: YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

*by Charlene Meyer*

As I thought about this upcoming issue, Danielle, my niece, suggested I share my thoughts about how the many Tin Roof Foundation volunteers make our mission possible. I could not help thinking about everything that goes on behind the scenes...things, and people, who make our mission happen.

When Al and I felt called to begin The Tin Roof Foundation, there was one thing we both agreed...we would all be volunteers. We would find people who wanted to help make a difference in the lives of children, part of their gift of giving back. Little did we know those many years ago God would be sending us volunteers with the gifts that we needed to help change a country.

I remember our first volunteer was a friend-of-a-friend who volunteered to layout a simple newsletter. Carol helped develop our concept of a simple mailing sharing stories of the children we were helping.

Our next need was a small group of volunteers who would help with the mailing...stamp and label envelopes, insert the newsletter, and sort the mail (most inexpensive cost of mailing). Charlene Farrell, one of our first board members, arranged for a group at the Kenwood Baptist

Church to take on this task. After more than 15 years, many of the same folks faithfully continue coming to prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Within a short time it was necessary to redesign our logo. A childhood friend of my sister, Nancy Stover, volunteered to help. She has

designed all our needed graphics. What started as a simple logo has evolved into designs for our letterhead, envelopes, and materials needed to share our story.

A few short years pass and it was suggested we have an annual charity event—Nica Noche.

Lots of volunteers were needed to secure auction items, prepare name tags and attendee check lists, decorate the venue, prepare gift baskets, locate entertainment, and fill tables. More volunteers stepped up to the challenge. What about computer challenges? Through it all Zig Main has helped with all my IT issues (and there have been many).

Come with us as we share thoughts from a few of our volunteers...people that help make our mission happen.

Thank you volunteers!



## BRINGING HOPE TO KIDS



# WRITING THANK YOU NOTES IS A PRACTICAL AND PRAYERFUL WAY TO HELP

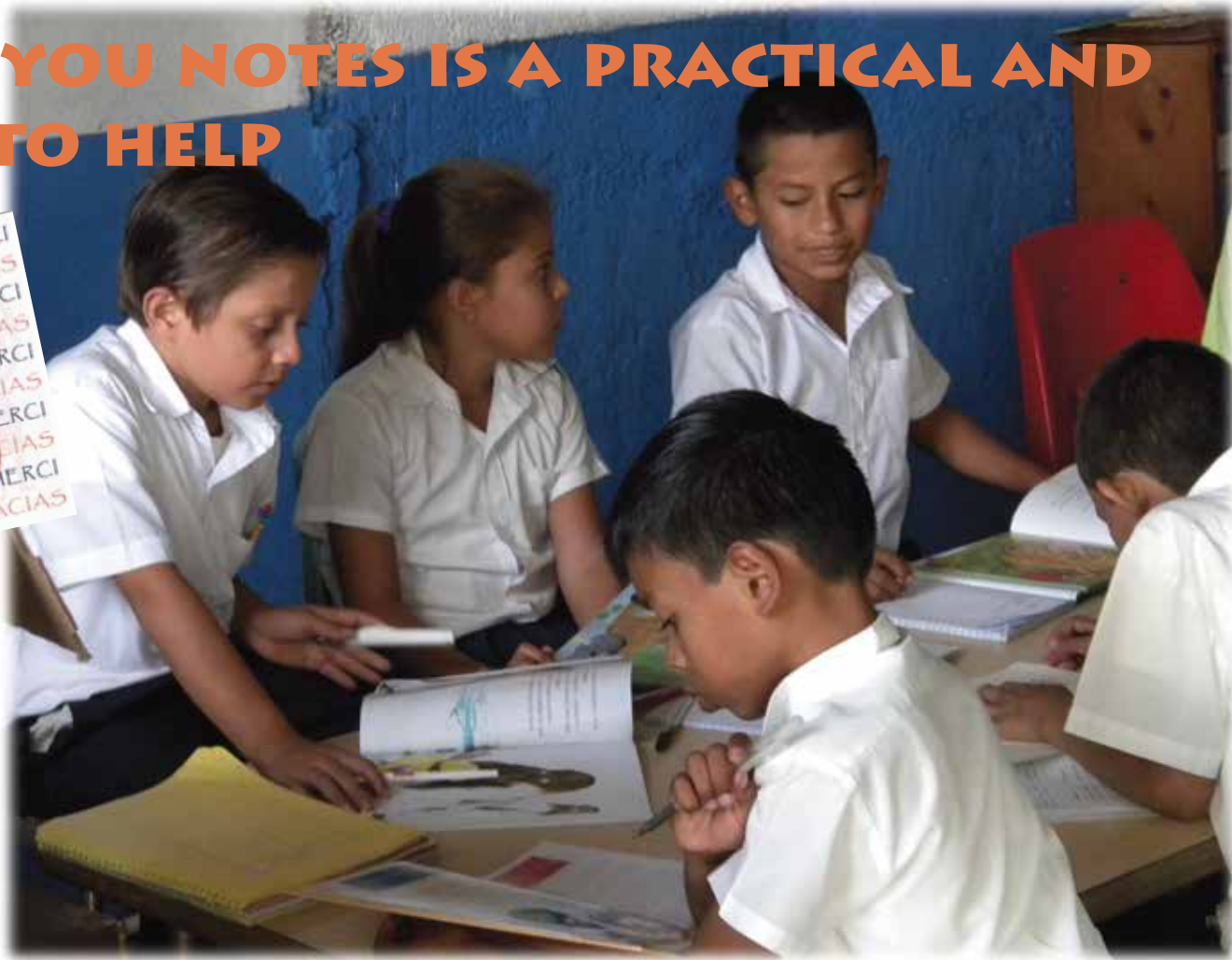
by Judy Chandler

The time I spent saying “Thank You” to our hundreds of Tin Roof friends and donors by writing acknowledgement notes was some of the most satisfying and peaceful hours of my week. It was a good feeling to sense a spirit connection with all those loving and generous people who had sent gifts of support.

Writing those notes was a practical and prayerful way for me to be a part of the Tin Roof Foundation’s important work. It was not possible for me or my husband to join Al and Charlene in Nicaragua, but this was something I could do!

This simple, but necessary, task of acting as the group’s corresponding secretary, allowed me to feel connected to the ministries of Tin Roof and keep up to date on their many projects and programs. Knowing of the poverty and sense of hopelessness felt by so many families in Nicaragua gave me a renewed sense of appreciation for the blessings in my own life.

Americans have so much for which to say, “Thank You, God!” One of my favorite quotes from Mother Teresa seems to fit my volunteer efforts:



“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

## THANKS FOR MORE SPANISH BOOKS!



Thanks to AIMS International Books, an additional 1,294 Spanish children’s books are heading to Nicaragua school libraries in the improverished areas where Tin Roof works.

## ZIG THE COMPUTER WIZARD

by Zig Main

Hi, I’m Zig Main and I’m Tin Roof’s IT specialist and website editor. I first became involved with Tin Roof after my wife, Ali, traveled to Nicaragua on a mission trip in 2008. Ali was chatting with Al and Charlene after her return and Charlene was in need of some help with her computer. I know my way around computers and websites, so I was happy to help.

Tin Roof is a great organization where all donations are used to bring hope to kids, so making sure that all the infrastructure behind the non-profit is kept up to date and in working order is important to me and Al and Charlene. IT support and website services can be really expensive if you need ongoing updates and maintenance to keep supporters informed and engaged in the ministry, so I was happy to volunteer my skills to support Tin Roof with my time and talents and eliminate this cost.



My favorite part of volunteering is knowing that I’m making a real difference to children’s lives in Nicaragua. It’s all about the kids. Making sure Charlene’s computer works is simply a way to ensure that she can spend her time on the most important things: thinking strategically about what new projects to support and bringing the maximum impact for every dollar spent in country.

If any of you are thinking about volunteering with The Tin Roof Foundation, don’t hesitate; jump right in. This is a small team where every little bit of help counts and where we combine our skills to create something so much bigger and stronger than anyone could have imagined. God delights in taking our two small loaves and five fish and feeding thousands. What “small fish” could you bring to the team so that God can bless it and multiply it, for His glory?

# Q&A WITH LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER SARAH KILGORE



We sat down with Sarah Kilgore, longtime Tin Roof supporter and former board member, to learn about her rewarding experience volunteering for the Foundation

in various capacities over the past many years. These days, she regularly volunteers for the Tin Roof mailings.

**TIN ROOF FOUNDATION:** In general, why would you say that people should volunteer?

**SARAH KILGORE:** Volunteering makes people more aware of other people’s circumstances. It gives you a broader perspective, and you meet many people who have the same interest as you.

**TRF:** How did you first become involved with Tin Roof?

**SK:** I think it was Charlene Farrell who really got me involved. When I went on a mission trip to Nicaragua, my eyes were opened to how poor this country is. I remember one place Charlene Farrell and I stayed, had the poorest accommodations I’ve had in all my 27 mission trips in the world. I became involved with Tin Roof after that trip and later was asked to be a board member.

**TRF:** How long have you been volunteering with the mailings?

**SK:** Probably from the very beginning.

**TRF:** How did you become involved with the Tin Roof mailings specifically?

**SK:** I was asked to volunteer for the mailings through my Sunday School class at church.

Charlene Meyer has contacts with various people at the different churches, and my contact called to inform me when Tin Roof would be doing the mailings. Being already involved with Tin Roof, I certainly accepted the challenge.

**TRF:** Have you met people and formed friendships through working on the mailings?

**SK:** I usually know most of the people helping with the mailings due to my longevity, but we always have new volunteers coming and, yes, I have made new friends.



**TRF:** What’s your favorite part about helping out with the mailings?

**SK:** I help on any part—wherever I’m needed—but I enjoy stuffing envelopes where there is more conversation and little concentration. You have more opportunity to visit with others.

**TRF:** What does it mean to you to volunteer with the Tin Roof mailings?

**SK:** Doing mission work on the field and volunteering at home gives you a broader view of the needs in your community and abroad. The more you give the more you receive. God has been good to me and I wish to give some back to Him.

**TRF:** Is there anything unexpected that has come out of volunteering with Tin Roof?

**SK:** I would say the longevity of being with Tin Roof, a foundation that has expanded their horizon beyond my expectations.

**TRF:** What would you say to others who are considering getting involved with Tin Roof?

**SK:** Do it. You make new friends, you may discover your new talent, and you receive more than you give. Giving of yourself is very gratifying and you won’t know until you try it.

**TRF:** Do you have any other thoughts you’d like to share about your work with Tin Roof?

**SK:** Tin Roof has been a very positive part of my life. Through volunteering, my retirement has been very gratifying and rewarding.

## THE TIN ROOF FOUNDATION WHO ARE WE?

The Tin Roof Foundation is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to “Bringing Hope to Kids” by providing educational opportunities, meal programs, healthcare to facilitate learning, and economic development assistance for their families, thereby enabling children to escape the spiral of poverty. There are no salaries. All administrative costs are funded by Tin Roof Foundation founders Al and Charlene Meyer and special designated gifts. The Tin Roof Foundation, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Ohio. It is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



# Hope Across Nicaragua . . .

## Nica Noche 2015

### Let's Make It Happen!

"For the big Nica Noche event, my husband Wayne and I enjoy getting friends together to sponsor a table."  
— Ann Barfels



Poe Auctioneer

Play Heads 'n Tails

Latin band Tropicoso



Linda Teasdale sells necklaces for the Heads 'n Tails split-the-pot game. She and her husband Don are also regular event sponsors. Linda says, "Even though I'm retired, my company fortunately matches my gift which allows us to help out the children in Nicaragua even more than if it was just our donation."

Salsa dancing

Meet new friends

MEET & MINGLE

Fill a table

Catch up with old friends

Holiday gifts

### EXCITING AUCTIONS



Russ Monjar is responsible for the preparation and layout of the Nica Noche program. Russ and his wife Peggy also work at the check-in and check-out processes at each year's event.

Fine dining

One week in an Italian villa

Themed baskets



Return of favorite speaker Peter Schaller

### NICARAGUA FRIENDS

Jessica Espinoza's first trip to the U.S.

Jack and Charlotte Schreckenhofer enjoy bringing first-timer friends and family to the event. Charlotte says, "It's a fun evening and introduces them to what Tin Roof is all about."

Cigars

### NICA SHOPPING

Coffee

Baskets



"I have a lot of people tell me that they buy Christmas presents at the Nica market. When you look at the craftsmanship of the different items in the market, it really is well done. You have to realize that people are making a living making those crafts; they're making it for their livelihood, to feed their children, in a developing country." — Nancy Stover



# WALTON CHRISTIAN PARTNERS WITH TIN ROOF

by Kevin Russell  
Pastor Walton Christian Church

## WHY

The Tin Roof Foundation has become an integral partner in Walton Christian Church’s ministry as Tin Roof provides exposure to ministry opportunities we cannot create on our own. We believe we are to be “salt” and “light” in the world, both in local and global settings. Tin Roof is helping us be faithful to our global call as it provides food, education, and medical resources to our friends in Nicaragua.

## HOW

“Sponsor-a-Student” is one way WCC partners with Tin Roof. Folks at WCC are invited to invest in the education of a Nicaraguan student for one school year. Updates are emailed describing a particular student’s progress as the school year evolves. WCC’s Vacation Bible School Offering in 2015 was designated for The Tin Roof Foundation. Another yearly Tin Roof initiative at WCC is created around an annual county farm tour. WCC uses the event to create awareness and support of WCC/Tin Roof’s partnership and ministry. We also visit Nicaragua on a regular basis (with Al and Charlene) to say hello to established and new friends in Nicaragua and see firsthand the difference that Tin Roof is making in people’s lives.



# THINK DEEPLY INSIDE YOUR HEART AND MIND FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Jessica Espinoza

I am Jessica Espinoza, a girl from Managua, Nicaragua. The year 2002 was a very special to me and it was the beginning of an unforgettable journey full of blessings and special moments. When I started working at Hotel Mansion Teodolinda as a receptionist I met a very unique couple, Charlene and Albert Meyer, and since that moment I felt a genuine and special connection to them and to the purpose that brought them to my beautiful country.

I saw the commendable work they do and I wanted to do something to contribute, so at the beginning I helped them translate letters or any piece of information they needed. When time passed, I had the opportunity to travel to Matagalpa, Cusmapa, and other places to accompany volunteers and translate their conversations with people from those communities. I have also had the pleasure to serve as a nurse, buyer of needed supplies, tour guide, bodyguard, driver, and so on.

People can and should volunteer in different ways, everyone can give something whether it is time, money, or some other way of helping. Helping others includes the times when you visit the sick, run errands for someone who is unable, or even when you just offer your shoulder, arms, words, or prayers to someone who is sad and needs love or emotional support.

All human beings are different and what is right for one volunteer may not be right for another, what is right for one community may not be right for another, but I strongly believe that we were all born with many gifts and capacities for a special purpose. I would like people to realize the phenomenal opportunities volunteering generates. It has the potential to contribute original, positive and maintainable change among communities or people we help.

If you think deeply inside your heart and mind, you will see a range of personal goals and interests with valuable project contributions. Volunteering is a truly inspiring opportunity to become a different and better individual because you stop thinking only about yourself and you start working for the improvement of the lives of those who are less fortunate—people who did not decide to be born in a poor country, society, community, or family.



I have volunteered with The Tin Roof Foundation for 13 years and it has been an extremely and rewarding experience to me because I have devoted my time to take care and help people, which at the same time they are giving their time to help people they do not know but love and care for. I have met amazing people in this journey and I have formed friendship to some volunteers who I truly care and think of no matter the distance that divide us. Once you start being part of Tin Roof you also become part of a huge family and that is priceless because we all share a common goal, we all know that we are changing people’s lives for good.

If you are already a member of Tin Roof or if you are considering getting involved, I am more than sure that you are blessed and will always be blessed by our Lord who is in heaven and knows our desires and wishes. I would like to recite a

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you...”*  
— John 15:12

verse from the Bible: *“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”*—Deuteronomy 15:11

Tin Roof family, I can assure you that you can count on me every time you visit Nicaragua. I thank the Lord and each one of you for this opportunity. I am very blessed to be part of your organization. I would love to invite those who read this article and want to join us not to be afraid of starting a new path. Kids and families from Nicaragua need you, Tin Roof Foundation needs you, and we are going to be happy to embrace you in our big family. You won’t regret and most of all, you are going to grow in every aspect of your life. Please join us!



## MEMORIAL GIFTS. . . . HONOR GIFTS

<b>DONATED BY:</b> Sam & Loreli Bangs Pamela Branam Mr & Mrs Ray Buckler Chris Combs Marjorie Combs Michele & Pat Combs Rita Gibson Cynthia Hart Patty & Stace Howard Kimberly Long John & Lynn McCauley Al & Charlene Meyer Terri Miller Brian Myres	<b>IN HONOR OF:</b> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Ann &amp; Wayne Barfels</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Nicaragua People</i>	<b>DONATED BY:</b> Jorge & Marieli Padilla Sarah Rademacher Debbie Schaller  Dylan Sleyo Linda & Don Teasdale William B. Tekulve Lisa & Timothy Titus Bryan Towne Roman & Ada Walton William & Margo Wachs	<b>IN HONOR OF:</b> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Al Meyer’s Birthday</i> <i>Jane Schaller’s 50th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>Patricia H. Tekulve (has cancer)</i> <i>Genesis Combs’ 16th Birthday</i> <i>MaryAnn Lohmueller</i> <i>Rev. Wendell Mettey</i> <i>Jose Segundo</i>	<b>DONATED BY:</b> Jim & Ellen Bell Marilyn Dittrich  Ramona Gillock Marvin & June Jacobs Sandy Kuntz Alice Laub Robert D Lindner Sr Jeanne & Norm Lucas Carl Marinacci & Barb Phelan Jean Massey Janet Norton Peggy & Joe Rose	<b>IN MEMORY OF:</b> <i>Esther Morton</i> <i>Bob Dittrich</i> <i>Thom Lautenbach</i> <i>Charlene Farrell</i> <i>Charlene Farrell</i> <i>My uncle, Don Creelman</i> <i>Sharon Murphy</i> <i>Betty Lindner</i> <i>Don Creelman</i> <i>Father Fabretto</i> <i>John Massey</i> <i>Jerry Norton</i> <i>Edward Green</i>
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### 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.*



# PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING EVENING NICA NOCHE — SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

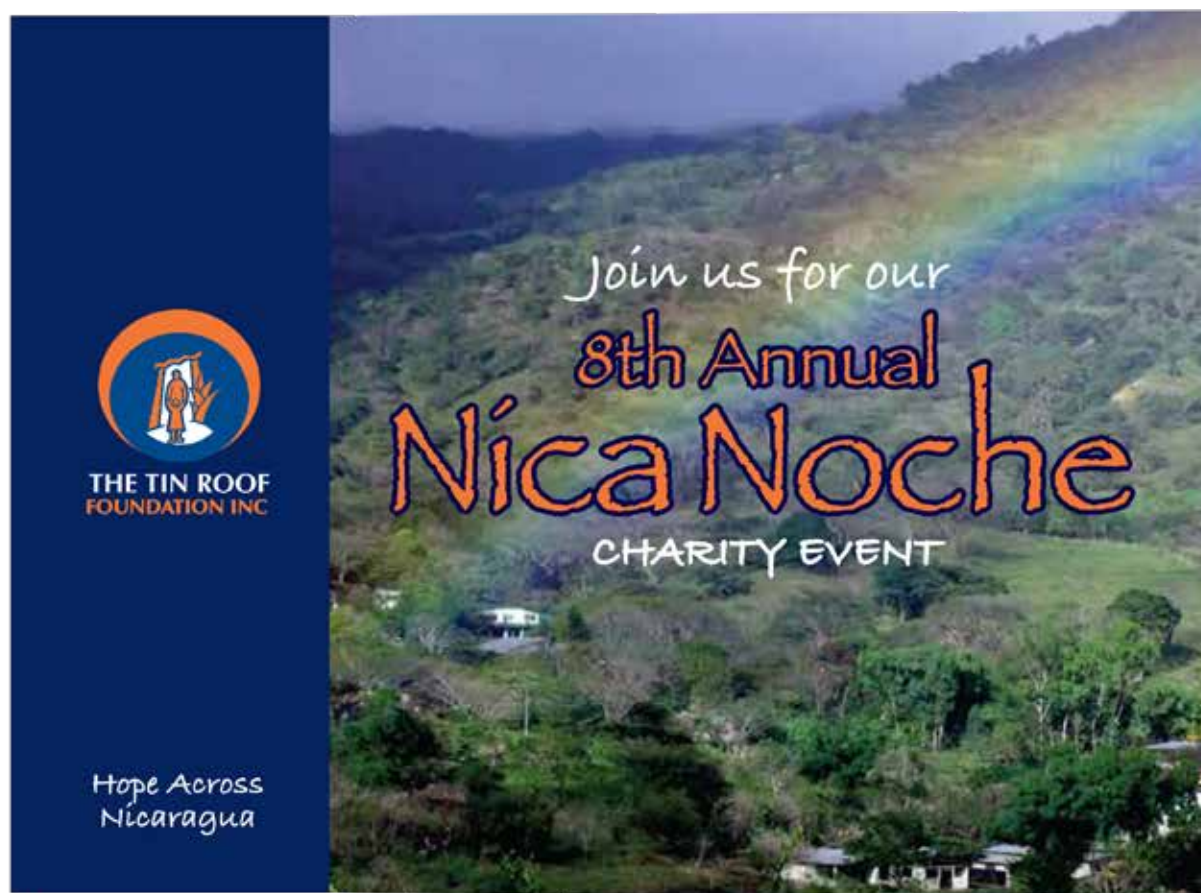
6:00 pm Reception  
7:15 pm Buffet  
Live and Silent Auctions  
Entertainment

Sharonville Convention Center  
11355 Chester Road  
Sharonville, OH 45246

Limited Seating • Reserve Early  
Cash Bar Available

*\$75 per guest or  
\$600 reserved table for 8*

**Please reserve by October 23,  
2015, by mailing your check today!**



## Here's to You!

By now you've read about the great work that our volunteers are doing "behind the scenes" to make Tin Roof and our programming happen. We've heard from folks who faithfully help with mailings and those who work hard for months to make our Nica Noche event happen. We've heard from a pastor whose congregants are some of our most loyal, longtime supporters.

All those people—and many, many more—give of their time and talents to make Tin Roof's programs happen, every day.

But, we certainly couldn't do it without you. You, who faithfully send in your regular donation each month... You, who feels called to be a major event sponsor for this year's Nica Noche and fill a table with your friends and neighbors... You, who gives a gift of stock to support children in need in Nicaragua. YOU, who keeps the wheels of Tin Roof turning each day, Thanks to your financial support.

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