

NEWS FROM THE ROOFTOP



**THE TIN ROOF
FOUNDATION INC**

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ARE YOU A HERO? ARE YOU AN ANSWER TO PRAYER?

**Nica Noche
is coming!
See page 7 for
all the details.**

by Charlene Meyer

We hear a lot about superheroes these days. Every movie theatre features one or more...*Superman, Transformers, Super Woman, The Avengers, Wonder Woman, Guardians of the Galaxy*...to name just a few. These are the kind of superheroes who only show up to save the day in big summer blockbusters, not in everyday life.

But, there are other kinds of heroes all around us. For example, you may hear about a real-life local hero on the evening news who saved a toddler from drowning in a pond at a community park. When we hear about a local hero like this, we want to know all the details of the heroic act and we want to hear more about the hero. What did he do that made him heroic? What makes him larger than life? But—perhaps more importantly—we also want to know how this hero is just like us. We want to image how—faced with a similar, seemingly impossible situation—that would we also rise above and become an everyday hero.



hundreds of children and their parents, YOU are a hero...somebody admired, a champion, and a conqueror. YOU are THEIR hero... someone who has been their champion and conqueror in the fight to help them break out of extreme poverty.

We also hear about being “An Answer to Prayer.” Many of us have either made that statement about someone we know going through a very serious medical condition with unexplained healing, or perhaps about our own personal struggle we have miraculously overcome.

Would it surprise you to know each time we travel to Nicaragua we are told, “You are an answer to our prayers.” Does it surprise you to know YOU are the answer to

Let’s examine the definition of “hero.” The dictionary describes hero as somebody to be admired; a champion; a conqueror.

Would you consider yourself to be a hero? Perhaps you don’t think of yourself as a hero. Would it surprise you to know in the eyes of

someone’s prayers?

As you read this issue it will become clear just how much of a “hero” and “an answer to prayer” you are through the eyes of the families impacted by your willingness to join in their fight to escape extreme poverty.



BRINGING HOPE TO KIDS



PRAYERS ANSWERED FOR STUDENTS IN NICARAGUA!

Jonny has been in our high school scholarship program two years. Because of the economic difficulties that his family faces, they didn't think they would be able to afford to send him to high school. In addition to his studies, every morning before going to school Jonny helps his father sell fruits and vegetables around the city. He is also very responsible about fulfilling his community service requirements and loves to help distribute food and education supplies to the rural schools. Jonny is well on his way to making his dreams reality. YOU have made it all possible. YOU are Jonny's hero!



Alvaro is 7 years old and is in the first grade. He had many learning and behavioral problems in school, and his teachers were getting very frustrated. He began to participate in our after school enrichment program and the changes began almost immediately. We worked closely with Alvaro on his conduct and helped him to build relationships with his classmates. We also provided special tutoring for him, as he was having great difficulties learning to read. Alvaro is now doing very well in his classes and has developed excellent reading skills. All of this is possible because of your support. YOU are an answer to many prayers on behalf of Alvaro.

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.

Since the theme of this issue has been "heroes," we thought we'd turn the spotlight on a hero on-the-ground in Nicaragua. Just like the local heroes we hear about on the evening news here in the U.S., Jessica Espinoza is a local hero in Nicaragua. Not only does she often serve as our translator when Tin Roof visits the country twice a year, Jessica also works diligently throughout the year to help coordinate efforts between Tin Roof and our in-country partners and projects. We'll let Jessica tell you more about her involvement with Tin Roof in her own words...

Some of you might know me or have heard about me, but for the ones who do not have a clue of who I am I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jessica Espinoza and I am from Managua, Nicaragua. I am the youngest of seven siblings and I feel extremely blessed for having the amazing parents that I have. I love to read, sing, and dance. I am an English teacher and I have volunteered for The Tin Roof Foundation for almost 16 years (if I am not mistaken).

How did I know about Tin Roof? Well, when I started working at Hotel Mansion Teodolinda I met a very unique couple, Charlene and Albert Meyer—and since that moment I felt a strong

needed something for any volunteers they just asked me to do some errands for them. When time passed I had the opportunity to travel to Matagalpa, Cusmapa, and other places to help interpret with people from those communities. But my duties did not stop there; I have also had the pleasure to be a tour guide, bodyguard, driver, and even nurse.

According to some international data, Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere behind Haiti. 79.9 percent of the population earns less than \$2 per day, and an extremely large number of those living in poverty are women. Contributing to a particular cause like helping reduce poverty in a disadvantaged part of the world like Nicaragua is a great decision. You are not only helping "a kid" succeed in life, you are changing many lives forever because that child is eventually going to have a family and his or her family members are NOW going



you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a life time" and that is what you are also doing when you help with this dream. Teaching people how to grow a garden in their backyards and how to make baskets and other crafts from natural resources are some of the tools people from rural communities learn through the different programs Tin Roof supports. Kids are able to go to school because of the scholarships offered; in addition to the meal programs they receive...a huge blessing! At the same time, those children gain awareness that gratitude has to be shared with other people from their community because they know that they also have to help. With your contributions, the Tin Roof has hired doctors, set up clinics, and given medicine and even special attention to many kids who never thought they would have the chance to be treated by specialists. I have been a recipient and also witnessed the wonders of your efforts. YOU have been an answer to my prayer of receiving my Master's Degree. I might not know most of you, but I know you are a gift from God and that your hearts and lives are always going to be more than blessed. I am never going to be able to say how grateful I am...Thank you for this great opportunity.

Dear folks, remember that we exist for a reason and we can all make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Love, Jessica

connection with them. They told me about the admirable work they do and right at that moment I thought "Hmm...I can also do something to help my community." So, I told them that I wanted to do something to contribute to that noble cause. I was a receptionist at the hotel and I remember that sometimes they asked me to translate letters or any kind of papers they couldn't understand or if they

to have more and better opportunities for the fact of being more educated and having a different role or position in society. Children with more education, better health, and more life objectives prosper more than those kids with no goals or education at all. Bringing HOPE to Nicaraguan kids is not just a tale, it is real thanks to people like you.

As Maimonides said, "Give a man a fish and

RAIN HARVESTING

In preparing for an upcoming trip to Nicaragua this past January, the focus of our meeting with the pastors of the Florence Christian Church and the Walton Christian Church quickly turned to “How can we help the children and their communities”? It was an easy decision: WATER.

In our research we discovered families living in two rural communities surrounding Matagalpa—Las Lomas and Cerro de Piedra—were both desperate for water. There were wells in both communities, but due to drought conditions in recent years, the aquifers had diminished and water had to be rationed during the long, dry season, which lasts from November to April. We decided that making adequate water available year-round to families in these communities would be our goal.

WATER...OUR CHOICE FOR NICARAGUA

Imagine being a mother in Nicaragua and not having enough water to bathe your children and wash their school uniforms.



Imagine not having enough potable water for drinking and cooking. Imagine having to walk great distances with a five-gallon bucket of water balanced on your head, just to provide clean water for your children and family. These are the difficulties that mothers in Las Lomas and Cerro de Piedra face every day.

At the end of April, we set out to provide rain harvesting and filtration systems to 30 families that live in Las Lomas and Cerro de Piedra, where families are entitled to only two 5-gallon buckets of water every other day. Any additional water they need must be purchased from the water truck that the municipal government sends to the community once a week. Money spent on water ends up consuming a large portion of what they have to live on, meaning:

- Less money for food
- Less money for school supplies
- Less money for health expenses

Soon after we began, we found that the demand was even higher than we realized. We had not just 30—but 45—families apply for rain harvesting tanks! It was clear that this was a critical need in the community.

YOU ARE THE HERO!

We are thrilled to report, with the help of Florence Christian Church, Walton Christian Church, the Rayo de Sol family, Sirviendo FAITH Foundation, and The Tin Roof Foundation, we raised over \$20,000 to fund the project! This is life-changing for the families in these communities. We, as well as the families we serve in Matagalpa, are immensely grateful for your support. Your gift is bringing clean water, great joy, and lasting hope to 45 Nicaraguan households.

Through such a tangible expression of love, the families are reminded that they are not forgotten, but that there is a God who sees their daily struggle and cares deeply for them. WE are an answer to their prayer. WE are their heroes.

Thank you again for helping to make this a reality!

ERNESTO AND HIS FAMILY'S PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED

We begin what turns out to be a steep, strenuous hike to Ernesto's home. It takes 30 minutes to climb. The view is spectacular. If it were a tourist destination, hikers and nature lovers



would come in droves. But it's not tourism; this is daily life for 40 families in the remote community of Cerro de Piedra, one that has no electricity and where two small, manual wells are drying up.

The view is spectacular—until it occurs to me how far the family must travel to a local

well for water. They spend so much of their day just collecting water. What will they do when the well is completely dried up?

A 660-gallon tank just outside his home collecting the rainy season's abundance has changed the reality of his life. Another prayer has been answered!



HOW THE RAIN HARVESTING FINANCING PROGRAM WORKS

As part of their commitment, families will pay the equivalent of 20 percent of the total cost of the rain harvesting system (\$75). This will promote greater ownership of the project and will encourage families to provide proper care and maintenance of the equipment. Payments will be made over a period of 18 months, so that they will be affordable for all families. The money recovered from payments will be used to create a revolving fund, to be used for investment in other rain harvesting systems in the future. It is anticipated that an additional six systems can be installed with the money recovered from the first phase of implementation.

MORE ANSWERED PRAYERS!



Carlos receives medical care in Guatemala. Thanks Dr. Brian VanderBrink. YOU are an answer to prayer!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — NICA NOCHE 2017 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Pssst...have you heard the great news? Nica Noche is coming back this year!



MEMORIAL GIFTS...HONOR GIFTS

DONATED BY:

Jean Bodmer
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John Cappiello
Rhonda Comley
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Steve Gillock
Angela Kushner
Joseph Lohmueller
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IN MEMORY OF:

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Dad's 90th Birthday
Silas' 1st Birthday
Silas' 1st Birthday
Silas' 1st Birthday
Silas' 1st Birthday
Charlene & Al
Al's Birthday
Silas' 1st Birthday

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.

On Friday, November 10, 2017, we will gather at the Sharonville Convention Center in Cincinnati for an evening of celebration, entertainment, and inspiration. Come join us for:

- Evening of entertainment by nationally renowned illusionist and hypnotist Ron Diamond *
- Festive atmosphere including music and games
- Holiday coffee shopping at Café Tin Roof
- Silent auction including theme baskets, gift cards, trips, and so much more
- Featured speaker Peter Schaller, Executive Director, Rayo de Sol, Matagalpa, Nicaragua, will inspire us as he shares about the children and their families in the communities we serve.

*About Ron Diamond: After spending eight years as an entertainer with the Walt Disney Company, Ron decided to create his own

show. For 25 years and over 18,000 performances he has entertained crowds throughout the country. You don't want to miss being a part of his show.

Tickets are \$75 each and include delicious Latin-style food—or fill a table of eight for \$600. Make sure you invite everyone to join in the fun, including:

- Friends
- Church members
- Neighbors
- Colleagues or clients

We hope to see you at 6:00 p.m. on November 10! Seats are limited, so contact Charlene today at (513) 474-4540 or hope@tinroof.org to reserve your seat(s).

POVERTY, IT'S NOT AN ILLUSION, IS THE THEME OF NICA NOCHE 2017

The words below are written by Chris Combs after living in Nicaragua:

In the United States, like in Nicaragua, we look after our children. But when we make hard choices, those choices involve dilemmas like whether to purchase the new mini-van or the new SUV to best protect our child.

Or, we fret over whether to allow our child to attend the excellent public school, or to send our child to the even more excellent private school.

Or whether to purchase the 4,000 square-

foot, four-bedroom home, or to go ahead and purchase the 6,000 square-foot, five-bedroom home, so that our child has an extra play room.

We live in a land blessed beyond comprehension with resources. The media occasionally rattles off some statistics, but mostly our neighbors to the south are ignored.

Their choices are limited to “in the moment” decisions. Like whether to purchase a fraction of a stick of butter, or a diaper for the baby. In those poorer communities, a stick of butter is non-existent.

Your small sacrifice, applied to a poor ru-

ral community, can literally feed hundreds of children in a community for many months. It could provide a doctor to that village, where otherwise simple illnesses like diarrhea will go untreated in a child, and lead to severe dehydration. That child could die.

A child of God, not simply a statistic. It is easy to hide reality amidst endless statistics. But statistics cannot hide that this is a beautiful child with big brown eyes, an incredible smile, and an easily cured illness. A child dies while we debate between the new mini-van and the new SUV.



Will you be our superhero?

By now we've heard about lots of heroes that are involved in the work of The Tin Roof Foundation. You may think that you have nothing in common with them, that you could never make as big of a difference as they have. But really, these heroes are just everyday people who make a big impact in the lives of kids and families in a direly impoverished country. Won't you join them? Won't you support us in our mission of “Bringing Hope to Kids”?

We have done much, but there is still much to be done. For every child we've helped, every family we've supported, there are many more who could use a helping hand. It's now your turn to be a “superhero” or “an answer to prayer” to kids in need! THANK YOU!

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