



circa 1997

20 years serving & beyond

NICARAGUA

Children of Destiny

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
For the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly, defend the
rights of the poor and needy."
Ps. 31:8



2017

Traveling to and from Nicaragua has always been tough, but this past trip was the most difficult in my 22 years of traveling there.

We flew into Liberia, Costa Rica as we did last time, since we cannot fly directly into Nicaragua. Only this time, both Jim and I tested negative for Covid, and Jim was allowed to drive across into Nicaragua with me! Even though we were the only people in line to get our passports stamped, it took over one hour to get through immigration. Then we spent three long hours battling with the customs agents to try to keep the supplies we were bringing in. In the end, we were unfortunately not permitted to keep all of the supplies, but we did make it through with the most critical items.



It was about 6:30 that evening when we were finally able to pull our suitcases over the border. Nelson and Ivonne had been waiting in the van since early that afternoon, and they were so relieved to finally see us! When we arrived at our Center in Jinotega at 11:30am the next morning we were pretty exhausted, but the next morning we hit the ground running, working on the launch for our new project.

Our Nicaraguan staff did an excellent job making detailed preparations for the launch. We were especially thankful for the incredible quality of the teachers that have begun working with us! We were also excited to see some of our old employees, and of course most delighted to reconnect with the children who once called the Center their home.



Dance Troupe



I call Him, Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness



Prayers

Sunday was the launch day and the response from the community was tremendous! We purchased sixty extra chairs in anticipation of our guests, but still had to bring out every chair in the building! Monday, we dedicated the entire day to meetings with the teachers to go over the guidelines and to share our hearts. Tuesday was opening day and once again we were overwhelmed with the response from the community. We had planned for 25-50 children, but 130 showed up that day to register for one of the six classes we offer!! Lunch was served at 11am to the first group of children, and 11:30 am to the second group.

The Jinotega Community Center will offer vocational learning, children's education support, and adult education. Below is a summary of the classes and activities our Jinotega Community Center will be offering:

Six classes for children:

Computer Proficiency (vocational)

English Language (vocational)

Culinary/Baking (vocational)

Sewing (vocational)

Basic Cosmetology (vocational)

Tutoring – private and group tutoring to children needing academic support

Athletics – we have a sports director who will coordinate group activities, games, and physical fitness training

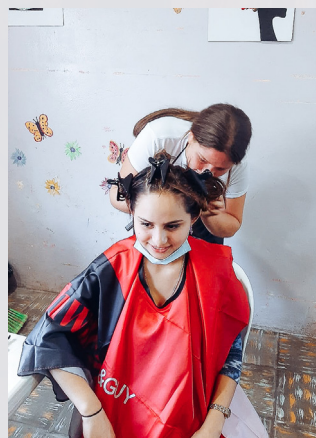
Adult Education: On Saturdays we have adult education classes to learn to read and write. Many adults in the local area are illiterate. This makes basic tasks like finances, reading receipts or recipes, or helping children with schoolwork impossible! This is especially true for the women, who are more vulnerable to being taken advantage of without basic literacy! We want to change that.



Learning to manicure!



Future Chefs!



Learning to be a stylist



Sewing Class



Future Bakers



English Classes

It is a huge step of faith for us all, to offer hope and care for so many children. I want to say a special thank you to everyone who has encouraged me in this year full of the unexpected, and with a major transition for our program.

Even though it was a difficult trip there and back, the joy of seeing 130 children eager to learn was so powerful! I'm looking forward to sharing many wonderful updates in the coming months and years. Once again, thank you so much, none of this would be possible without all of your prayers and support!

Much Love,

- Sandy, Jim,

and the whole crew in Nicaragua!



Outside for a little fun!



FOR WAYS TO BE INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT US AT: CODN@GLOBEINTL.ORG

Find us on Facebook at: *Children of Destiny, Nicaragua*

JOIN OUR TEAM

