

AUSTIN SAMARITANS



Healthcare



Education

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Rescue

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2012 saw many significant accomplishments by the Nicaraguan organizations that Austin Samaritans assists. Following are some of the more notable accomplishments.

COLEGIO CRISTIANO PRESBITERIANO

Colegio Cristiano Presbiteriano (CCP), a Christian school, is a mission of Pastor Sangyoung Roh, a missionary of the Korean Presbyterian church. In addition to providing education in a Christian setting, its goal is also to provide a better education than that provided by the Nicaraguan public schools.

CCP completed a successful school year in 2012. There were approximately 230 students in attendance in grades ranging from pre-kindergarten to 10th grade

Increased enrollment during 2012 created very crowded conditions. Therefore, construction of four new classrooms was begun. Two of the classrooms were completed in 2012. The remaining two are scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Pastor Roh, the school director, plans to retire in the near future. During 2012 he identified a potential candidate to take over the direction of the school Mrs. Mi Ae Kim. Mrs. Kim and her husband have been missionaries serving in Nicaragua for several years. In addition, Mrs. Kim has many years of teaching experience. During 2013, Pastor Roh and Mrs. Kim will be working together to facilitate the transition. Mrs. Kim will be in charge of education administration at CCP in 2013.



New classroom for pre-schoolers



CASA BASE DE SALUD

Casa Base de Salud, a general medical clinic, is operated by FUNJOFUDESS, a Nicaraguan non-profit organization, and supported by the U.S. non-profit organization Manna Project International. Its purpose is to provide health care to the residents of La Chureca, the Managua city dump, and adjoining neighborhoods. During 2012 approximately 1000 people lived inside of the dump and made their living by picking through the trash for recyclables they could use or sell. In addition, 1700 people who lived outside of La Chureca worked in the dump. All of these people and their families used the services of the clinic.

In 2012 the clinic saw a further increase in the number of patients. In 2011 the Nicaraguan government built houses adjacent to La Chureca to house families that had to be relocated because of flooding around Lake Managua. These new residents sought services at the clinic, also.



Front of clinic in the dump

The clinic is staffed by two general practitioners, a pharmacist, a nurse, and a health promoter. During 2012, among other activities, the clinic provided the following:

- 11,296 medical consultations
- 1,628 PAP tests
- 215 emergency medical transfers
- 1,356 treatments for intestinal worms
- 1,511 HIV/AIDS tests: of these, 31 were positive, and 70 were “suspect”
- 300 vaccinations for pneumonia: Austin Samaritans facilitated this program, which was a joint project of Project Hope, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health and Casa Base de Salud.

Manna Project International (MPI), a U.S. non-profit organization, is not only a major supporter of the clinic but also provides multiple public health-related programs, which enable the clinic to provide a holistic approach to improving the lives of La Chureca residents. Through the efforts of MPI, the clinic serves as a center for education in hygiene, nutrition, and sexual health. There is a part-time nutritionist and a part-time psychologist on staff. In addition, MPI has a program to provide nutritional support for malnourished children less than 5 years of age. Thus, the clinic, working with MPI, seeks to make a long-term difference in addition to meeting the immediate health needs of the community.

VIDA NUEVA NICARAGUA

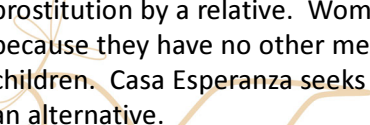
The Vida Nueva Nicaragua orphanage and re-nutrition center continued to meet the needs of the youngest and most vulnerable in 2012. They cared for approximately 20 children. Half were toddlers, and half were infants.

Though their primary mission is not to provide adoptive homes for these children, from 2006 through August 2012 they placed 100 children with adoptive parents.

The University of Pittsburg conducted studies of the children at Vida Nueva Nicaragua for three years. They provided the results of their studies in 2012. The facility rated extremely well. The children in the orphanage scored as high as children raised in homes in the United States. In addition, their recovery of weight and growth from their malnourished state was extremely good.

CASA ESPERANZA

The mission of Casa Esperanza is to enable women and girls to escape a life of prostitution. Girls can be introduced to prostitution as a result of being kidnapped and placed in brothels or, in some cases, sold into prostitution by a relative. Women frequently enter prostitution because they have no other means to support themselves and their children. Casa Esperanza seeks to provide these women and girls with an alternative.





*Young girls rescued from brothels
with Casa Esperanza staff*

There are currently approximately 100 people housed at Casa Esperanza. These include the women who have left prostitution and their children, as well as the girls rescued from brothels. In addition, there are approximately 500 women who come each Tuesday morning program to hear a spiritual message and to participate in making

greeting cards and jewelry as an alternate source of income.

Significant additions to their programs in 2012 included the following:

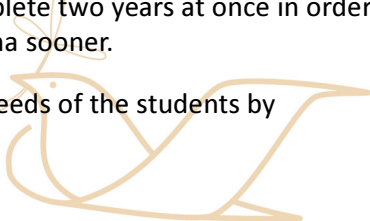
- A kiln was constructed so that ceramic pieces could be made to include in the jewelry,
- A baking program was launched as an additional source of income for the women that are residents at Casa Esperanza, and
- A housemother was found for the girls' dorm.

COLEGIO CRISTIANA LA ESPERANZA

During 2012 Colegio Cristiana La Esperanza, operated by Open Hearts and located inside the dump, provided educational opportunities in a Christian setting to children that live in La Chureca. There were 70 students in the preschool grades. Of these 25 graduated and will go on to elementary school better prepared. There were 235 students in grades 1 through 6. Of these, 30 students completed the 6th grade. This is quite an accomplishment for these students.

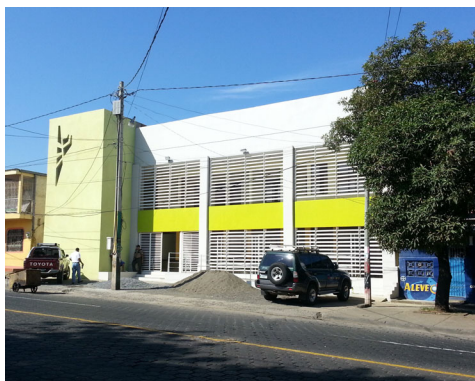
The school provides a special accelerated program for those that start at an older age. It enables them to complete two years at once in order to obtain their elementary school diploma sooner.

The school also addressed the physical needs of the students by providing meals twice each school day.



HOPE NICARAGUA

Reverend Matthew Jun has spent eight years developing and supporting the various mission projects of Hope Nicaragua. A major project of Hope Nicaragua that is provided assistance by Austin Samaritans is Clinica Providencia. The clinic moved to its current location in 2010 and has seen the patient load steadily increase. In mid-2012 the clinic was seeing 135-140 patients each week. This level of usage was overwhelming the capacity of the small building where the clinic is located. In order to accommodate the growth, in 2012 Hope Nicaragua purchased a larger building and began the renovation of the building. Operation of the expanded clinic in the renovated building is expected to occur in April 2013.



Exterior of new Clinica Providencia

At the current clinic location the following types of services are offered: gynecology, pediatrics, general medicine, dentistry, optometry, and a laboratory. At the new clinic an internist will be added. In addition, the new building has rooms that can be used for training programs for lay leaders and outreach programs to neighborhood youth.

Special health programs at the clinic include regular medical check-ups for children and a women's cancer prevention project where screening and, in many cases, treatment are provided. These programs will be continued at the new clinic. During 2012 a total of 1,149 women received PAP tests. As a result of these tests, 29 women were treated for precancerous conditions, and 4 were treated for cervical cancer.

Also during 2012, Austin Samaritans facilitated a partnership between Clinica Providencia, Project Hope, and the Nicaraguan ministry of health whereby free pneumonia vaccinations were provided at the clinic. The vaccine was provided free of charge by the ministry of health. A total of 250 persons received the vaccine.

HOGAR DE ANCIANOS SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

The Hogar de Ancianos San Francisco de Asis is a home for the indigent elderly that is operated by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Ana, a Catholic order. They currently provide a home for 36 elderly men and women that have no other place to go.

MATAGALPA RE-NUTRITION CENTER

The Matagalpa Re-nutrition Center is a mission project of Missionary Ventures International, Inc. It treats children that are severely malnourished. Children are referred to the center by the hospital or a social worker. In addition to treating the children, the center works with the mothers to identify ways to provide more nutritious meals.

The children live at the center until their condition improves sufficiently that they can be returned to their homes. This is not an orphanage. They do not take abandoned children.

Up to 15 children can be housed at the center. However, during 2012, because the need was so great, there were times when they accepted 1 or 2 additional children.

VILLA ESPERANZA

Villa Esperanza provides a residential facility for girls from La Chureca. The girls selected to live at Villa Esperanza are those deemed most at risk of physical and/or sexual abuse. They continue to maintain contact with their families, and the Villa Esperanza staff works with the families as well as the girls.

There were a lot of exciting developments at Villa Esperanza in 2012. They were able to open the third house with 8 girls and a housemother. This brings to 24 the number of girls at Villa Esperanza.

As an experiment, in 2012 the girls were sent to a school for the deaf rather than a public school. Even though there is an extra cost associated with this, it proved to be very beneficial to the girls' education. The classes are smaller and calmer than those in the public schools. There are classes in computers, arts, and dancing. And, as an extra benefit, the girls are learning sign language, which is a marketable skill.

The eight oldest girls were transitioned to a semi-independent living program. They will learn to manage their own affairs without a housemother. This is an important step in enabling them to become independent eventually.

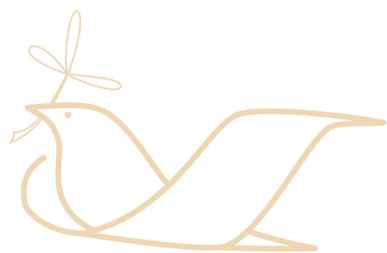
The first of the girls began vocational training. Perla entered training to become an elementary school teacher. This is an opportunity she could never have had if it were not for Villa Esperanza.

FUNDACION ORTIZ GURDIAN

Fundacion Ortiz Gurdian (FOG), a Nicaraguan non-profit, provides screening for, and treatment of, breast and cervical cancers in Nicaraguan women of limited means. FOG provides these services free of charge.

In 2012 there were 5,084 women enrolled in the program. A total of 1,997 PAP tests were performed, which resulted in the diagnosis and treatment of 18 precancerous conditions and 12 cases of cervical cancer. In addition, 310 breast procedures were done, and 80 women diagnosed with breast cancer received appropriate treatment including surgery and, if necessary, chemotherapy, hormone treatment and/or radiation therapy.

All of the women in the program who required treatment received group support through FOG, as well as professional counseling. In return for the free treatment they receive, the women are encouraged to become *promotoras*, (health promoters) and encourage their friends, family, and neighbors to have screenings and seek early treatment.



Breast Cancer survivors in front of FOG Clinic