



El Porvenir
Clean Water for Nicaragua

2012 Annual Report

What Motivates Us:

“My mom takes care of the house and us, her kids. She also cares for the pigs and chickens. I like to study. **It’s my dream to be a teacher, but my mom needs my help to get the water that we use at home.** We wash clothes at the well, and while there, we bathe. It takes 3 hours to get water because we walk slowly with the buckets and wet clothes that weigh a lot.

“I can’t study because of this. At home, my mom teaches me some letters, so I am slowly learning. I don’t blame my parents because I understand they need my help. I’m the oldest. It’s my responsibility to help them. I wish we had water in our community. Or at least closer. Then I could go to school. I hope we have it soon so at least my little brothers and sisters may go to school.”

–Aracely, age 16, Los Cerritos (Los Cerritos water system beginning soon!)



Left: This man, along with others from his community, dug this well a short distance from where they live. Clean drinking water now flows just outside their homes.

Right: A student washes her hands before eating lunch at school. Healthy kids stay in school longer.

What We Do:

We partner with rural Nicaraguan communities to improve their standard of living through sustainable development in clean water, sanitation, reforestation, and health education. Clean water and improved sanitation mean better health and, therefore, less time and money spent treating preventable diseases. This frees up resources for education, food, housing, starting a business, and more. Our programs help Nicaraguans help themselves.

We partner with local communities so that they are able to

- build, maintain, and repair their own drinking water and sanitation facilities
- implement good hygiene practices to reduce illness and disease
- manage their watersheds in a sustainable manner

2012 in Review:

El Porvenir community partners play an active role in each project. Local women and men provide technical assistance, tools, and materials for the construction of wells, latrines, community wash stations, school hand-washing stations, fuel-efficient cookstoves, and tree nurseries. All of the community members, including children, help with construction or with tending seedlings. Community members form committees to take responsibility for ongoing maintenance and repair of completed projects.

Thanks to the commitment and support of our donors, the future is now brighter for the 11,590 villagers who partnered with El Porvenir in 2012. They planted 85,265 trees and built:

- 568 latrines
- 24 wells and water systems
- 11 community wash stations
- 75 fuel-efficient stoves
- 91 tree nurseries
- 6 school hand-washing stations

173 North Americans traveled with El Porvenir to work alongside Nicaraguans on some of these projects, experiencing a new culture and promoting intercultural understanding.



Why We Are Different:

We are different because the community members who benefit from El Porvenir's expertise and materials initiate, build, and maintain the projects. "El Porvenir projects" belong to the beneficiaries because from the outset they are integrally involved in the projects that benefit their communities.

We address the water crisis comprehensively: improved sanitation keeps water clean, reforestation promotes healthy aquifers, and health education teaches hygiene and maintenance of water-related projects.

Photos for the annual report were contributed by RippleEffectImages.org, Regis University students, and Jenn Evon.

Clean Drinking Water and Improved Sanitation: We partner with rural communities to provide permanent water and sanitation resources and implement technologies such as hand-dug wells, drilled wells, gravity flow water systems, water quality testing, latrines, community wash stations, and school hand-washing stations.

Before the people of Quisaura, Camoapa began working with El Porvenir, Flor del Rosario Mendoza Tellez had to carry water 1 km from an open watering hole. Flor says, “Many times we fell, and the bucket broke, so we returned to the house with nothing. We had to find another bucket and walk back. Children always got sick because the water was dirty and polluted.” Sometimes the river was hard to cross because of so much rain. Sometimes it was impossible.



Flor and the rest of the Quisaura community participated in building a water system. Flor helped dig trenches, prepared food for workers, and participated in meetings. If she couldn't attend a meeting, she sent her oldest daughter.



Flor says, “I never thought I would have water at my home. The water is sanitary, clean; we drink water with confidence and, most importantly, water is available at home to prepare our food. Now we feel like we can happily take a bath because the water is near the house. I can wash clothes, do chores around the house, and take care of my children at the same time. The clean water helps keep us healthy; we listen to the El Porvenir hygiene programs on the radio because they provide guidance on how we should use water for good health.”



“The water system is a dream come true. Please come visit us and see the change in our lives, mostly in our health.”

Flor's youngest daughter, Sandra, washing her hands at the water tap in front of their house. The Quisaura water project is a gravity flow water system with household taps.

Want to lend a hand? Join us on a work trip to Nicaragua! Our trips are a unique opportunity to experience rural life in a developing country and contribute to sustainable development in Nicaragua.

See <http://elporvenir.org/page/work-trips> for more information and to check for available trips.

Middle: Contributing to the cost of the project and continuing to pay into a maintenance fund is necessary for project sustainability. We require communities to contribute 5-10% of project materials at the onset of a project so that they feel ownership of the project, but also to show that they will be able to afford project maintenance when it's needed. Here, a woman is paying her monthly water dues to the Potable Water Committee Treasurer in her village. In water systems like in Quisaura, water meters alert users to leaks quickly and prevent wasting water. Dues are based on water usage.



Below: A multi-generational family proudly shows off their new, clean, decorated latrine. A hand-washing station is set up behind them. This child will grow up with a safe, private latrine and better health.



Watershed Restoration: We partner with communities to protect and conserve water resources by establishing and managing reforested areas suitable for multiple uses such as forest, agriculture, and grazing.

Residents of La Montaña remember when the streams ran year-round and trees covered the hillsides. They remember a cooler climate before the trees were cut down, the topsoil eroded, and the streams began drying up. Back then, farmers had their plots closer to the river for better irrigation. Now they farm on steep hillsides near the top of the watershed, have poorer crop production, have little topsoil, and are running out of options. The days are limited for this watershed to be able to support cattle, agriculture, or human life. The failing watershed will also result in water shortages for the villagers who live farther downstream and for the 2,000 people in the city of San Lorenzo whose city water supply originates in the La Montaña watershed.



But El Porvenir and the people of La Montaña are changing that by:

- reforesting strategic areas of the watershed to recharge groundwater sources
- building contour swales to reduce soil erosion
- improving farming techniques
- establishing a culture of land stewardship
- improving the lives, health, and economy of those living in or affected by the watershed.

Reynaldo Andrés Gómez of La Montaña is one of those working to make a change: he is a humble man who rarely goes anywhere without his straw hat, his work gloves, and his machete.



Reynaldo is taking reforestation classes to lead the community to protect their natural resources. He created a work schedule for community members and trains them to preserve the minerals in the soil by using improved farming techniques such as agroforestry, composting, and cover cropping.

Reynaldo says, “I have many hopes for my community. I want to see improved quality of life in the people as well as improved quality of the soil and land.”



Contour swales in La Montaña. Berms hold water, organic matter, and soil, forcing water to pool and be absorbed into the ground. Soon, this hillside will be green year-round.

Mother and daughter work side by side in the village tree nursery. These seedlings will later be strategically replanted throughout the watershed to promote healthy aquifers, provide firewood through pruning, and reduce soil erosion.



“Now I have a beautiful stove. My head doesn’t hurt anymore; I don’t suffer from exhaustion. The doctor forbid me to be around smoke, and now I am not. My health is better.”
—Doña Blanca Rosa Soza Torres, La Pita, Terrabona

Health and Hygiene Education: By educating community members about proper hygiene practices and training volunteer local health promoters, we partner with communities to realize and sustain the benefits of clean water and improved sanitation.

“Through the educational follow-up visits that I conduct in each of the communities, I see the changing habits of the people. I see clean, hygienic communities; families with well-kept latrines; committees that manage their water systems; teachers educating children about proper hygiene habits. Most of all, I see people feeling empowered by the projects they build.” -Mayra Matamoros, El Porvenir Health Educator



The education program empowers people to develop habits that are environmentally friendly for the conservation of the environment and to improve their quality of life.

El Porvenir Staff

Of our 25 staff members, 21 are Nicaraguan; 22 are based in Nicaragua.

MANAGUA

Rob Bell, *Executive Director*

Octavio Cortes, *Director of HR and Finance*

Cesar del Castillo, *Director of Field Operations*

Marlon Alvizua, *Water Systems Engineer*

Tatiana Perez, *Field Supervisor*

Lorna Guadamuz, *Accountant*

Gabriel Saavedra, *Assistant Accountant/Logistics*

Wilbert Acevedo, *Driver/Logistics*

ACHUAPA/EL SAUCE

Oneida Hernandez, *Developer and Coordinator*

Sonia Reyes, *Health Educator*

Erick Velásquez, *Reforester*

WIWILI

Irsa Rayo, *Health Educator*

SAN LORENZO

Fermin Baez, *Developer and Coordinator*

Dinorah Mejía, *Health Educator*

Lester Bonilla, *Reforester*

CIUDAD DARIO/TERRABONA

Marlon Andrades, *Developer and Coordinator*

Mayra Matamoros, *Health Educator*

Lester González, *Health Educator*

David Ruiz, *Reforester*

BOACO/CAMOAPA

Angel Rivas, *Developer and Coordinator*

Carlos Bodan, *Health Educator*

Eddy Figueroa, *Reforester*

USA

Jenna Saldaña, *Director of US Operations*

Jenn Evon, *Development Associate*

Jo Buescher, *Delegations Coordinator*

El Porvenir Board of Directors

Fredrick Cooper, *Chair*—Engineer and President, Cooper Zietz Engineers, Inc.

Joni Foster, *Vice-Chair*—Director of Housing and Community, Rural Community Assistance Corporation; former El Porvenir staff member

Mark Smith, *Secretary*—Health Economist, Thomson Reuters

Richard Whitmore, *Treasurer*—Professional forester (retired); Co-Founder, Bellingham Friends of El Porvenir

Gabriela Tinoco—Environmental engineer; former Finance Director and Executive Director of El Porvenir

David Arnolds—Senior Counsel, Chevron; Founder, Colorado Friends of El Porvenir

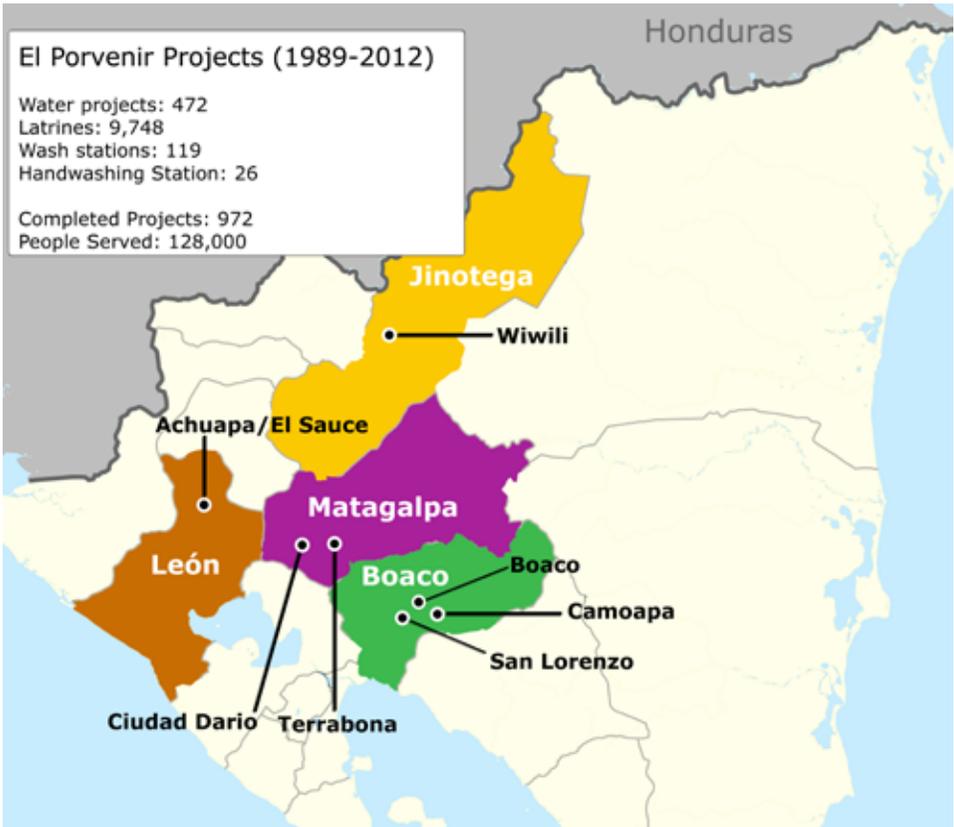
Gonzalo Guerra—Specialist for Monitoring and Evaluation, United Nations in Uruguay

Ray Finney—Realtor, affordable housing and renewable energy advocate

Chris Conway—Spanish teacher, Albany Academy

Joe Sloan—Community Relations, Denver Water

Liz Specht—Founding El Porvenir Board member; Board President emeritus, St. John's Educational Center



El Porvenir staff member Mayra Matamoros visits each household that benefits from El Porvenir water and sanitation projects to reinforce the healthy hygiene habits she teaches at community talks. Hand washing reduces diarrheal disease twice as much as drinking clean water, so the health education program is in many ways the most important program that El Porvenir carries out.

To Our Supporters: Thank you to all who made charitable gifts as well as gifts of time and talent. You are empowering rural Nicaraguan community members to improve their living standards through the sustainable development of water, sanitation, reforestation, and health education. You are improving the lives of thousands of individuals and families in Nicaragua.

FOUNDATIONS

Ann Campana Judge Foundation
 Blue Planet Network
 Episcopal Relief and Development
 George & Miriam Martin Foundation
 Global Water
 H2O for Life
 Henry E. Niles Foundation
 The International Foundation
 John F. and Mary A. Geisse Foundation
 Kenoli Foundation
 Laird Norton Family Foundation
 The Macauley Foundation
 May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
 The Project Solution
 SBMT Charitable Trust

ORGANIZATIONS/BUSINESSES

Allegheny College
 Chevron Humankind Program
 Chagrin Valley Rotary Club
 Chubb & Son
 CREDO Mobile
 Franklin High School
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Hispanic United Fund
 HSBC Philanthropic Programs
 Maury Mutual Water Co, Inc
 Metro Justice-Ciudad Hermana
 Newtown/San Juan del Sur Sister City Project
 North Carolina State University
 Plumbing Supply Group
 Regis University
 Rotary Club of Midtown-Sacramento
 Students for Safe Water

Thomson Reuters
 Water For People
 Westside Water Association

FAITH COMMUNITIES

The Advance
 Anchor Park United Methodist Church (UMC)
 Arlington Heights UMC
 Bay Ridge United Church
 Bethesda UMC
 Blenheim United Church
 Calvary UMC, Annapolis
 Chatham UMC
 Christians Equipped for Ministry
 Church of the Master UMC
 College Community Congregational Church
 Columbine United Church
 Court Street UMC
 Creekside UMC
 Dexter UMC
 Elizabeth Memorial UMC
 Faith UMC
 First UMC, Cookeville
 First UMC, Paragould
 First UMC, Prague
 Grace Avenue UMC
 Harbor UMC
 Kenwood UMC
 Lake Highlands UMC
 Lone Oak UMC
 Madison Square Presbyterian Church
 Mason UMC
 Means Memorial UMC
 Montclair Presbyterian Church
 New England Conference of the United Methodist Church
 New Haven UMC

Pleasant Union UMC
 Providence UMC, Lebanon
 Quitman First UMC
 Sanctuary UMC
 Spirit of Christ Catholic Community
 South Gibson UMC
 St. James Episcopal Church
 St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
 St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 St. Paul's UMC, Lenexa
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 Stanwood UMC
 Temecula UMC
 The Good Shephard UMC
 UMC of Paoli
 UMC of Yucaipa
 Union UMC of Belleville
 UMCOR
 Wellesley Village Church
 Wesley Bloomington UMC
 West St. Charles UMC
 Wrightsville UMC

FRIENDS OF EL PORVENIR

Bellingham
 Denver
 Portland
 San Francisco
 Seattle

**We sincerely apologize if we omitted or incorrectly listed your foundation, faith community, organization, or business. Please contact us to correct any errors.*

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2012

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$423,634
Accounts Receivable	5,525
Promises to Give	77,912
Total Current Assets	507,071

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT 82,900

TOTAL ASSETS 589,971

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

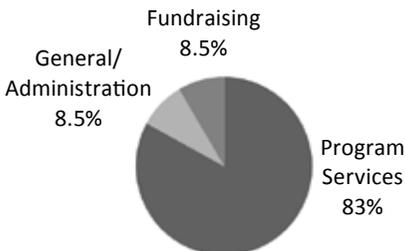
Accounts Payable	\$8,688
Accrued Expenses	60,400
Total Current Liabilities	69,088

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	347,785
Temporarily Restricted	173,098
Total Net Assets	520,883

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$589,971



Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$770,172
Work Trips	161,454
Community Contributions	28,902
Investment Return	1,180
Donated Services	27,922
Other	3,963

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE 993,593

EXPENSES

Program Services	945,566
General and Administrative	96,704
Fundraising	97,005

TOTAL EXPENSES 1,139,275

Net Assets released from Restrictions	160,644
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	14,962

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	117,910
Net Assets released from Restrictions	(160,644)
Loss on Uncollectible Promise to Give	(\$14,000))

Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets (56,734)

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (41,772)

NET ASSETS: START OF YEAR \$562,655

NET ASSETS: END OF YEAR \$520,883

A copy of the complete audited financial statements with an auditor's report by Wegner LLP, CPAs and Consultants, our independent auditor, may be obtained upon request.

Thank you for contributing to sustainable development in Nicaragua!



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“I think my community needs water near our homes so that we don’t have to get it from the stream. It’s heavy, and it takes a lot of time to get it. I think that if there is water near us, I will have more time, and I will be able to go back to school so I can have the opportunity to learn. Then I can help my family and not be like my parents who don’t know how to read or write.”

—Ruth María Picado Centeno, age 11, El Chaguitillo

All people deserve clean drinking water and an education. Your support of El Porvenir makes both possible for children like Ruth.