



**El Porvenir**  
Clean Water for Nicaragua

# 2011 Annual Report

## **Our Mission and Goals**

We work with rural Nicaraguan communities to improve their standard of living through sustainable development in clean water, sanitation, reforestation, and health education.

Our goals are to partner with local communities 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.



## **Clean Water for Rural Nicaragua**

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere: 33% of rural Nicaraguans lack safe drinking water, 63% lack improved sanitation, and 49% of Nicaragua's forest cover has disappeared in the last 50 years.

We serve the rural poor of Nicaragua in six regions—Camoapa, Ciudad Darío, El Sauce, San Lorenzo, Terrabona, and Wiwilí—by supporting their efforts to live with a sustainable supply of clean water. Our program is focused on water: improved sanitation keeps water clean, reforestation promotes aquifer recharge, and health education teaches hygiene as well as good use and maintenance of the projects.

Clean water and improved sanitation mean better health and, therefore, less money spent on medicine. This frees up money for education, food, housing, starting a business, and more. Our programs help Nicaraguans help themselves improve their standard of living while conserving precious environmental resources.

## 2011 in Review

Communities that partner with El Porvenir play an active role in each project. 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 carefully tending seedlings. Community members form committees to take responsibility for on-going maintenance and repair of the completed projects.

Thanks to the commitment and support of our donors, the future is now brighter for the 10,414 villagers who partnered with El Porvenir in 2011. They planted 71,995 trees and built:

- 605 latrines
- 30 water projects
- 10 community wash stations
- 75 fuel-efficient stoves
- 62 tree nurseries
- 9 school hand-washing stations

Also, 189 North Americans traveled with El Porvenir to work alongside Nicaraguans on some of these projects, experiencing a new culture and promoting intercultural understanding.



## How is El Porvenir Different?

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

## El Porvenir Staff

We have 20 staff in Nicaragua and 3 in the United States; 19 are Nicaraguan.

### MANAGUA

Rob Bell, *Executive Director*  
Octavio Cortés, *Deputy Director*  
Cesar del Castillo, *Director of Field Operations*  
Marlon Alvizua, *Water Systems Engineer*  
Lorna Guadamuz, *Accountant*  
Gabriel Saavedra, *Assistant Accountant/Logistics*  
Wilbert Acevedo, *Driver/Logistics*

### USA

Jenna Saldaña, *Development Director*  
Alexis Gleason, *Development Associate*  
Jo Buescher, *Delegations Coordinator*

### CAMOAPA

Angel Rivas, *Developer and Coordinator*  
Carlos Bodan, *Health Educator*  
Blanca Lopez, *Reforester*

### SAN LORENZO

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*

### EL SAUCE

Oneida Hernandez, *Developer and Coordinator*  
Erick Velásquez, *Reforester*

### WIWILI

Fermin Báez, *Developer and Coordinator*  
Alberto José Zeledón, *Health Educator*



*(Left to right) Community member Francisco Valles with El Porvenir staff David Ruiz, Wilbert Acevedo, and Mayra Matamoros. El Porvenir staff members do more than carry out project work; they empower community members to improve their lives through improved health. Valles is the volunteer health educator for the village of El Pavon, reinforcing the health learnings taught by El Porvenir Health Educators and ensuring project sustainability in his community.*

## 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

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

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

**Ray Finney**—Realtor, affordable housing and renewable energy advocate

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

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

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

**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



Photos for the annual report were contributed by Nile Sprague and El Porvenir staff.

**Clean Drinking Water and Improved Sanitation:** We work with rural communities to provide sustainable water resources and implement a variety of technologies including hand-dug wells, drilled wells, gravity flow water systems, water quality testing, latrines, community wash stations, and school hand-washing stations.

ANA ROSA DELGADILLO'S STORY: El Pavon, Ciudad Darío

Because her story is emblematic of so many other Nicaraguan women's stories, we want to share Ana's story with you in detail. Her home is humble, built of wooden planks and brick, a zinc sheet roof, and a floor of bare earth. The home has two rooms, a kitchen and a small living room. Ana and her husband are currently expanding their kitchen by adding an extension made of adobe.

For 46 years, Ana walked 2-4 kilometers every day to neighboring communities to get water. Twice a week, she took her family's clothes to wash. She carried the dry clothes to the water source, and then carried the bucket of water and the wet clothes home. She often waited up to 3 hours for her turn to wash. On clothes washing days, she and others left at 1 AM with bags of clothes and food for the day. They would return 15 hours later, in the late afternoon. Some days Ana and the other women were turned away and not allowed to get water.

Ana says, "This water situation was like a punishment. We felt that our situation was never going to change."

The path they walked was steep. Each person had to grasp the arm of the next to steady herself and pull the next woman up. Step by step, they climbed up and down the path. One week, Ana's mother-in-law and sister-in-law both lost their grip and rolled down the hillside. Both badly injured their feet, keeping them from walking for weeks.



*Right: Community members proudly stand in front of the new wash station they built. The doors behind them lead to shower stalls where they can bathe in private. The covered area at the right has shaded wash stands for clothes washing. The well is centrally located near the community members' homes and the wash station, reducing the burden on women and children of carrying water long, arduous distances.*



Because of the lack of latrines in El Pavon, there used to be a lot of illnesses, particularly diarrhea and parasites. An epidemic of cholera broke out and 100 people became ill: 6 people died. Their latrines were made of cardboard and mud. Many people would relieve themselves outside because they feared the latrines would cave in on them.

Ana tells us, "I suffered a lot because of the lack of water, and because we had to bathe and use the bathroom out in the open, without privacy. Now I can bathe using water that is close by, and my family has its own latrine.

"With these things, I feel like the queen of my home."



## CLEAN WATER AT LAST

The families of El Pavon got tired of walking to neighboring communities for water, so they began to dig their own well. The well caved in. They did not give up and started to dig again in another place. As they dug, they found large rocks. They used mallets and wedges. They even used explosives. Their hands developed blisters and open wounds because of the intense digging. Against these odds, they dug down over 30 feet! Sadly, this well caved in, too. The workers stopped digging and began to lobby their mayor, town leaders, and El Porvenir to help them finish the well. Ana says, "We hoped that someone would help us because we could no longer bear our situation."

With the community providing the labor and some materials as well as a contribution from the mayor's office, El Porvenir partnered with Ana and the rest of the El Pavon community.

Ana and her family participated in all parts of the project: "I invited people to meetings, directed the delivery of materials, helped feed the bricklayer, and carried materials.

"El Porvenir nurtured my hopes because it supported our community to have safe and accessible water, a private bath, a place to wash our clothes without ruining them, and a place to defecate with dignity. I will continue to organize the community, carrying out actions that will allow us to maintain the project through raising monthly fees that will provide funds to sustain the project itself."



**Health and Hygiene Education:** By educating community members about proper hygiene practices and training local health promoters, we are helping communities realize the full benefit of access to water and improved sanitation.

“The water we drank was contaminated,” says Ana, “and my four children were often sick so I had to go to the community health post. When they could not help me, I had to go to the hospital, which was expensive.

“Learning healthy hygiene habits has made illness in El Pavon disappear. We are healthier. Building and using the new latrines, well, and washing stations has improved the hygiene of the entire community. It has also given us our dignity, especially for us women.

“Now I feel more rested, I have water nearby, I have a pretty latrine, and I can do my daily chores easily. It’s a dream come true.”



**Reforestation:** We support the reforestation of micro-watersheds in Nicaragua by strategically planting native trees and preventing deforestation through the use of fuel-efficient stoves.

Ester Manzaneras Martínez, of Cristal, Ciudad Darío, cooked over a smoky, open fire for 47 years. She had no other alternative. On occasion, she had to be taken to the hospital because of respiratory infections caused by the smoke, resulting in medical and transportation expenses. Because of her family’s involvement in the El Porvenir reforestation program— they planted 1,550 trees on 2 acres— Ester now has a fuel-efficient stove with a chimney. The stove uses 60% less firewood than the stove she had, and the chimney vents the smoke outside of their home.

“For me,” says Ester, “this project has benefited my health and well-being. This stove returned my life. Now I don’t get sick; I feel healthy and have energy.”



**To Our Supporters:** Thank you to all who contributed to El Porvenir's success in 2011 through charitable giving as well as gifts of time and talent. Through your gifts, you empower rural Nicaraguan communities 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**

Ansara Family Fund at the Boston Foundation  
 Atkinson Foundation  
 Blue Planet Network  
 Create Good/Hussey Foundation  
 Dana Beck Fancher Mission Fund  
 Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation  
 Episcopal Relief and Development  
 George & Miriam Martin Foundation  
 Global Water  
 H2O for Life  
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 Kenoli Foundation  
 The Macauley Foundation  
 May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust  
 Protea Fund  
 R. V. Sager & Beatrice M. Sager Charitable Foundation  
 SBMT Charitable Trust  
 Tede Matthews Fund  
 The \$10 Club  
 The International Foundation

**FAITH COMMUNITIES**

Aldersgate UMC, Wichita  
 Antioch UMC  
 Bay Ridge United Church  
 Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist  
 Central UMC, Skokie  
 Christ Church UMC  
 Church of the Master UMC  
 Columbine United Church

East Anchorage UMC  
 East Lake UMC  
 First UMC, Huntington  
 First UMC, Stillwater  
 Garden Street UMC  
 Gilmore Park United Church  
 Grace UMC  
 Harrold UMC  
 Jewel Lake Parish UMC  
 Madison Square Presbyterian Church  
 Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers  
 Mason UMC  
 Montclair Presbyterian Church  
 Morris UMC  
 New England Conference of the United Methodist Church  
 Plymouth UMC  
 Providence UMC  
 Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
 Spirit of Christ Catholic Community  
 St. John UMC  
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
 St. James Episcopal Church  
 St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church  
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
 St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church  
 St. Paul UMC  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
 St. Paul's UMC  
 St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
 Trinity UMC  
 Union Congregational Church  
 UMCOR  
 University Unitarian Church

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church  
 Wellesley Congregational Church  
 Wild Rose UCC

**ORGANIZATIONS/BUSINESSES**

ACS, Inc  
 Albany Academy for Girls  
 Allstate Giving Campaign  
 Boulder Rotary Club  
 Chagrin Valley Rotary Club  
 Chubb & Son  
 Denver Rotary Club  
 Denver Mile High Rotary Club  
 Girl Scouts of Western Washington  
 Maury Mutual Water Co, Inc  
 Plymouth County Water Works Association  
 Rotary Club of Midtown-Sacramento  
 Water For People  
 Westside Water Association  
 Working Assets/CREDO Mobile

**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, 2011

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$297,253
Accounts Receivable	10,589
Promises to Give	68,800
Investments	161,034
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>537,676</b>

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT 59,288**

**OTHER ASSETS 50,000**

**TOTAL ASSETS 646,964**

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

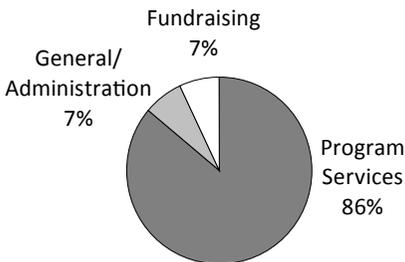
#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$30,738
Accrued Expenses	53,571
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>84,309</b>

#### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	332,823
Temporarily Restricted	229,832
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>562,655</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$646,964**



*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.*

## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$576,661
Work Trips	192,240
Grants	250,628
Investment Return	803
Donated Services	27,886
Other	50,672

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE 1,098,890**

### EXPENSES

Program Services	1,066,559
General and Administrative	91,442
Fundraising	88,130

**TOTAL EXPENSES 1,246,131**

Net Assets released from Restrictions	143,552
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(3,689)

### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	212,927
Net Assets released from Restrictions	(143,552)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	69,375

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 65,686**

**NET ASSETS: START OF YEAR \$496,969**

**NET ASSETS: END OF YEAR \$562,655**

**Want to see how your contribution was spent?** Join us on a work or educational trip to Nicaragua! Our trips are a unique opportunity to experience the reality of rural life in a developing country, learn about water and sanitation needs, and contribute to sustainable development in Nicaragua.



**“I had two miscarriages because I had to carry water from far away, carrying one bucket on my head and one on my hip. We didn’t have a latrine. We drank dirty water carried from far away. We had to wait in long lines to get the water. Our children couldn’t go to class because they were helping carry water.**

**“Now that we have clean water at our homes, our lives are better. Our children go to school on time. Our homes are clean, and we have more savings because we don’t have to spend our money on medicine.”** —Victoria Hernández, La Pita, Terrabona



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