



El Porvenir's mission is to improve the standard of living of poor people in Nicaragua through sustainable self-help water, sanitation, and reforestation projects.

Sullivan Family \$15,000 Challenge:

The Sullivan Family and El Porvenir were thrilled when so many of you enthusiastically responded to this matching challenge last year. The \$15,000 challenge exceeded our wildest dreams. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. You made so many water, sanitation, reforestation, and health education hopes become reality for the rural Nicaraguans with whom we partner.

Because of this great success, El Porvenir is teaming up again with the Sullivan Family to **double the impact** of the first \$15,000 in gifts made August 15-September 30, 2012.

The Sullivan Family offers this challenge because of their belief in our program. They have seen firsthand the results of their investment. Water and sanitation development has a domino effect. With clean water and safe sanitation comes health. When people are healthy, they are able to achieve an education. With education come economic opportunities. **It all starts with water and sanitation.**

*Mariano from the community of Achote: "We drank from the creek even though we knew it wasn't right. We didn't have enough money for our own needs. We felt badly that our children were sick so often. Now we have a clean, sanitary well and have learned so much from health education workshops. Our children will have more opportunities. We take care of this well as if were an eye on each of our faces."



*Ester from the community of El Cristal finished 4th grade before her mother told her she had to stay home to help with the house and younger siblings. When her mother did not have enough food for the whole family, she only fed the youngest children. Ester was the second oldest and had to go without. Her father worked hard but did not earn enough to take care of the 11 children. Ester has only 3 children because she does not want them ever to go hungry, like she did. She does not want her children to suffer, though they did without clean water and a latrine. Since building the well and latrine in 2011, Ester and her children have not had to go to the doctor and her children are able to attend school.

Our goal for the future of Nicaragua is a vibrant country with healthy, educated citizens. This starts with clean water, improved sanitation, reforested watersheds, and with YOU!

Make an impact in Nicaragua by donating today.

*Double your impact by giving now through September 30th at www.elporvenir.org!
All gifts for the challenge must be received by September 30th and identified as going towards the challenge by a note, email, or verbally.*

Holiday/Alternative Gift Giving



Honor a friend or family member *and* make an impact in Nicaragua! Gifts of all amounts create change; below is a sampling of what your gift to El Porvenir can do. Let us know who you would like to honor with your gift, and we will send a holiday card to your honoree(s), acknowledging your gift.

Bricks	\$25
Community Tree Nursery	\$60
Cement, 10 Bags	\$90
Vented, Fuel-efficient Cooking Stove	\$140
Rope Pump	\$190
Tools	\$200
Family Double Pit Latrine	\$450
Truck Tires (4)	\$600
New Well	\$2400

Make your gift online by going to www.elporvenir.org and clicking on "Donate Now."

Community Committees

"El Porvenir projects" are not really El Porvenir projects. The community members we partner with initiate, build, and maintain their own projects. We are their partners, helping with technical expertise, funding, and training. Each project begins with a volunteer community-elected committee that carries out community diagnostics, project planning and construction, maintenance fee collection, and project maintenance.

A community committee's vision is always self-sustainability. With maintenance fees collected from community members, communities have made repairs such as replacing electric pumps and electric transformers—and they still have funds left in their accounts for future repairs!

Our method works. Just look at the photo above. When former Development Associate Alexis Gleason went to Nicaragua last year,



she saw that a rope had come off the wheel inside the rope pump at a school well. (Rope pumps are standard in Nicaragua.) Within minutes, the twelve-year-old boy on the left, Carlos, whipped out a screwdriver, popped off the top of the pump, and set to work with other boys to fix it.

U.S. STAFF UPDATE

After four years, Alexis

Gleason, our Development Associate, has moved on. If you called our Denver office in the last four years, you probably heard her cheery and kind voice. Though we will miss her in the office, she has joined the volunteer Colorado Friends of El Porvenir group and will continue to be a part of El Porvenir.

We are excited to welcome Jenn Evon, a 2012 Regis University graduate with a major in Accounting and minors in Spanish and Economics. Jenn interned with us in 2011 and enthusiastically joined our U.S. staff in June 2012.

Clean Water Prevents Deafness, by Robert Nellis

We all know that drinking unsafe water can result in a bad case of diarrhea. However, the potential consequences of the treatment for acute diarrhea needing immediate medical care are less well known. Treatment for acute diarrhea often includes drugs that are ototoxic, or damaging to the inner ear that may result in permanent hearing loss or deafness.

The best course of action for any disease or illness is preventing the illness in the first place, especially in a country with limited or no resources for follow-up intervention. **The best way to prevent diarrhea is by installing potable water and improved sanitation systems.** By doing this, we are able to halt preventable causes of hearing loss and deafness from treatment with ototoxic drugs.

Rural Nicaraguans rarely go to the doctor for preventative care. They go to the doctor when the situation is dire, as that is all their resources allow. Identification and treat-

ment of permanent hearing loss with hearing aids is rare in Nicaragua as is appropriate education for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Hearing loss often goes undetected or may be mislabeled as mental retardation. Failure to properly diagnose leads to inappropriate treatment, if treatment is available at all. Hearing loss may cause delayed speech or no speech development, depending on the level of the loss. This impact on communication development excludes children from already limited education opportunities, thus, compromising the children's future.

Robert Nellis retired from University of Wisconsin-Madison after 32 years as an audiologist, working mainly with children and adults with special needs. During those years, Nellis became interested in the prevention of disease as a means to address the root causes of hearing loss. Since his first trip to Nicaragua in 1991, Nellis has supported Nicaraguans through El Porvenir and other efforts.

Wish List

Our trucks and motorcycles are tough, but even so, we are facing numerous repairs for all of our vehicles in Nicaragua.

1. Toyota Landcruiser Pick-up Truck:

We know this is a lot to ask for, but we really need one. Well, really, we need two, but we would be very grateful for one.

Cost: \$30,000

2. Motor for the Suzuki Jimmy (right):

The motor was damaged during a stream crossing to reach a remote community.

Estimated repair cost: \$3,000

3. Three motorcycles: Again, we know it's a lot to ask for, but we can't carry out our program work without motorcycles (and, hey, they are easier to get across streams than the Jimmy). The communities we partner with are farther and farther away,

and we need motorcycles with more capacity. *Cost per motorcycle: \$4,000*

4. Two laptops: Our computers in Nicaragua are old; we would love to replace them with new-ish laptops, preferably ones running Windows 7.



Remembering Friends of El Porvenir

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but live in thankfulness that he was."
—Hebrew proverb

In memory of
Elsie Cooper, Board Member 1995-2005
Doug Beaman
Paul Richard Muñiz

All of us at El Porvenir are grateful for the lives that each of these people led. We are sad to have lost these long-time friends this year. We are honored by the outpouring of love and support from the families and friends of Elsie, Doug, and Paul.

All three cared deeply about Nicaragua and never forgot their Nicaraguan friends. Because of their commitment, countless Nicaraguans have clean water to drink, a safe latrine to use, reforested micro-watersheds, and fuel-efficient stoves. Elsie, Doug, Paul, and their friends and families have given gifts that have created lasting change.

In Nicaragua, when a loved one has passed on but is always in our hearts, we call the name of the friend and say, "Presente!" Present, here with us. "Elsie Cooper, presente! Doug Beaman, presente! Paul Muñiz, presente!"

Photographs for this newsletter were contributed by Forest Woodward, Nile Sprague, El Porvenir staff, Lynn Gleason, Tyche Hendricks, Jim Haygood, and Chyril Turner.



Clean Water for Nicaragua



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