

“Hope and Growth!”

JustHope’s 2015 Annual Report of our Partner Work in Nicaragua

A participant recently reflected on her group’s fourth JustHope PartnerTrip to Nicaragua...
“We’ve been partnering here long enough now to see a difference – a difference in us!”

JustHope experienced huge growth in 2015 in the number and kind of partnerships that we are creating! We added several Service-Learning, Faith-based, and Corporate partnerships, as well as new research partnerships with a hospital and three universities in the US, and teaching partnerships with the University of Nicaragua and the Leon Public Hospital! JustHope involves THOUSANDS of people in the US and Nicaragua in working together to increase global understanding, foster cultural competency, combat extreme poverty, and promote sustainable development. **Our 50 global partnerships are working together to transform lives in both countries** through cultural exchanges focused on education, health care, micro-enterprise, and leadership development.



In Spring of 2015, **JustHope helped the community of Chacraseca complete and open an Annex to the Peace House.** A second place where service groups can stay, where the church can host retreats, and where the community can hold meetings and training classes. It’s also serving as the temporary practice site for the planned Cultural Center. It’s a multifunctional building that allows more people to be involved in more ways! In the future, we hope to add a second bedroom to the Annex to further increase its flexibility.

HEALTH PROGRAM

In 2015, over 4700 people were served by the clinic JustHope’s partners support in Chacraseca – people with little or no other access to healthcare! And we collaborated with Nicaragua’s Ministry of Health to open a second clinic in Chacraseca to increase accessibility for those who live in the outlying sectors. **In La Flor, the “medical access program” sponsored by JustHope partners** made medication and health-care support accessible to all 75 families who live there. Their only other option for medical care is an hour away in Matagalpa.

Our student nurse for the past five years in Chacraseca reflects on his experience:

Over the past years working in the clinic, I’ve see not only the effectiveness of our clinical treatment grow but also our patients’ satisfaction. As a newly certified nurse and health care provider, I look back on my time at the clinic with gratitude for what I learned during all my experiences there. Some of the most inspirational moments in my life have happened in that clinic. I remember the first time I saw a chronically immobile child walk for the first time. That was made possible because of JustHope’s support of an incredible team of medical professionals here in the community. I’m grateful to have been part of the team and looking forward to a whole new future as a practicing nurse!

We hosted six medical students this year as part of our Global Health Rotation Program with DoCare. And we established a new research-based pediatric residency partnership with Rainbow Infants and Children’s Hospital. Two pediatricians a year will spend 4-6 weeks in Chacraseca seeing patients and researching local health problems.



La Flor's 350 residents are safer than they were a year ago. The suspension walking bridge – the only access to La Flor – was resurfaced in 2014, but was badly damaged by massive flooding in the fall. A partner group in North Carolina spent a year designing options, finding donors, and shipping bridge pieces. In November, they totally rebuilt the bridge with reinforced steel, ensuring safe access to and from La Flor.

Mercedes is 108 years old and still living with her granddaughter and husband in the little concrete shack she grew up in. Her family has never had a real latrine... just some plastic surrounding a hole in the ground – until now. In January, JustHope partners built a latrine with four walls, a roof, and a concrete floor and seat. Because Mercedes's home sits on solid lava rock, they had to build the latrine above ground, with stairs. Her family is thrilled, but Mercedes can't climb the stairs. So, to make sure Mercedes also had a safe, clean option, the team bought a "potty chair" that she uses on her back porch! She is thrilled and says she feels like a queen!



Three families in Chacraseca and two in LaFlor left their plastic lean-to's behind in 2015 and are now living in safe, dry homes built by each of the families working side by side with JustHope partner teams. Ten families also have new concrete latrines that will greatly reduce parasites.

The 32 women (including two from Chacraseca) in the León Prison – some incarcerated, some in protective custody – now have room to move. Responding to an emergency request, JustHope partnered with León's Rotary Club to build additional cell space for these women who were previously all housed together in a single cell built for 4 people. The overcrowding was so bad the women had to take turns sitting down or sleeping. As is true in so many places, most women in Nicaragua are incarcerated for petty crimes committed in order to feed their families.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

In 2015, JustHope partners provided 350 elementary and 36 high school scholarships in Chacraseca...



Sabrina just finished the first grade, and she has big dreams for her future. When we asked her class who wanted to be President of Nicaragua some day, she was the first to raise her hand. "And I want to drive a big truck like my uncle," she added, blissfully unaware of the gender roles her culture still imposes. Sabrina is the oldest of four children in her family and the JustHope scholarship she receives makes it possible for her to go to school. Without the uniform and supplies that come with the backpack scholarship, her family could not afford for her to go. Sabrina and other children like her are Nicaragua's hope.

...plus 10 University scholarships – two in La Flor and eight in Chacraseca.

Fredy, from La Flor, graduates from college this year. He was forced to quit college after his first year because his family didn't have the resources for him to continue. But a JustHope scholarship enabled him to complete his studies. Along with using what he has learned to make his own small farm more productive and to coach his neighbors in better farming practices, Fredy has been offered an administrative position on a local commercial coffee farm. Education is the key to La Flor's future – and Nicaragua's.

Twelve Nicaraguan elementary and high school teachers gave JustHope's new Teachers in Solidarity program a huge thumbs up as they ended the school year with a host of new ideas and methods for teaching without physical resources. This new teacher-training program partners US teachers, Nicaraguan teachers, and Nicaragua's Department of Education to improve the classroom experience for students and teachers. Kids who like school will learn more and teachers who feel equipped with teach better.

Jamilton grew up attending the JustHope music camps every summer. He took to music like a fish to water and learned to play a mean flute and the harmonica. Jamilton attends university now – dental school. But he comes back to Chacraseca often to help tutor and encourage the younger music students.



For the 8th year in a row 250 kids and their teachers participated in a week-long music camp, where they had a chance to play flutes, chimes, guitar, drums, piano, and marimba. And another 60 kids in the outlying areas of Chacraseca had two-day camps. For the rest of the school year, 60 young people in two schools benefit from the music lessons offered by a local music teacher who is supported by JustHope partners to reinforce and expand what is learned in the camps. In 2016, JustHope's music program will expand to become a Cultural Center Program that offers traditional dance, poetry, art, and theater as well as music.

JustHope partners worked with the church in Chacraseca to further expand the playground and to refurbish the old colonial church building in Chacraseca. Baseball equipment was donated, and Father Tomas is serving as coach for the church little league team.

We believe that empowering effective local leadership is the heart of community development work. So in 2015, we continued our investment in a Nicaraguan consultant to facilitate training for the local leaders, and enhance their capacities as community leaders.

JustHope partners collaborated with local leaders to provide internet access in the central area of the community and to repair several schools. We also partnered with the Rotary Club to add a new preschool classroom to the community school in the Las Brisas sector.

ENTERPRISE PROGRAM



Coffee grown in La Flor is now being sold in Tulsa!! It's just one of several results we are working toward in the new JustHope partnership between DoubleShot Coffee and La Flor. Other dreams in the works include forming a cooperative to market coffee grown on small farms; designing a portable mill to extend time farmers have to market their coffee; and starting a microcredit bank to help small farmers avoid dealing with local loan sharks.

"I'm thinking about fixing my house next year," Blanca said excitedly, as she finished showing us her baby pigs. The 11 pigs born to the sow she had purchased with her \$200 microcredit loan will give her a nice profit – enough to buy her children's school supplies and add chicken once a week to her family's usual rice and beans. "Before these loans, I never even thought about fixing my house," she continued. "All I thought about was how to feed my children for one day."

JustHope’s microcredit program opened three new banks in 2015. We also opened a “second stage” bank for seven women whose businesses have grown beyond the capacity of our standard microbanks. Many of the 250 women who have received JustHope microloans now have self-sustaining small businesses, and 190 remain active in the program. With the support of JustHope staff, the women manage over \$40,000 in small loans with an incredible 100% repayment rate.



The Dreaming Together “Tienda” (formerly the hardware store) held the Grand Opening of its Clothing Store Annex on October 13th, and since then, sales and foot traffic have doubled. The Annex will be the backbone of a major expansion planned for 2016, which will include adding inventory for farming materials, bike and motorcycle repair parts, and more general store and hardware items. The profits of the Dreaming Together Tienda continue to support other community businesses.



Nicolas had almost given up being able to plant this year. There was no money for buying fertilizer, and without it nothing would grow in his nutrient-depleted soil. Then JustHope partnered with a local commercial yucca company to contract with several farmers to grow commercial yucca crops. The rains were too sparse for the corn to survive, but yucca takes less rain... and it looks like the harvest in May will be good.

Climate change is taking its toll on small farmers in Chacraseca, and leaving families without enough food. **JustHope partners supported several agricultural projects this year** including a small permaculture pilot program, and the initiation of a microcredit bank for famers. We are currently working with several universities to establish a model farm program in 2016.

JustHope partners continue to accompany **Stitching Hope** as it strengthens its place in the fashion industry with new products and new designs.

Originally a JustHope project, the **community tractor** is now a self-sustaining community business, fully owned and managed by the community.

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income		
General Donations	\$ 51,792	
Project Donations	\$ 230,712	
Program Income	\$ 88,317	
PartnerTrip Payments	\$ 230,642	
Wine for Water Net Income	\$ 66,517	
Total Income		\$ 667,980
Expenses		
Projects Funded	\$ 189,992	
Programs Funded	\$ 126,309	
PartnerTrip Costs	\$ 211,759	
Operations Expenses	\$ 79,631	
Other Expenses	\$ 1,060	
Total Expenses		\$ 608,751
Dollars Held for 2016 Projects/Programs		\$ 58,972
Undesignated Funds Remaining		\$ 257

Thank You for making Justice and Hope more than a dream.

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