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Dear Family/
Ohana,

We have returned from another awesome mission trip! Launching into the deep includes our team from Hawaii, volunteers, partners, & people of Nicaragua. Our mission is all about relationships, sharing opportunities, responding to needs, enjoying and learning together in faith.

We deeply appreciate your being a partner in our mission. We are sharing a few stories to help you realize that we could not do this without you.

Blessings and peace be with you,
Charlotte & Daniel

“You Have to Row Out into the Deep”

Offering Cherished Moments:

When we started the first Day Camp for Children with Special Needs last year, we never imagined that for some of the children (and their parents) that this might be their last opportunity to play and sing, and to do a craft project together. That changed this year when Marcelino and his 6-year-old son, Yerson, showed up at camp, sent by the nurse director of the community clinic in Villanueva. Yerson had been struggling with aplastic anemia for several years, with the best care that his parents and health care professionals could give him. His condition was stable, so they decided to accept the invitation.



Marcelino

Yerson

He came for 2 days. Though quiet, he was not shy, and participated in the small group activities with joyful enthusiasm. Ten days later, he was rushed to intensive care in Managua (a 6 hour trip from their home), but his body could no longer overcome the illness. At his wake, Marcelino commented on how much the shared experience meant to them. Our team is grateful for having given them the opportunity for cherished moments.



Learning the Moves!

Altogether, 42 children with special needs participated in our Day Camp this year. They were divided into 4 groups because the physical area has a capacity for only 10-12 children, plus their parents and volunteer staff. The typical day began with a prayer and a musical “ice breaker march” around the compound; then smaller groups rotated from swimming, to music, to sports, to arts and crafts. There was a snack break, and lunch at noon when all were ravenous. (See **Day Camp** on page 3)

Preparing to Communicate with the Rest of the World



Part of Senior Class, Rincon de Garcia

The annual donations of books for the primary and secondary schools we assist are eagerly welcomed, and teachers quickly incorporate them into their lesson plans.

This year, a generous donation of quality, gently used, lap-top computers allowed us to give computers to 4 of our scholarship students and 3 to two high schools. The gifts enable teachers to prepare the senior class students for entry into the universities and the modern world of computer technology. Rural Nicaragua is gradually preparing itself for communication with the rest of the world: a big step forward!

Unsung Heroes in a Not-So-Perfect World

Odontologist Rosa Amalia Reyes could make an easy living in Managua or another city where she would have a list of paying clients who can afford the latest procedures in dental care. Instead, she chose to make her home in Villanueva where she does mostly essential, preventive dental care in the free clinic sponsored by the Ministry of Health. But her services are not limited to the clinic's hours.

This year, she focused on the needs of 3 young adults of the Mendoza family who have a debilitating neurological, inherited disease, which is progressive. A brother and sister, both in their early 20's, walk with the help of walkers; a younger brother (21 years old) can still walk unassisted, but his balance is deteriorating. The disease also affects their manual dexterity; consequently, their oral care has suffered. Noting their rotting teeth, and their difficulty to access public transportation, she offered to do the necessary extractions in their home.

We were honored to drive her to their home. With a handful of dental tools, a syringe with an anesthetic agent, 3 paper cups, 3 paper towels, and a plastic bag for trash, she deftly

cared for her three patients in their rustic kitchen: extracting a total of 6 teeth that had been causing them pain and infections. Their stoicism was notable! Staying long enough to assure their risk for hemorrhaging was low, she instructed their older sister on what to assess for, how to administer their oral antibiotics, and pain medication as needed. She then returned to the clinic to continue her duties. Follow up procedures will come later.



The Mendoza Family, El Bonete

(**Day Camp**, cont'd from page 1) After lunch, families learned about nutrition, health practices, and disease prevention, (especially dengue, because there were outbreaks in several villages during July). Finally, each group had their closing celebration: with music, dancing, poetry reading, a piñata, and the bestowing of the coveted championship medals for all participants!

We see the children blossom each year. A youngster we met in 2009 was so reserved, he refused to look at or talk to anyone on the team. He had improved slightly over the years, and now he was singing and dancing with the rest! How great is that?! Friendships develop among families. Youngsters who communicate through sign language have become so adept that they can joke and tease each other, thanks to their parents, and sign language teachers. As one mother explained, “Here the children are accepted for who they are; they feel self-confident, and that transfers into the classrooms and their homes.” It’s an amazing metamorphosis!

The Meaning of a Bicycle:



Carlos Aguilar, of Santa Anita

This year we purchased 20 bicycles for first year students who attend the 2 regional secondary schools we assist in rural villages north and south of Villanueva. All the students travel long distances to their classes, and the bikes mean less time traveling, and more time and energy for studies and helping with family chores.

For the first time, we have given a university student a bicycle to help him get from his farm in Sta. Anita to town, where he can catch a bus to the university in Somotillo, another 45 minute trip. This unique decision was made because Carlos Aguilar is a unique young man, 33 years of age. A farmer by tradition, he has wanted to attend university since he graduated from secondary school. But he married soon after that, and began a family; he and

Magdalena have 4 children ranging in age from 13 to 3 years. Providing the necessities for his family took priority. Besides farming, he did seasonal work in El Salvador. Now, with a partial scholarship from Somos Ohana Nicaragua, and a night shift as a caregiver for an elderly man who has no living family members, he began his university classes last February to become a teacher of Language and Literature (a 5- year course of study). His family is very supportive, and his first semester grades reflect his capabilities. Congratulations, Carlos!

Communities Prepare for a New Secondary School

Parents, teachers, students, Ministry of Education administrators, and representatives of surrounding villages, the municipality officials, and us, all showed up for the first meeting to decide where the new secondary school would be located. Within 2 hours, it was decided: an available piece of virgin farmland, approximately 10 acres, in La Carreta was the most central location, with all the desired qualities, especially potable water and nearby electric power lines. They also decided that the preferential course of study would combine classical and agricultural technology curricula. In addition, the parents committed to provide much of the manual labor to keep costs reasonable.

A few days later, the Municipal Council, village representative, and Ministry of Education officials agreed on how the sale of the land, with legal documents, and consequent turn-over to the Ministry of Education would be handled. That process is now in motion, with a proposed deadline of the end of this year. (See **Secondary School** on page 4)

Somos Ohana Nicaragua

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Somos Ohana Nicaragua is an all volunteer organization called to cooperate with groups or individuals seeking to improve their lives. *If you would like to become involved as a volunteer, please write us at Flav1@hawaiiintel.net, or call 808-572-9898.*

Lunch @ Cary & Eddie's Hideaway: \$15

November 9, 2013

(**Secondary School** continued from p3) Once the land transfer is secured, an Amigos for Christ engineer (our partner in Chinandega) will design the buildings and their proper location considering space for market gardens and animal husbandry. We hope to initiate construction in 2014. There are 130 students waiting to enter this school. At present, they squeeze into a nearby elementary school on Sundays to receive their basic lessons.

We have no proposed budget as yet, but we know it will probably take at least 5 years to have all aspects of the school operating. We ask all our supporters to please help us make this dream become reality. We will keep you posted as each stage develops. Thank you for your interest and generosity.

For \$15 tickets, call 572-9898 , or 573-5471

**The Hideaway in Kahului
500 N. Puunene Ave.
November 9th, 11:30AM-2:30PM
Silent Auction & Nic. Crafts
Part of the profit goes to Somos
Ohana Nicaragua for the school.**

