

Aloha Dear Family and Friends of **Somos Ohana Nicaragua**,

The year 2021 will remain in our minds and hearts as long as we live, one that was difficult for most of our known world due to the COVID pandemic, and other political events. Yet it is a time when we all had opportunities to act in a kind and generous spirit to uphold or to console our human family wherever we are.

As we do once yearly, we write to ask for your help to sustain the work of Somos Ohana Nicaragua. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful kindness.



*Rincon de Garcia teachers sew masks for their group.*



*Some of the primary school students we send daily nutritional support to, via teachers.*

In Nicaragua, COVID took its toll, partly due to not having enough vaccines until recently. Schools remained open in spite of low attendance due to fears of the parents for their children, and absenteeism of some faculty members and health care workers due to infections, or the need to care for family members who were ill. The situation has improved in recent weeks, and the schools are holding their promotion ceremonies during the month of December.



*New bike for an incoming student with a long commute to her secondary school.*

To you, our donors and friends, we send heartfelt gratitude for continuing to send your generous donations, even when we did not physically travel to Nicaragua. Through e-mails, phone calls, and e-photos, we have kept in touch with our partners in Nicaragua and are able to continue sending support for our key projects: **Bikes** for children having to travel long distances to school; **Travel support for cancer patients** to access treatments in the larger cities and for **Children with Special Needs** to receive some physical therapy and speech therapy; **Nutritional support** for primary students in areas that were affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota; **Scholarships** for university students to specialize in professions related to health and education; **Repairing and upgrading some of the older schools** in the rural communities, and starting **Sewing Classes** for women in rural communities.





*The 2021 graduates of Augusto C. Sandino secondary school in La Carreta just celebrated their graduation on December 10. They are the second class to graduate in the school's new auditorium.*

In 2022 we hope to return to Nicaragua to support the people there, to give our volunteers the opportunity to meet our Ohana in Nicaragua, and to renew and celebrate the bonds formed over 23 years: a Homecoming!

Before closing, I wish to share with those who may not yet be aware: My beloved husband, and co-founder of Somos Ohana Nicaragua, died on August 6, 2021. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary care of Hospice Maui, other medical personnel, family, and friends for the months of sharing with Daniel his final preparation for a new life.

With deep love, gratitude, and blessings, Feliz Navidad!

*Charlotte Flavin*

Charlotte (Maura) Flavin

And the Somos Ohana Nicaragua Board of Directors:

Mele Stokesberry  
James Kahler  
Barbara Lee  
Judy Buettner

Edith Don  
Mary Santa Maria  
John Powley  
Gretchen Spring



*Scholarship graduate student Arlen Mercado just received her licensure as a Registered Nurse.*

## **Somos Ohana Nicaragua**

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