



Somos Ohana Nicaragua

Newsletter Volume 16

Fall 2025

Greetings

Saludos, todos los amigos de Somos Ohana Nicaragua. Greetings to all our organization's friends. Here's the news about our recent activities with our wonderful co-volunteers in the municipality of Villanueva, Chinandega Province, Nicaragua. ∞



Keythy, her mother and grandmother, the night she received her new walker.



Keythy in the outgrown baby walker.

Keythy's learning to walk

Keythy Milagro is a 5-year-old with cerebral palsy. She was confined to a baby walker that she had seriously outgrown until this July when we were able to take an adjustable walker down with the team to Villanueva. Keythy took to her new six-wheeler immediately and is learning to support herself on her legs and actually walk within the supportive device. She's getting stronger.

Her grandmother Aleyda writes, "Let me tell you, Keythy has made a lot of progress. She can now sit up on the floor by herself, which she couldn't do before. While she doesn't use the walker in the classroom due to bumping into the other children when she moves around, for activities her mother and teacher hold her by the arms so she can participate. The walker has been very useful at home." ∞



Fruit snack funding continues



Somos Ohana Nicaragua is still supplying funds for weekly supplementation of a fruit snack for pre-schoolers through 3rd grade students at 5 primary schools. These are children at Escuela La Providencia.

Young team members enjoy and grow from summer experience

With the very sincere desire to keep alive and growing the legacy of their grandparents Dan and Charlotte “Maura” Flavin, four of their grandchildren were members of the 2025 summer team, not their first visit to Nicaragua. They helped in every aspect of putting on the day camp for special needs youth, from life-guarding, serving food, playing soccer with the local participants, singing, doing crafts, and more. They sorted and helped deliver a huge trove of donations. And Dominic Flavin, making use of his Spanish skills, coached the recipients of 6 laptops we delivered this year, assisting them on how to get started on their new computers.

Dominic stated, “For the better part of 3 decades, SON has been visiting Nicaragua each year to provide assistance to the community of Villanueva. With each year that passes, the most rewarding part of that visit has to be seeing the faces of the people that have been directly impacted by the financial and structural support to the education system we are lucky enough to help provide.”

His brother Alex said, “My favorite part of our trip was creating genuine connections and memories and having fun with new faces during camp.” 🌀



Dominic, Rhys, Charlotte and Alex Flavin in front of our Day Camp banner.



Rhys and Charlotte and a happy camper with a gift toy.



Alex with a camper and his wooden airplane, made by a Seattle volunteer.



Dominic Flavin with a teacher and her child, reviewing computer skills.



Our team and the recipients of the laptops, at the home of Doña Tala Escobar (in center).



US and Nicaraguan volunteers help campers have fun safely in the camp pool Foreground: Dominic and Juan Ramon. Background: Alex, Charlotte.



Yoshua Alexander and his mom are annual participants at the Day Camp.



Keyth's mom helps brush teeth during the camp's dental hygiene demonstration.



Everyone likes the crafts table at the annual Day Camp for Special Needs Youth..



Kids at the restored community well next to Mata de Caña elementary school.



Women fill buckets with pure water the day the well was back in service.

Water flows again at a dry community

In May and June of this year we worked in cooperation with Amigos for Christ, a non-profit focused on water restoration to NW Nicaraguan communities, to restore the dry well at Mata de Caña. The school and whole community there depended on a well that had a burned-out pump and was full of sediment. We paid for the new pump and a clean-out, and the Amigos engineers supplied the on-site labor.

This was a particularly urgent need, as the whole community and not just the school benefitted, but it was wonderful to see the kids filling their water bottles during our visit. ☺

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Please Donate Now!

Your tax deductible donations
are needed for all our projects.
Thank you for your interest,
good will, and generosity!

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Volunteers welcome!

Are you looking for opportunities to be of service to others in the fascinating country of Nicaragua, land of volcanoes with a deep history of patriotism and social justice struggles? Our team goes annually in the summer, and volunteers travel and work with us for between one and two weeks. It helps to have some Spanish. We live with families and cover all our own costs. The rewards include rich friendships and joyful memories.

**Call (808) 205-4067
to talk about how
to contribute.**

Scholarships feed dreams

We are proud of our 8 “becarios,” university students receiving scholarships from Somos Ohana Nicaragua, who are all studying in fields of health sciences:

All our becarios must give at least 20 hours of volunteer work during every semester that they receive our financial support. Sandor, who helps his father on the family farm during the week, writes about his service experience, “My dream was always to study medicine, but for now I’m studying nursing, which has allowed me to grow a lot and feel satisfied with what I do. My community hours at the Carolina Osejo Clinic and the Brothers Soriano health post have been the richest experiences of my nursing education so far. Being in direct contact with patients and being able to help them has permitted me to put into practice what I’m learning and also to discover what all I still have to learn. Dr. Ana Espinoza and nurses Juana Mendez and Vilma Morales are great models who with patience and dedication have shared their knowledge and experience with me. Their guidance has fortified my interest in growing in the health field and brought me closer to my dream of being a professional in the service of others.”



L to R: Maria J. Romero Gutierrez, 1st year, Bioanalysis Clínico, UNAN Leon; Ely Mondragon Flores, 5th year, Bioanalysis, UNAN Leon; Mayling Carazo Aguilar, 3rd semester Medicine, at Univ. Nacional Comandante Padre Gaspar Garcia Laviana, Leon; Nayeli Suyen Soriano Molina, 1st year, Nursing, UNAN Somotillo; Francis M. Mendez, Nursing, 5th year, UNAN Chinandega and a “sabatina” (receives all course work only on Saturdays); Heiling D. Garcia Rocha, 3rd yr Farmacia UNAN Leon; Darwin Enrique Montenegro Campos, 1st year, Nursing, UNAN Somotillo, and Sandor Samir Rios Peralta, Nursing, 2nd year at UNAN in Somotillo, also a “sabatino.”



Sandor Rios Peralta in his scrubs. See his comments about his community service, above.

A work in progress



We are in the process of replacing the delapidated and inadequate classrooms attached to this Villanueva area primary school, (above left) with a large and well-built classroom addition now under construction. In our next issue, we hope to show you the finished and occupied wing, once construction has been completed.



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**Here's Your Report from Nicaragua
of our team's 2025 visit!**

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Muchas Gracias.

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