



News Letter

15 *Years*
Educating to change

Dear Friends and Donors

This year we celebrate Pan y Amor's 15th year of offering an excellent education to children from some of Managua's poorest and most dangerous neighborhoods. Where has the time gone to? The years have flashed by, as life has a tendency to do. Often cleaning out a drawer or throwing out old papers, we come across photos of small happy faces who are now adolescents in high school or have already graduated and are working or have gone on to University.

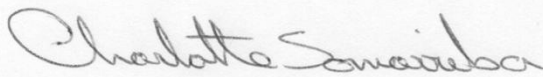
If our only claims to success were limited to our having given hundreds of children a right to a decent education and a few years in a protected environment, to enjoy the things children have a right to enjoy, such as health, nutrition, safety and a time to play; I would feel satisfied that we have done a good job. However our claims are far greater than those mentioned above; we claim to have really changed the lives of our students, offering them a unique (for Nicaragua) education which will allow them, on graduation, the access to an excellent job and the opportunity of becoming a useful member of Nicaragua's society. We can only thank each and every one of you for your love and support during all these years, as without you, our children would certainly not be where they are today.

I end by saying that this, our 15th year in the service of Our Lord, is the turning point for us. Our mission is clear, our administration organized and our academic curriculum in good hands and on a clear road as to what we need to achieve with our teachers and students. To complete the stability of

this mission for the future, we are actively looking for a parcel of land to build our new school, which will provide safety for our students and staff; unite primary and secondary school under one roof; provide ample class rooms and recreational space for our students.

Financially this is an enormous challenge however we have already received our first promise from a foundation in Holland, for US\$100,000 and a promise of another US\$100,000 as a matching grant if we can find our third US\$100,000 towards the land. We therefore ask you all to keep us in your prayers so that we may achieve this goal in a short time.

God is good!



Irma María Niño Saavedra is five years old in this photo. She has been with us since the first level of preschool. Her mother was and adolescent mother and has worked with Pan y Amor for many years.



Irma María Niño Saavedra, is now 12 years old and is in the fifth grade.

Our Students enact the Passion of Christ for Easter

Our students never stop amazing me with their enormous capacity for enacting a play or in this case the Last supper, the Betrayal of Christ and his Crucifixion. With very little time to practice and dressed in the clothes of the period, each child and adolescent took his/her part very seriously and presented on the day, a spectacular presentation. A member of the Archdiocese was present to film this presentation and I can only speculate that he left with a lump in his throat after watching the enactment of Christ already nailed (tied in our case) to the cross being hoisted into position. The faces of our smaller members were a sight to be seen; something I do not believe they will forget in a long time.



Who was behind all of this; well of course, our wonderful Director, Rocio!



Rotary Club sponsors 15 vocational career students.



Once again the Greater Mission of San Francisco Rotary Club, through the host Managua Tiscapa Rotary Club are supporting Pan y Amor by sponsoring 15 of our students for a year, with their vocational career training courses. In previous years they donated wonderful back packs full of school supplies for our students.



Thank you Greater Mission club members for your generous support for our students. I am sure our 15 students will make the members of both Rotary Clubs, very proud of them! Thank you members of the Rotary Club Managua Tiscapa for always remembering

our students.

Two new Academic coordinators join our school administration team:

We are blessed by two new members to our academic administration team, bringing the number up to four. Our wonderful Rocio heads up the team as the Director of the school, then we have Jazmina who is the sub director of primary school as well as the academic supervisor/coordinator for the school as a whole. In secondary school we have Victor, the sub director and Tania who is the academic coordinator for secondary school plus the technical career courses.



We finally feel complete in this area and this team has been working since August of last year to bring many new and very positive changes to the school organization and curriculum.

English as a second Language



For many years now we have been teaching our students English, however this year we are emphasizing the need for this skill by increasing the weekly classroom hours starting in kindergarten; with the expectation that our students should graduate with a good knowledge of the English language. We have also included in our curriculum, the reinforcement of mathematics and the Spanish language.

Earthquakes in Nicaragua before and during Easter Week

Nicaragua suffered several server earth quakes just before and during Easter week and hundreds of smaller tremors continued during the following weeks. Thankfully there was no major damage in Managua, a few cracked walls and roof tiles dislodged however our two buildings did not suffer at all. They are old and ugly but strong, thank the Lord. Luckily our children were due to be out of school for Easter week, however the return to school was delayed 3 weeks more by presidential decree; to safe guard the students of both private and public schools in Managua and Leon.



Photo obtained of La Prensa

Fortunately, at the beginning of the school year, Pan y Amor opened 2 weeks earlier than the public schools so our students were less affected; however a four week break so early in the school year was not what we would have wished for. This has caused our academic directors to review the carefully planned yearly schedule and to shorten or eliminate some of the fun but less important events. Due to our full school schedule we are also eliminating the previously planned week of vacation during July.