

Project Chacocente USA, Inc.
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www.OutoftheDump.org



Project Chacocente: Overview of the Ministry, Summer 2019

OUR BEGINNINGS

In 2003, Cheryl Avery, a missionary in Nicaragua, took visiting American teens to La Chureca, the city dump of Managua. There, 180 families lived in a burning wasteland, foraging for food and running after garbage trucks to salvage whatever they might sell. "We have to do something!" the young people cried out. Cheryl mortgaged her home in Massachusetts to buy 42 acres of farmland near Managua, then invited ten of the families to form a community there. Project Chacocente was born. The families built small block homes for one another, learned to read and write, took classes on everything from personal hygiene and parenting to farming and conflict resolution, and formed a Christian community whose "village green" today is Chacocente Christian School. Opened as kindergarten-through-6th grade in 2005-2006, CCS now provides tuition-free all-day education and a daily wholesome lunch for 134 students in grades K-11 (there is no 12th grade in Nicaragua).

OUR MISSION TODAY

With Christian discipleship as the foundation, Project Chacocente's mission is to advance the dignity and well-being of the people of Nicaragua by enabling them to lift themselves and one another out of poverty.

We stay in close touch with our original families, but our main tasks now are:

- 1) to operate and continuously improve Chacocente Christian School;
- 2) to provide our students and graduates with the guidance and financial resources they need to pursue degree or vocational programs that lead to fulfilling employment and a better standard of living;
- 3) to instill in each student and graduate a lifetime habit of "giving back";
- 4) to assist the greater Chacocente community with sustainable development, especially of decent housing and access to clean water.



OUR OUTREACH

In 2018, our grants to Nicaragua totaled approximately \$186,000, an average of \$15,500 a month (our annual independent accountant's review of 2018 finances will take place later this year).

These are large sums, but Chacocente touches many lives:

- ◆ Since we added 11th grade in 2014, Chacocente Christian School has **graduated 41 young men and women.**
- ◆ Dozens of proud "**Chacocente Parents**" contribute their time and talents in volunteer roles.
- ◆ The Project's **staff of 24, all Nicaraguan,** provide for their own **100 family members.** All salaries were paid without interruption when schools were closed nationwide during the civil crisis of spring & summer 2018.
- ◆ During school closures, **school lunches were converted into emergency food relief** for the community.
- ◆ We provide **scholarships** to students and adults for college and career enrichment courses and 5-year degree programs in education, English and English education, physical education, nursing, civil engineering and computer sciences at University of Central American (UCA) and other institutions of higher learning. The annual cost of 1 year of a 5-year degree program ranges from \$1200 (e.g., civil engineering, Saturday classes) to \$2850 (nursing, Monday-Friday classes).
- ◆ Some Chacocente graduates now attend college without the need for assistance.
- ◆ With the support of Valencia (California) United Methodist Church and Dr. Belinda Forbes, CCS hosted annual 2-day **community medical/dental clinics** in 2015-2018. Last year, Dr. Forbes and Dr. Lizzette Cortez

saw 10 patients in a new pilot initiative for **restorative dentistry**; another such clinic is planned for this year. Dental restoration is rare among the poor in Nicaragua; extraction, when available, has been the rule.

- ◆ In 2018 Project Chacocente built two **new homes** for needy community members.

OUR PEOPLE

Project Chacocente has been a rock of stability and hope for the staff and the surrounding community during the past year of national strife. Our Nicaraguan leadership team - Omar, Jacqueline, Juan Carlos, Karen, and Edgard - and our teachers, have been heroic. Our extraordinary new school psychologist, Oswaldo Mauricio Guevara Vallecillo, counsels individual students and teachers, holds workshops and retreats for student, teacher and parent groups, leads teachers on visits to families' homes, facilitates education and referrals for students with disabilities, and provides career counseling for CCS upperclassmen.

OUR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Project Chacocente is a conscientious, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Stateside expenses form a very small part of our budget. Bank and accounting fees, the costs of meeting federal and state reporting requirements and communication and fundraising expenses amount to **less than 3% of what we send to the Project.** As needed, our leadership team in Nicaragua consults a small family law firm, whose service has been superb. The members of our Board of Directors, and our "webmasters," Mike and Erica, receive no financial compensation. All serve out of love for the Project and its people.

OUR FUTURE

"Be transformed by the renewing of your minds," the Apostle Paul wrote, "so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

Project Chacocente is about transformation, and the vital union of Spirit and intellect. It is about superior education, created upon a Christian foundation, that builds fruitful and meaningful lives and communities.



INVEST IN HOPE. JOIN WITH US.

We so appreciate your faithful support. Project Chacocente belongs to all of us. Please contact either of us personally with questions, concerns and suggestions. Please also give generously to help sustain Chacocente as the beacon of hope it has truly become for our students, alumni, staff, families, and neighbors in Nicaragua.

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**Please accept my gift. Checks may be made to: Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA, 02420.
You may also give online through PayPal at www.outofthedump.org**

\$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other _____ (please state amount)

Or, check one! Yes, I will sponsor a child (\$360 yearly).

Yes, I will support a teacher: \$6000 for 1 year or \$500 for 1 month.

Yes, I will fund 1 month of scholarships (\$750); *we are supporting 10 scholars now!*

Yes, I will fund 1 month of school lunches (\$1400).