

Project Chacocente USA, Inc.
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www.OutoftheDump.org



Greetings to you and prayers for the health of you and your families. As we watch the number of COVID-19 cases climb daily in the United States, we understand that the coronavirus is just beginning to appear in Nicaragua. According to our contacts, there have been 4 confirmed cases and 1 death reported. Obtaining up-to-date and accurate information from the government is challenging, however; the numbers will undoubtedly increase quickly.

To protect our teachers, who rely on crowded public transportation to commute to and from Chacocente Christian School, and also our students and their families, our Nicaraguan staff made the decision to suspend classes indefinitely beginning March 20th. While our students routinely wash their hands during the school day, vigorous hand-washing was reinforced prior to final dismissal. School Director Jacqueline, Assistant Director Karen, School Psychologist Oswaldo and Computer Teacher José Luis have developed a plan for online learning, which was successful during the political unrest of 2018.

While we do not know what the future will bring, we remain committed to the well-being of the people of Chacocente and the surrounding community. We will try to follow the situation closely and provide assistance when needed. In the conviction that they are “blessed to be a blessing,” the community continues to work together, if six feet apart, to improve their lives and the lives of their neighbors. Many of you may know, Amelia, pictured here, who came from La Chureca with her parents and three brothers following a tragic incident in which three *other* brothers died after eating insecticide-laced peanuts. Amelia attended Chacocente Christian School and has always helped with any construction at the Project. She, her husband and two sons have been living in a house made of plastic and sticks, with dirt floors. Thanks to generous supporters who recognized her home as unsafe and undignified, Amelia and her family will soon live in a sturdy, secure home constructed of concrete blocks, with tile flooring. Our hope is that it will be completed before baby # 3 arrives this summer.

We recognize that these are extraordinary and difficult times, and we are grateful for your continuing prayers and support. Our work is only possible because of you! **We will still offer a dollar for dollar match over Easter** weekend. You may give at our Friends of Project Chacocente Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfProjectChacocente/> or through our website at www.outofthedump.org or you may mail checks to the Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA, 02420.

Stay safe and may God protect and guide us all in this challenging hour.

The Board of Directors

I will bless you and you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2