

Annual Report 2017



Together we are empowering a community.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to journey with us as we look back through 2017. We are excited to share a summary and some highlights of what has transpired over the last year in Nicaragua and beyond. We thank God that lives continue to be changed!

- Guests were welcomed to the Skylark Retreat Centre in 2017: **3116**, 88% of which were from within Nicaragua, solidifying the Centre as a preferred choice for local Christian-based events and activities.
- Children and, by extension, families impacted through your support of the Best Start in Christ programs: **27**
- Mothers-to-be provided with support through Best Start: **25**
- Graduates of The Building a Better Future program, who received training in new skills, education in basic business finance, and were provided with a start-up package of materials: **9**
- Community members who attended on-site medical and/or dental clinics: **803**
- Prescriptions issued and filled at the clinics: **703**
- Individuals, many of them volunteer firefighters, who received first-response training, and emergency (i.e. enhanced first-aid) kits: **33**
- Couples involved in local Christian ministry who received training, guidance, advice and materials geared specifically to them and the important and unique roles they play as they guide their church communities: **12**
- Children aged 4 to 12 who attended Christian-based activity programming geared specifically to and for them: **173**
- Families who participated in community and faith-building activities: **35**



So many have been touched. Thank you for supporting this work and may God bless you as well. We look forward to your continued partnership in 2018.

Wayne's Word

- Wayne Hancock, Managing Director

"...and a little child will lead them". These words, rounding out Isaiah 11:6 immediately comes to mind in the context of the amazing story of a little boy who graduated from our Best Start in Christ pre-school program in November.

Juan* came to the program a very shy but violent child with aggression directed particularly toward the girls. His behaviour was so disruptive that other parents began to talk to our staff about removing their little girls from of the program.

Our staff met with Juan's aunt, his day-time caregiver. The aunt felt that Juan should be withdrawn from the program, but the teachers convinced her that they could work with, and help, him. Juan was coached by the teachers in how to get along with, and respect, the other children, presenting Jesus as the role-model. He responded and they saw a significant change in how he related with the other children.

At the graduation ceremony, Juan's father requested an opportunity to speak to those gathered. He thanked the teachers for how they had helped his son to be more kind and loving. He then explained that his son's altered behaviour had also changed him and influenced a change in his actions and attitude toward his wife, attributable to the teaching that his son had received and shared. His son, just three years, was the catalyst. When I wonder just how much difference our programs makes in people's lives, I will think of Juan.

*name changed



A Tropical Storm

October saw the abrupt arrival of Tropical Storm Nate, which caused some extensive damage in Nicaragua. The Skylark Centre also experienced some structural and property damage, but it was minimal in comparison. There was no loss of life nor any significant injury reported in the community, for which we thank God.

The Skylark Retreat Centre

Celebrations of our 10th year of operations in Nicaragua took place on Sunday, October 29th. Thank you to all who contributed to the day, including those who sent video greetings. It was humbling to hear directly from one of the Los Medranos community leaders who spoke of the positive impact of the Skylark Centre over the past ten years on children, youth and families.



VELA Ministries

Threefold Ministries continues to partner with VELA Ministries. The focus remains on training of Pastors and Church leaders throughout Mexico and broader Latin America with the goal to see 20% of the Mexican population following Christ by 2020. 2017 saw devastating natural disasters throughout Mexico, with VELA knee-deep in providing recovery assistance. Find out more at velaministries.org, and contact us if you'd like to support this wonderful work.

Why we do what we do

The Skylark Centre is located in the community of **Los Medranos**. Approximately **30%** of those living in the surrounding area **subsist in poverty**. There are **no local health care centres** in the immediate area and transportation options to larger centres are limited. Water is available for residents for **3 hours or less per day**. Children make up 1/3 of the population.

The need is great. It's through your generosity that we are able to provide assistance. We envision communities that are healthy and sustainable, reflecting God's love and care. Thank you for the support that you have provided through 2017. Be a part of the change as we continue to **Build, Empower and Follow!**

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