

# Annual Report 2018



Photo: Courtney Castiloux

## Los Medranos: A community ripe for building up.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to journey with us as we look back through 2018. So much has transpired over the last year in Nicaragua and beyond. We thank God that lives continue to be changed even during times of turmoil!

Mauricio Manzanarez, our fantastic Operations Manager of the Skylark Retreat Centre, wrote these words at the close of the year: *“It is just amazing to be typing these lines today, since when we look back to several months ago, we weren’t sure if we would be able to sit down again behind our desks, due to the uprising socio-political crisis that our country was going thru. Now we can look back and although the crisis is not over yet, we have seen God’s hand and protection in the middle of the conflict.”*

This was certainly a unique year during which:

- **33 employees and volunteers of the Jinotepe fire department were trained** by 8 professional and in-training Canadian Paramedics in early April
- **389 community members were served** by 7 medical students and professionals in late April
- **5 young men were trained in basic electricity** by Allan, our head of maintenance at Skylark
- **5 students completed 2 multi-class beginner-level English training sessions**
- **10 women attended 30 classes** over 9 months learning new art and baking skills
- **30 children** (and parents of the youngest) attended educational and socializing classes, all with a Christ-based focus, specifically geared to their age group
- **2694 individuals** attended Christian-based events hosted by **35 groups**
- **194 households (encompassing 775 individuals)** participated in interviews in completion of the Los Medranos area survey conducted in April and May, which sets the stage for immediate and future program development
- **26 staff** were employed in Nicaragua through 2018 in a country devastated by job losses in the hundreds of thousands



Local residents waiting patiently at the April medical clinic

**A loss:** Roberto Gonzalez was a familiar face around Skylark as the first member of our security team. Our prayers and support went with his family upon his passing on September 11th

**Responsibility:** We work hard to maximize the donated funds that reach those who most need them. Approximately 80% of funds are directed into in-country projects and programs, with the remainder retained for essential operations in Canada.

## Wayne's Word

Wayne Hancock,  
Managing Director

Photo: Sarah Streng

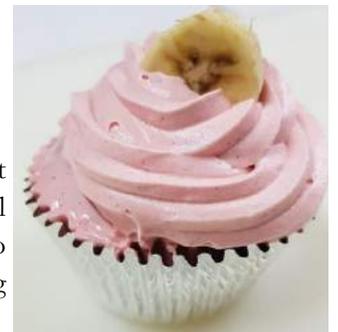


Thank you so much for your faithful financial and prayer support during the past year in which Nicaragua faced its most difficult crisis in many years. Although discontent remains and the world there is not as it was, many local groups have returned for retreats, youth camps, children's ministry, teacher training and much more since the fall. We are now busy planning for a team of paramedics to help train local firefighters in advanced first aid and basic first response skills, so desperately needed.

I know you have had the people of Nicaragua and particularly our staff at Skylark and our local community on your heart and in your prayers for these many months. Thank you and let us continue to lift them up. If you feel God calling you to get more personally involved please be in touch. We look forward to what is ahead this year as we plan to welcome new and returning teams from Canada and the U.S., responding to the needs expressed in our recent survey. Join us in our ministry of love and compassion - a ministry of empowering, equipping and encouraging those in the community of Los Medranos and beyond.

Thanks again. Yours faithfully,

Wayne



## Building Better Futures

If you have been following along with our "Best Start in Christ" newsletters, you will know that a number of learning opportunities were provided to community members. Groups of local residents have now been exposed to the workings of basic electricity, an introduction to conversational English, and baking skills (the tastiest of the three!), all of which are equipping skills!



## The Skylark Retreat Centre

The Skylark staff team remained industrious during the quiet months of 2018, without full team and group activity. Major and necessary improvements were made to the pool and office space, and new beautifying features were added, primarily by repurposing materials already on-site. You will appreciate the changes that you see on your next visit, as the staff is so appreciative of the chance to maintain it for you!

## VELA Ministries

Threefold Ministries continues to partner with VELA Ministries. The focus remains on the 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. Rebuilding assistance for 2017 natural disasters and expansion of the training centre continued through 2018. Find out more at [velaministries.org](http://velaministries.org), and contact us if you'd like to support this great work.

## Why we do what we do

Approximately **67%** of those living in the Los Medranos area **subsist on less than \$9 per day**. There are **no local health care centres** in the immediate area and transportation options to larger centres are limited. **93% do not have permanent access to clean water**. 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 2018. Be a part of the change as we continue to **Build, Empower and Follow!**

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