



# Nicaragua News

Summer 2017

## *Starting at the beginning*

Where to begin? Much has happened since our last broad communication with you!

To begin with the beginning in mind, we are excited to be ramping up for the 10th anniversary celebration of the opening of the Skylark Centre. Festivities take place on October 29th. We will share the highlights in our fall newsletter

We sent out an email communication in May. We hope that you took note of our new [website](#) and branding and that they resonate with you..

Also new this year is our participation in the upcoming “[Ride for Refuge](#)”, on September 30th. We would love for you to take part in the ride (or walk) or to sponsor

someone who is.

Speaking of new, we welcomed two new Threefold teams to the Skylark Centre so far this year. Continue reading for more details! They include the newest addition to Skylark’s recreational repertoire—gaga!

Finally, we have a new address, albeit still in Waterloo. Great thanks to our partners at

[MarshallZehr Group](#) who were so accommodating over the past two years. Our new mailing address can be found on page 2.

We can barely keep track of the blessings bestowed on Threefold, Skylark and ultimately the population in need in the San Marcos area of Nicaragua. All thanks to you as well!

## *Return of the Stasko Dental Team*



We were excited to welcome back Dr. Joe Stasko and his amazing team of dental professionals and volunteers in January. It takes a notable amount of effort to collect all of the information and documentation insisted on by the Nicaraguan health

authorities and we are incredibly grateful that the team pushed through. The result was that 160 patients were seen, resulting in 33 extractions and 72 restorations.

It was necessary during the team’s visit to purchase new

portable dental units as the others are succumbing to age. If supporting this effort speaks to you, please let us know.

Thanks so much to Dr. Joe, Francine, Pat, Christine, Kathy, Heather, Adina and Peter!!

## *New Medical Mission*

God was at work, bringing this brand new small but mighty team together to travel to the Skylark Centre in April.

137 local Nicaraguans were blessed by this team. Patients presented with various issues. Thyroid testing was

recommended for one such patient and we supported her through that process. A doctor from the July medical team reviewed the test results with her; she will need to move forward to have a biopsy done. We will follow her story.

It is worth noting that mental health concerns are on the rise as they appear to be in North America.

We extend our gratitude to Dr. George, future doctors Nick and Jonathan, pharmacist Miriam and volunteer Claire!



## Families Supporting Families

It was an amazing God-touched week in June when the Family Team of 46 from Cincinnati, OH, spent time in community with those He loves in Nicaragua. It was a week of fun, connecting, sharing, giving, learning and growing in relationship.

Amongst so many things that the team was involved in, they constructed a “gaga pit”. The game, Gaga, was a hit with the local youth and is now a permanent part of what we can offer for use by all who use the Centre.

There were too many team members to list in this small article but we must give a special shout-out to Molly and Mike, the terrific coordinators of this special team. To the rest of you, the greatest of thanks to you!



## Memphis in Nicaragua

Welcome back to the fantastic, dedicated team originating from Memphis TN! There were only a few first-times on this July trip, but their hearts were captured and we feel confident that they will be back too!

It was a busy week! The team of 11 served 221 medical and 42 dental patients, including a 10-year old with a hernia. Volunteers ran an after-school VBS-style program for children from the community.

We acknowledge the great

work and dedication of Drs. Besh, Johnson (1), Johnson (2), Stelts, as well as Jane Ellen, Bridget, Carol, Cindy, Anita, Lance and Miranda. Thanks to you all, and to those who provided support outside the Skylark Centre walls.

## Program updates

The “Best Start in Christ” and “Building a Better Future” programs continue to run successfully under the watchful eye of Nathaly, our Outreach Director at the Skylark Centre.

The kids (aged 0-3) had a fantastic time at their semi-annual birthday party in July.

They received gifts courtesy of their generous sponsors in Canada.

There are 10 participants in the current “Building” program, including a 10-year-old boy.

They are gaining great skills and will soon be learning some business acumen from

Mauricio in order to turn their new skills into micro-business opportunities. We are looking forward to sharing the outcomes.

Our partnership continues as well with VELA Ministries and their wonderful work with leaders of churches in Mexico.



Phone: 226-476-2475

Fax: 226-444-0228

Email: [info@threefold-ministries.org](mailto:info@threefold-ministries.org)

P.O. Box 28019  
Waterloo Corporate Campus  
Waterloo, ON N2L 3V0



*We are collectively part of something grand, something bigger than ourselves. That will be celebrated in style at the upcoming Skylark Centre anniversary, but we cannot forget to celebrate it each day that programs run, that the Centre is used, that the lives of Nicaraguans are improved.*

*We thank you wholeheartedly for your support. Would you consider providing new support through joining a [future team](#) (or recommending one to someone you know), [donating](#) to something of particular interest to you or to general operations? Most of all, we ask for your prayers as we plan for 2018 and beyond.*

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**Building Community, Empowering Communities, Following Faithfully**