

BSIC PROGRAM NEWS

Threefold Ministries' "Best Start in Christ" Newsletter—March, 2020



COVID-19 and Program Impact

The world is reeling under the new reality that COVID-19 has introduced. As of the time of this writing there have only been two confirmed cases of the virus in Nicaragua, but changes are underway there as we have witnessed in North America and around the world. Store shelves are emptying. Schools and businesses are shuttering. Travel has stopped. So goes the *Best Start in Christ* programming at the Skylark Retreat Centre. We continue to employ and pay the Skylark staff who run these programs as it is ethically and fiscally responsible to do so. With that in mind, please read on for the great program stories drawn from the past few months.



Play area, empty of kids!
Photo credit: D. Moquin

As the kids grow, so does the Best program!



Last September, the *Best Start in Christ* children's program was winding up for the school year. The always cute "graduation" ceremony was just around the corner! That ceremony did not end up taking place. Instead, a decision was made upon request of the pre-school program parents that we add an additional year to our curriculum, allowing us to serve children from birth to five years of age, and their families. This was communicated as a need more than just a desire. Parents have seen the difference between the future readiness of the kids who have been part of our programs and the kids who have not. The love and passion of the teachers, our teaching methods and our curriculum far exceeds the ones outside Skylark. The kids have connected with the teachers and the program is more than just a school—it feels like home. Where other programs focus on games in the teaching/learning processes, our program, additionally, provides education for the parents which makes a pronounced difference in the quality of the education offered.

The Christ-based education and the open doors that allow the parents to be a part of the learning process, allows us to connect through the now 50 enrolled children to their families, becoming a chain to impact an entire community.



Spotlight: Timoteo



Timoteo and teacher Deborah

We regularly welcome new children into our programs. Such is the case with Timoteo, a 4-year-old boy who struggles with speech disorders. He has difficulty relating to others, and particularly to other children. Timoteo lives outside of the Los Medranos area in a community called Los Rincones, in Masatepe-Masaya. His father, Caleb, is the pastor of a church in their community. His mother, Eunice, is a fulltime teacher at a respected preschool operating in their church.

Caleb's sister, Kathy, is a former teacher of our *Best Start* program who has found success as a lawyer. Kathy's family is well aware of the programs at Skylark, and the positive impact it has brought about in the lives of many families. In light of Timoteo's condition, their first and best option was the *Best Start in Christ* program, which has a successful method of early stimulation. They came to us asking us to let them be part of Timoteo's education and development and we responded with a resounding "Yes!".

Welcome!!

Next steps in Building Futures

A graduation ceremony was held on February 27th for four keen students of the Building a Better Future initiative of *Best Start*. They each received a Certificate of Completion and a package of materials for starting their own craft and baking businesses. Congratulations!!



Participant with Program Manager, Nataly

And on it grows

This is just a touch of what has been ongoing at the Skylark Centre. In our 2019 Annual Report and our Nicaragua news, we expand on the operation of the on-site medical clinic, and a mission team's efforts in providing specialized health-care training. This work contributes extensively to the health and well-being of a community.

We remain exceedingly grateful for your generous support. These stories are only possible because of you. We are confident in God's provisions as we collectively continue to provide a "Best Start" for all.

Threefold Ministries is a Christian organization working towards the vision of seeing healthy, sustainable communities in Nicaragua that reflect God's love and care. We are on mission to engage, equip, empower, energize and encourage the building of these strong communities.

Building ▪ Empowering ▪ Following



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