

OUTREACH NEWS

Threefold Ministries' "Best Start in Christ" Newsletter—May, 2019



Change abounds

Children and entire families have been impacted by the unrest that held Nicaragua and our precious community of Los Medranos in its grip beginning in April of last year. Many community members were forced to relocate to other towns, or beyond, in search of an improved quality of life. Some of those were families that had previously been attending *Best Start in Christ* programming. On the other side of the loss of these families were new ones eager to take their place, recognizing the quality of teaching and the reputation of the staff in providing love and compassion in their service. A decision was made last year, and implemented in February, that allows for children to continue in the programs for a longer period of time. These actions have resulted in an increase in the number of children and families served; we are proud, and thankful to God for the opportunity to be contributing to the care of 38 children (representing 37 households) from birth to age four.

Sewing into futures

Last month, the team led by our own Nataly Cruz, introduced local women to a new project—the creation of fabric cosmetic bags and purses. The group of women enrolled in the program are responsible, enthusiastic and hardworking. They are proud of their achievements and committed to further practical learning. The entrepreneurship skills taught encourages provision for their families. Many of the women enrolled are teachers in the local public schools who have committed to pass on the knowledge gained to others, including their students, which stretches the impact well beyond our Skylark (and even Los Medranos) borders.



Norvin was amazed...

... seeing a tiger at the zoo!! Last month, the 2-year-olds were blessed with the annual curriculum-oriented trip to the National Zoo in Managua. It was the first visit not only for Norvin, but for his classmates and their caregivers too. Watching and hearing the animals was a fantastic experience. Many pictures were taken and excitement abounded. The families expressed thankfulness to Threefold for this unforgettable experience which they could not have afforded on their own.

The thanks are extended to you, who make it possible!



Impact: Erving

Shortly after his birth in February, 2017, while still in hospital, a bacteria invaded little Erving which resulted in a large abscess in his left eye, causing significant damage to his tear ducts. He has been under medical supervision ever since. Crying causes significant discomfort. He is more vulnerable to viruses as the bacteria remains. Erving joined the *Best Start in Christ* children's programming this year, albeit with trepidation by his mother, concerned about his safety and comfort in the new environment. The past few months have been wonderful. His mother has expressed happiness at seeing a substantial change in her child's behavior and the way he lives every moment. Erving now interacts with other kids. He speaks. He asks his mom to take him to the program every day and he definitely enjoys every little thing he does. Erving's life has changed significantly thanks to the *Best Start in Christ* program, and it feels to his family as if God is telling them that He is giving Erving a fresh start.



Impact: Samaria

Samaria was born in April, 2016, with a congenital deformity—she is missing her right ear thereby limiting her hearing and impacting her ability to speak. She has grown up being rejected by the society around her, resulting in pronounced shyness. When she first arrived at the *Best Start* program a little more than a year ago she would often cry. Over the past year, Samaria's motor skills have seen significant improvement and she speaks much more clearly. Her family is exceedingly thankful for the *Best Start in Christ* program. It has made such a difference in their lives as Samaria has become an accepted member of a community. Another "fresh start" in *Best Start!*

Please know that we are exceedingly grateful for you. These stories would have been near impossible without your prayerful and practical support. We are confident in God's provisions as we collectively continue to provide a "Best Start".

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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