

# OUTREACH NEWS

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



## Gearing up for the end (of the school year)



Unlike the school year that most of us are used to, the school year in Nicaragua runs from February to November. It feels like a year that just began is beginning its wind-down. Graduations—always a grand affair—for our oldest pre-schoolers are pending. At the most recent monthly meeting with parents, those that have children preparing

to 'graduate' expressed their excitement at this first educational milestone. It is bound to be a special event.

It is clear that, despite the critical economic situation that Nicaraguans find themselves facing, the parents of the children in our programs work hard to maintain a positive attitude, exuding confidence and a willingness to continue working with us in the education of their children. It is certainly a reward in our collective efforts to make the operations of the programs possible!

## Discovering support

A group of local Los Medranos women continue to create and have fun as they learn from one other. The group, which meets weekly on Fridays, are self-motivated as they gather to learn new skills. While learning, they openly share their challenges and struggles with one another, which has unexpectedly



turned class time into unofficial, but important, group therapy-type sessions. The women are genuinely eager to attend, bringing snacks for sharing where possible, as they support one another.

By request of the participants, they are currently working on "fofuchas" - dolls made from craft materials used as decorative pieces and party favours—for which there is local demand.

The program is becoming notorious as it continues to impact lives in the community. We believe that future generations will benefit as well.



Fofucha sample



## The newest class member

Recent donations have allowed the Best Start staff to replace some worn-out, well-loved toys and equipment. Thank you for the provisions that have allowed us to welcome Big Happy Bee who has created a real buzz in the classroom!

## Spotlight: Teachers Debby and Raquel

Debby Sánchez is a long-time teacher in the Best Start in Christ program. She was recently welcomed back with open arms after a 3-month maternity leave where she introduced her son, Johan, to the world. Johan contracted life-threatening pneumonia at birth. We thank God that his health has gradually improved. Johan is Debby's second child, making her a busy working mom of two little boys, who fights every day to provide for them as best she can.

We are thrilled that Debby continues to exude love and passion in teaching the children in the Best Start program.

As Debby returns, Raquel's time as substitute teacher comes to an end. During her time with the children, Raquel placed a special emphasis on connecting with them through games and sports, both of which had a positive impact on behavior and learning (under the umbrella of having fun!). We thank Raquel for her passion, dedication and love for our children.



## Training—Phase 2

You may recall that a series of classes were held at the Skylark Centre during 2018 for community members interested in learning basic electrical skills. We are looking forward to the return of the Construction team in November, as John, a certified and experienced Ontario electrician, walks alongside some of these trainees as necessary upgrades are completed at the Centre.

**Please know that we remain 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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