



Americas Association for the Care of Children (AACC)

Programa Integral Educando con Amor y Ternura (PIEAT)

AACC+ PIEAT+ your support (funds+supplies+time)= TRANSFORMATION!

January 2009 brings greetings and much gratitude to you for all of your support this last year and every year! AACC and PIEAT continue to steadily work in the effort to build community-based resources in Jalapa, Nicaragua. As we have seen the challenges of financial uncertainty here in our own lives, our friends in Jalapa have felt a significant impact of inflation in the rising costs of food and basic necessities.

AACC and PIEAT bring a strong sense of hope and vision to the people of Jalapa, with an ability to set meaningful goals and the willingness to work hard to “lay the bricks”.

What has been accomplished with your support in 2008...



...Our first educational center constructed 2006 in Nueva Esperanza

has an enrollment of 96 children. The Nicaraguan Ministry of Education supports the basic operation of the school in Nueva Esperanza, including teacher’s salaries. The community has also extended

the use of the center to meet other community needs for community classes and meetings. A medical team from the Ministry of Health is now providing a clinic twice a month in the health clinic and a dentist has been able to make 3 visits to the community since the opening of the center. Each dental clinic has served 45-50 children and adults. The Nicaraguan Ministry of Health pays for the doctor visits and AACC supports the dentist at \$30 each day. Many thanks to **Stephen Koral DMD** in Boulder for his incredible donation of dental supplies so needed and for providing dental care to those from Jalapa who have come to visit Boulder.



...The second educational center in Champigny is up and running with an enrollment of 140 children at the primary level (toddler -1st grade). AACC, in conjunction with the community, has also been able to organize and support medical and dental visits to the center in 1-2 times

monthly. As in Nueva Esperanza, dental care is in high demand since many people have never seen a dentist and have no information about basic dental hygiene. PIEAT is regularly providing community workshops and follow-up classes to reinforce dental hygiene practices. The PIEAT efforts are an integral part of sustainability of this program. Basic dental care is provided to approximately 100 children and adults each month.



Thanks to the financial contributions in response from our March, 2008 newsletter, all windows in the Champaign center and the retaining wall are now in place, providing the necessary protection from the rain, wind, and erosion. The Ministry of Education continues to pay the teachers' salaries for all the centers that AACC/PIEAT have constructed. However, there are continued needs for materials and financial support for both the school programs and the basic dental health care efforts for the community.



Our delegation in March, 2008 was very successful in many ways. The delegation brought the medical skills of **Julie Stapleton MD and Vicki Breina RN**, and the incredible energy of the **Naropa and high school students** from Boulder to the Jalapa Valley. Four different villages were visited by the delegation attending to the medical needs of more than 250 children and adults. There were many children seen for “failure to thrive” and respiratory infections. Adults were mainly seen for parasites, wound care, gastro-intestinal problems, and chronic pain.

What work is still ahead...

In 2008, the PIEAT group identified a goal of working to meet the needs of the street children in Jalapa. This became the new project focus for AACC in our fund-raising in 2008. We were able to raise a total of \$30,000 that was dedicated to developing both an orphanage program (\$15,000) and a school for street children (\$15,000). With these funds, we have half the monies needed to see this project to completion.

This orphanage will be a first for AACC and the only orphanage in the northern part of Nicaragua. Mi Familia, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Family, has been very helpful and supportive in the planning process and significant energy has been dedicated to working through the necessary steps to open such a program. First efforts and funds were focused on submitting a formal application for the orphanage and obtaining national recognition of AACC/ PIEAT as a Nicaraguan NGO (non-governmental organization). This opens many doors for AACC /PIEAT to work in conjunction with federal ministries in Nicaragua and to apply for future grant assistance from other governmental agencies such as CARE, USAID, and Save the Children.

The year's goals are to break ground for the orphanage in March 2009 and the school shortly after. The school will provide a multi-grade classroom for the street children to catch them up to grade-appropriate skills. We estimate the school to serve 30 street children.



The orphanage will provide a home-like environment with beds, showers and cooking facilities along with a house parent. The Nicaraguan ministries are required and committed to provide basic health care, nutrition, psychological support, and sport activities to the children in this program. The orphanage will provide housing for children 7-16 years of age, one home for up to 20 boys and the other home for up to 10 girls. There is one other room available to care for any child in severe condition who has received physical or emotional abuse.



AACC thanks you again for your support in the past and asks for any further support you can offer at this time to sustain the efforts of AACC/PIEAT in the Jalapa community.

Lastly, watch for more information on our annual fundraising brunch at Aji Restaurant Sunday **March 1, 2009**.

Please send donations to The Americas Association for the Care of Children, AACC Box 2154, Boulder, CO 80306 or go to our website at www.aaccchildren.net and donate either for a one time donation or for a monthly contribution. Your tax-deductible donation will be put to good use!

Special recognition and gratitude is offered to the members of PIEAT in Jalapa who maintain hope, energy and commitment to better the lives of the most challenged families in their community.

For information about upcoming delegations please email dyoung@aaccchildren.org or visit our website at www.aaccchildren.net. We have three delegations this year.

"It was amazing to me what deep listening really provided. We actively listened to people's dreams, beliefs, and concerns. This has changed me forever" *Krystle, 3/08*