

THE RAINBOW NETWORK

Sharing in the love of God by partnering with Nicaragua's poorest people in healthcare, education, economic development and housing.

SPRING 2012

www.RainbowNetwork.org

Stone Soup

How many gifts
brought hope to
one Village

PLUS

Community Leaders

How Our Village
Model Works



Children eat their lunch in Ciudad Dario, the newest Rainbow Network project. These are the daily conditions for thousands of people in rural Nicaragua - Help us help these families.

Check out our new website!

Drum roll, please... For the new www.rainbownetwork.org! Our website now has a more updated look, making it easier for Rainbow to share information, update our supporters, and show prospective donors to see what we're all about.

Features of the new site were developed with a focus on navigation and condensed information, while maintaining a clean look and simple design. According to research from Consumer Reports and the Stanford Persuasive Technology Lab, the design look and information structure of a site are the two main ways web visitors evaluate an organization's credibility.

A website is often the first impression of a far-reaching organization like Rainbow Network, and the internet remains the most effective way to reach out to new potential supporters. For those just getting to know us, an uncluttered website is a great way to drive home our mission, vision & programs.



Some features of the new Rainbow website include:

- Dual navigation on major pages
- Static DONATE tab for easy decision-point giving
- Take Action section, highlighting ways to get involved with Rainbow Network

Thanks to helpful feedback from many of you, we have included a new section called *Church Partners*, where congregations are able to access resources and materials for reference, publication, and even children's ministry. We hope the content will grow with us on our journey to better connect churches to our communities of Nicaragua.

The site is built on a custom-designed template created as a class project by MSU student Nickolas Goin. His developing HTML expertise and javascripting has given the site a more professional appearance. We also have maintained our existing WordPress platform, allowing for simple updates to be

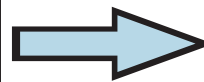
made by staff without additional design costs of a web developer.

This upgrade not only improved the looks of our site, but to make it a tool that our supporters can use to spread the good news of our ministry. The site is even optimized for iPhone, iPad or other smart device.

The address is the same, but everything else has been given a complete makeover. Surf by next time you're online to check out **the brand-new** www.rainbownetwork.org, and be sure to share it with a friend!

WEB FACT:
Worldwide there are 367 million websites, and nearly 20% of them are Wordpress sites.

Double Up on Hope!



Thanks to a generous Challenge Grant from a Rainbow supporter, we have a great opportunity to do TWICE as much good with your donation. With a commitment of up to \$25,000, this Challenge will match all designated gifts dollar-for-dollar through June 15, 2012.

It's great for us, and for you, too. It means that your gift will serve twice as many meals, purchase twice as many school supplies, provide a patient's much-needed medication for two weeks, instead of one.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to make twice as much of an impact with your gift. Simply use our enclosed envelope and note "May Matching" in the memo line.

Dear Rainbow Partners,

My recent return to The Rainbow Network was an important decision, and one that will have a long-reaching impact on the future of our organization. Your continued support and encouragement have helped more than you can know. In my recent trips back to Nicaragua, the ongoing work I see lifts my heart. While it has been a difficult stretch for us in the U.S. offices, the programs in our network projects are still changing lives. We are helping the lame to walk, nourishing minds, bodies & spirits and bringing hope to the least of these among us. Rainbow is growing again!

As you read on, remember that each statistic, each name, each face is a real person with a story to tell. And chances are good that when they tell someone that story, they will thank Rainbow Network and God, though not necessarily in that order! Please contact myself or our Rainbow staff (see Page 8) with any questions, concerns or suggestions, or if you would like to join me on a trip to Nicaragua as highlighted on the back cover.

Your support today, yesterday & tomorrow has made this all possible, and I thank you deeply.

STONE SOUP - A PARABLE OF TEAMWORK

Many years ago in a far-away land, a weary soldier was making his way home after a long war. He walked for days through ravaged forestland, with little or nothing to eat. On this particular evening, he found himself in a small village around dusk. The townspeople watched warily from behind curtains & around shutters. There was a general distrust of soldiers, as they had also endured the hardships of war, with several homes destroyed in the fighting.

He stopped at several houses, begging the favor of something - anything - to eat and a place to sleep. At each house, the response was the same -- no one had food or room for him.

As he returned to the village center, he had an idea. He began gathering firewood, and as he did, he picked up several round, smooth stones and slipped them into his pocket. Back at the square, he set about building a fire. "Hey!" said one of the villagers. "What are you going to do, burn down the rest of our houses?"

"No," the soldier replied. "I'm going to make my secret recipe for Stone Soup. But I need a pot full of water - would you be so good as to let me borrow one?" The crowd that had gathered began to murmur. "Secret recipe?" "What is this Stone Soup?" "Don't believe him!" But their curiosity got the better of them, and a pot of water was delivered and set upon the fire.

The soldier dropped the three stones into the pot.

"So now all we have to do is wait," he said. "Of course, any soup needs salt and pepper... who has a pinch of each?" Two children ran home to fetch salt and pepper. While they waited, he turned to another villager and said "The right stones make good soup, but carrots would make it so much better." She said, "Why, I could probably find a carrot or two!" and ran to get them.

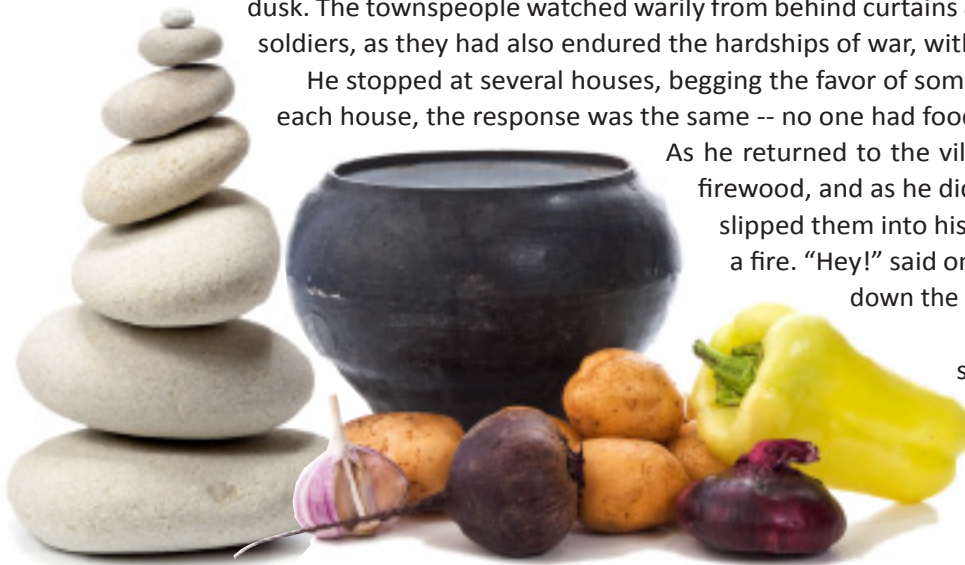
After the carrots and spices were added, the smell began to work its magic. "A good stone soup should have some cabbage, but no use asking for what we don't have!" the soldier said. Another woman said, "I think I can probably find some cabbage," and off she scurried.

"If only we had a bit of beef and some potatoes, this soup would be fit for a rich man's table." The peasants thought it over - A rich man's soup, and all from a few stones! It seemed like magic! Eventually, everyone went off and brought back whatever meager stores that had hidden away.

"The soup is ready," said the cook. "And everyone will taste it." Tables and torches were set up, and all sat down to eat.

Rarely was there ever such a feast in the tiny village. Never had the peasants tasted such delicious soup, and to think that it was made from just three stones! Afterwards mayor took the soldier into his home for the overnight stay.

In the morning, the villagers gathered to say goodbye. "Many thanks to you," they said. "Now that you have taught us how to make soup from stones, no one in our village will ever go hungry again!"



A Publication of



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A View of the Pew

by Alex Cobb, Director of Church Relations

Some church newsletters include a column titled "The View From The Pew", in which a non-staff member shares their thoughts on the state of the church or highlights how a department is transforming lives and fulfilling the church's mission. In reverse, this is how we at Rainbow Network view you – the members of our supporting congregations.

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. - I Corinthians 3:7-9

Rainbow Network's Mission begins with these six words: "To share the love of God..." Your church's mission statement may very well begin with the exact same phrase. Together, as one family, we share one purpose and one community of faith. The Rainbow Network exists as an extension of local churches to partner in building the Kingdom of God.



In short, Rainbow Network loves your church. Rainbow Network is thankful for your church. Rainbow Network and the people we serve in Nicaragua are dependent upon the support of your church. In light of these truths, we want to forge the strongest and deepest relationships possible with our supporting congregations. We want to stand together as the one people of God fulfilling the one mission of God: to share His love.



There are countless ways your congregation can partner with Rainbow Network. We would love to share these opportunities with your church in person, so please call today to schedule a presentation to your Missions/Outreach Committee or a full presentation at your weekend services.

Whether we are planting or watering, sending or going, it is God who makes things grow. Thank you for your prayers and for our shared labor in the service of God in Nicaragua.

In Christ,
Alex

*"I thank my God every time I remember you."
Philippians 1:3*

Service in the Storm

On March 15, 2012, a group from St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Joplin, MO traveled to Nicaragua. They visited Las Rosas, their partner village, helped in the school and delivered gifts to students sponsored by their congregation.

What makes this visit, this partnership, this church so different is this: When the May 22, 2011 EF5 tornado tore through Joplin, St. Paul's was

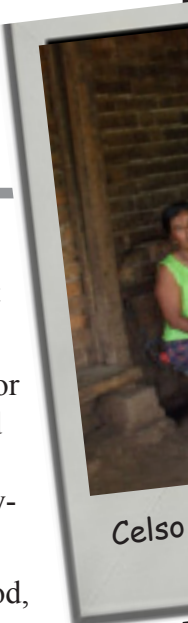
heavily damaged, and several of their membership lost homes.

Yet over the past year - as the recession recovery has limped along and Joplin has begun to rebound from the devastation, the church has continued giving to the Rainbow Network, and is even launching new fundraising efforts on our behalf. One SPUMC member went so far as to send a donation in honor of "moving into my

new home that was rebuilt after the storm."

In a recent interview, Pastor Aaron Brown downplayed his church's exceptional commitment to giving, saying only:

"Our mission is to love God, love one another and serve the world. Neither the economy nor the tornado changes that."



HOPE, FULL CIRCLE

by Kelsey
Lynne Goin



Meet Celso Enrique Martinez, an example of how Rainbow Network opportunities come together to bring hope full circle.

Celso had a difficult start, being orphaned at age 4, but his grandmother took him in and fostered his love for learning. He shared, "I don't remember my mother, but I sometimes see her in my dreams. I believe she watches over and protects me from heaven. It is for my family that I work hard in my community and want to be a better person every day, personally, spiritually, and professionally."

Even though Celso was one of the top students at his Rainbow cottage school, his family couldn't afford to send him on to secondary education. After seven long years of waiting, Celso received a Rainbow scholarship and started high school. To fulfill the volunteering requirement of the scholarship, he served as a teacher in a cottage school, where his dedication earned him the respect and admiration of all in his community.

Celso has since graduated from high school, and now spends every Saturday at UNAN College in Matagalpa, where he is working on a professional degree in Nursing.

These days, he who received help now gives assistance to others through Rainbow Network. Today Celso is part of the community leadership committee - at age 28, the youngest member of a Rainbow Network Committee. He coordinates volunteers and students as well as public health initiatives and program management in his village of La Grecia. The students call him "Teacher Celso," and some of the children he once tutored are now going to high school on Rainbow scholarships. He says he is very proud of his students and also proud of himself for what he has been able to accomplish.

We rejoice with Celso for his hard work and success, knowing he and others like him will shape the future of Nicaragua. Unfortunately, Celso's family still faces difficulties. The grandmother who raised him to love education now suffers from a heart murmur and hypertension, and is an unsponsored special medical needs patient. Celso and his grandmother live with his aunt, her husband, and their two young children in a house owned by a plantation owner. The home is old, damaged, and falling down.

"I am working hard," Celso told us, "to finish my classes so that one day, I will have a good job and turn my grandmother's last days into beautiful days."

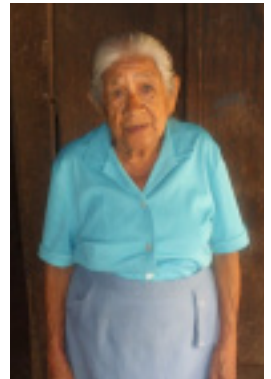


with his family at their home in La Grecia

Special Medical Need

**Maria
Leonor
Martinez**

Age: 80



Diagnosis:

Arterial hypertension, Heart failure w/holosystolic murmur, Alzheimer's Disease

Treatment Needed:

Maria requires ongoing monthly tests, treatment, medication and transportation assistance

Cost: C\$980/month
\$45 USD/month

Can you help Celso's grandmother afford her treatment?

**Call 417-889-8088
or visit our website to
sponsor Maria today.**

PARADISE FC



Esc. EL PARAISO #18

DAVIDSON UMC

Davidson, NC

“The greatest benefit for our congregation has been to learn about the Rainbow Model of Christian Community Development,” says Jeff Hassel, Minister of Missions for Rainbow’s partner congregation in Davidson, North Carolina. The church has been a Village Partner, funding feeding, medical and education programs for the residents while housing project was being built.

In the past 4 years, 40 people from Davidson UMC have traveled to Nicaragua. Half of their representatives have taken Keith’s Witness the Miracle tours, while the other 10 focused their time on partner village El Paraiso. Their most recent group was even able to spend a day in the coffee fields, picking beans alongside residents of the village.

According to Hassel, DUMC doesn’t want to just send money in support of mission. “We wish to develop relationships and be changed by the people we get to know. This is what the partner village program has helped us do.”



The Stone Soup parable from Page One could be applied to El Paraiso, the farthest Western village in our network, from a sustaining sponsorship, to a far-reaching effort, to last-minute emergency collection to construct homes from different sources, mixed together with a dash of hope.

ARCH

Hannibal, MO

Members of Arch United Methodist Church literally stumbled into Paradise on one of Rainbow’s traditional Witness the Miracle trips. A chance stop at the newly donated land site gave them opportunity to pause and reflect on a greater purpose. They decided to go beyond handing out school supplies & touring feeding centers. Moved by the Holy Spirit to bring about the Kingdom here on earth, they began raising the money for houses.

Having already engaged their own Arch congregation, they branched out, giving presentations and collecting pledges across the Northwest & Mid-Missouri area districts of the United Methodist Church. Within a year they had raised 50% of the total housing cost, and building commenced.

Over the following 12 months, multiple representatives from the Arch congregation visited Nicaragua to take part in the construction of the 20’x20’ cinder-block homes that would form the new village center El Paraiso. Working side-by-side with the future residents, Arch members walked a path of service that

OUND

EL PARAISO COFFEE CO.

Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Alex & Luz Ross are owners of the coffee plantation on which the village sits and also where the majority of residents work in the coffee fields.

But the Rosses aren't typical land-owners. Splitting time between the Nicaragua and their business interests in Miami, Florida, they take concern in the well-being of the families supported by their business, channeling that concern into action.

Beyond the 2.5-acre property donation on which El Paraiso is built, the Rosses have pledged additional money for irrigation and a possible land donation for an additional housing project.



Donors Alex & Luz Ross are recognized at the dedication

easily have been drawn from the story of our remote San Ramon network. From a part to fund houses built on donated land, to construct latrines – All ingredients from different people for a glorious result.

UMC

few are lucky enough to experience.

“Mission outreach is central to who we are as Christians,” says Arch Pastor David Scott. “As we make a difference in the lives of people, we grow in embodiment of God’s vision for us. This type of outreach work connects our hands with hearts, and is the best natural extension of who we are, and hope to be, in Faith.”

The three-year journey culminated in the November 2011 El Paraiso Dedication. And although the housing project is complete, the church maintains their connection. Dozens of El Paraiso youth are living brighter futures, thanks to the Student Sponsorships funded by Arch and other UMC groups that were touched during the campaign. And most recently, their 2012 Easter offering raised a projected \$5,000 to help bring clean, safe drinking water to the grateful residents of El Paraiso.



Members of ARCH UMC at the Fall 2011 housing dedication

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Springfield, MO

During a recent trip to Nicaragua, Rainbow President Keith Jaspers and former board member Rev. Roger Ray had opportunity to visit El Paraiso. Sadly, though the final houses had recently been completed, a sanitation issue was preventing the families from moving into their homes.

Ray took a leap of faith and pledged the generosity of his congregation on the spot. Back in their Managua hotel that night, Dr. Ray sent out an SOS in the internet. Within 12 hours, several donors had committed to funding all needed latrines - not only those in El Paraiso, but in an adjacent village as well.

“Our new congregation was proud to offer this small amount of help,” Ray says about delivering the final piece of the puzzle. “It’s the beginning of what we hope is a growing role in the good work done by the Rainbow Network in Nicaragua.”

NEEDED: LEADERS

We are often asked how so much gets accomplished in Nicaragua, with relatively few staff on the ground and economic conditions as they have been. Our answer is the dedication of those staff members, the commitment of our donors, plus a secret ingredient. **Leadership.**

A leader is best when people barely know he exists. When his work is done, his aim fulfilled, They will say: We did it ourselves.

*Lao-Tzu
Chinese Philosopher*

It's the key component to any successful endeavor. It happens individually, collectively, in businesses and sports teams, But the trailblazers we're talking about are not staff in our offices, volunteer Board members or even pastors calling out our graces from the pulpit. Those who make Rainbow Network work on the ground are the Community Leaders – a group of individuals that influences public opinion, speaks for the village as a whole, and takes ownership for successes & failures alike.

"Community organizing is the foundation for all our work in a community," says Rainbow Nicaraguan Director Nelson Palacios. "We provide ongoing training & workshops for our community leaders, so they will grow along with their home Village. Without them, our work in health, education, economic development and housing couldn't be done."

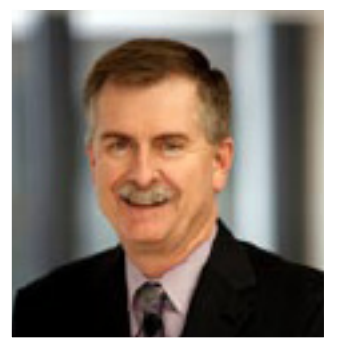
The Community Committee function is similar to a City Council. Chosen as soon as we begin work in a village, they are made up of elders, young adults, parents, teachers, field hands and housewives. In each community, the group is always different -- but the members are always the same, and they are always there. On any given day, more than 1,500 Nicaraguans are volunteering and working on Rainbow Network projects in their own community. Many of these are committee members.

"Even in the most desolate, illiterate and hopeless corner of the jungle, there is always someone who steps up," founder Keith Jaspers relates. "The saying is that '*leaders aren't born, they're made*', but poverty is a great equalizer. It always surprises me - With so few resources and everyone starting on the bottom level, we always see classic leadership qualities emerge."

Without a collective voice in community decisions, Rainbow's programs would be reduced from a hand-up to hand-outs. Community leaders are much of the reason our service model is so successful; they are responsible for collective village buy-in and personal accountability that are the cornerstones of our entire program.

Hospital Executive to Lead Board of Directors

Jay Guffey was elected to the position of Board Chairman at the Rainbow Network annual Director's Meeting in April. As Senior Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer of Mercy Springfield, he brings 20 years of vision & experience with the nation's 8th-largest Catholic Health system. Additionally, he has a wealth of international mission experience and more than 15 years of involvement with Rainbow Network. He resides in Springfield, MO with his wife & two grown daughters.



Board of Directors Expands Roster for 2012

We are pleased to announce the addition of new board members **Reverend Bill Moore**, retired UMC Pastor, & **Luis Alonso Perez**, Nicaraguan businessman and member of the Rainbow Network's Nicaraguan Advisory Board. Including these two new members, the current Board roster is;

Jay Guffey
Michael Flanagan
Fred Fregin
Paul Klas

Judy Leonard
Rev. Bill Moore
Will Moore
Luis Alonso Perez

Chuck Sauer
Oscar Stadthagen
Brad Wadle

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

2011 was a year of transition for the Rainbow Network, with some chapters in our story closing themselves while others opened or re-opened, bringing our organization full circle.

In December, founder Keith Jaspers returned as President of the organization, mounting an aggressive holiday campaign which helped Rainbow finish a difficult year on a high note. Also begun in December were several new approaches to old initiatives, paving the way for a continued rebound in 2012.

PROGRESS & PROMISE

Nutrition

129 feeding centers provided daily meals to an average of around 9,000 children, pregnant mothers and at-risk elderly individuals. Our continued success in reducing malnutrition rates can be traced to the generosity of U.S. donors, and on-the-ground work of more than 1,300 Nicaraguan community volunteers.

Healthcare

Spearheaded by the dedicated work of eight full-time doctors & two dentists, malnutrition and overall health continued to improve in our communities. Medical patient counts remained steady at around 2,000 individuals receiving monthly treatment from our eight physicians, while our two dentists provided care to over 200 patients per month.

Education

As perhaps the most-critical component to the success of our long-term Vision, we were pleased to see increased growth and utilization of our education programs. 2011 closed with 409 schools operating in our communities, serving *more than 7,000 primary school students* – an increase of 23% over the year! A slight decrease in the number of high school scholarships available dropped our student level to 772, a December request for an additional 200 students will allow us to return to previous levels during the coming academic year.

Housing

The completion of 25 homes in the El Paraiso housing project in San Ramon brought our grand total in 2011 to 697 completed dwellings, with 20 under construction

What did not change, however, was our Mission & purpose. We continued providing our life-changing collection of services to over 35,000 people monthly. Operations continued in 102 villages within the seven existing network projects that have grown to comprise our operation;

- **Ciudad Sandino (1995)**
- **El Crucero (2001)**
- **Nagarote (1999)**
- **San Ramon (2002)**
- **La Paz Centro (2000)**
- **La Dalia (2003)**
- **Ciudad Dario (2006)**

The last six months of 2011 showed a steadily increasing demand for our services, a trend which was expected to continue into the new year. These statistics reflect the state of our ministry as of December 2011.

that will push that number to 717 in May 2012. With an estimated average of eight occupants in each 20x20 cinderblock home, 5,576 people are living in safe & secure conditions, thanks to our generous supporters.

Microloans

Microfinance also proved to a key stepping stone to independence, as more than 130 community “banks” issued short-term, low-interest loans for more nearly \$500,000 USD during 2011. An average of 1,400 people held a loan during any given month, and the collective repayment rate was nearly 97%. From livestock to sewing shops, the loans were utilized to create new jobs and improve the quality of life for thousands of individuals .

Blessings Counted

by Brian Hom

On a recent trip to our San Ramon project, I met a family that each of us should know. In many ways they are typical - a man & a woman, with one toddling girl and another baby on the way. But even set against the backdrop of poverty that is rural Nicaragua, they are not unusual for the region.

On the edge of a coffee plantation, their dwelling is little more than mud & metal, sticks & tarp. Smoke from the indoor cooking fire wisps its way out of the holes that pass for the window & door. This ramshackle home is built into the side of a hill so steep that it's difficult to reach from the main path, even for those who aren't pregnant like this young mother.

But adjacent to their house is a huge orange tree, the one obvious bit of good fortune in their otherwise bleak existence. Its branches bent heavily with the weight of its harvest, likely

providing the only source of fresh fruit that graced their plates.

When our Rainbow Network tour group arrived, we noticed a man on a limb in the tree. He was balanced untethered, over a dangerous slope, picking the fruit. "He is the one," smiled the mother, speaking through the interpreter and pointing to her belly, "who made me this way." We all shared a laugh, but not without a touch of sadness for them.

So why should you know this family?

- Not because they are one face of poverty in an entire impoverished nation; though they are.
- Not because they desperately need our help; though they do.
- Not because they've been selected to benefit from Rainbow Network's new Hilapo #2 (Dos) housing project; though they will.

We in the U.S. should get to know them for what they can teach us about giving, about gifts. See, when that father of the hungry little girl climbed down from the tree with his bag of fruit, he didn't take it into the house as we expected, but handed it to our group leader - a gift. The oranges were smallish, discolored, juicy and absolutely delicious.

We should get to know this family so that - together - we can experience the sweet taste of hope that results from sharing our blessings, both large and small.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Rainbow Network maintains an open-door policy - please email, call or stop by our office if you're in Springfield area. We welcome the opportunity to meet our benefactors and answer any questions you may have about our ministry.

Rainbow Network
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417-889-8088

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RAINBOW ROUND-UP

Gundersen Lutheran Global Partners sponsors the village of Santa Celia in our San Ramon project. In addition to providing the usual funds and services of a Village Partner, Gundersen also underwrites the salary of a public health worker. This medical staff position assists in gathering data from our residents during medical mission trips by the Gundersen staff. So far, two rounds of data have been collected, with further surveys planned for this year. Watch for more information on their findings in the coming months. We thank Gundersen and all our other Village Partners for their exemplary dedication and sacrifice on behalf of "the least of these among us."

Former Board Member Rev. Roger Ray has nominated The Rainbow Network for the 2013 Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award. Though it includes a \$1.5 million grant, the international prestige and exposure of the award is even greater, placing the winner in the company of such renowned NGO's as Doctors Without Borders, Heifer International and Operation: Smile. The Hilton award winner is announced annually in April.

No single raindrop ever
considers itself responsible
for the flood.

- Anonymous

Even when the results are unseen, every kind word, every generous act, every shared gift can make a difference.

CORRECTION:

The last issue of Rainbow Network Magazine erroneously stated that Cross International funded houses in our El Paraiso housing project. Cross was not involved with that village, though they generously support other projects, including the funding of 25 houses in the communities of San Pedro & Valle San Juan in our Ciudad Dario network. We apologize for any confusion.

I started a clothing drive at church



TENGO ZAPATOS NUEVOS!

[Translation:]

I have NEW SHOES!

Drives Make a Big Difference!

Rainbow Network is once again collecting In-Kind donations in bulk to supply our Nicaraguan operations.

A container truck is expected to depart in May, supplied by several Missouri congregations and The Container Project in Columbia, MO. Headed by former Board Member Mel West, the Columbia group has already sent a truckload this year.

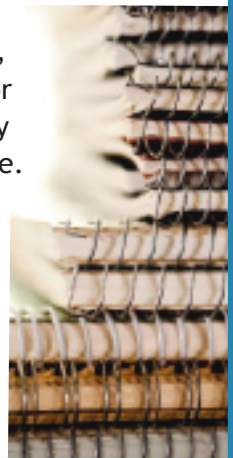
WHAT WE NEED:

- School Supplies
- Quality used clothing
- Inexpensive new & used shoes
- Spanish-language storybooks
- New/unused hygiene items

If you would like more information on hosting a collection at your church or company, please call our office at 417-889-8088.

The 10-cent Game-Changer

The next time you pass by a 10-for-a-Dollar sale on spiral notebooks, pick up a hundred or so and drop them by our Springfield office. We'll get them on the next container shipment heading to Nicaragua & into the hands of our thousands of deserving students.



STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS GET A NEW LOOK

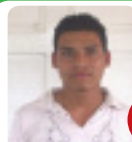
Rainbow Network's Student Sponsorship program has added 200 new scholars for the 2012-13 school year. For \$300 each, or \$25/month, we can provide them with tuition, supplies, uniform (w/shoes), transportation and tutoring. And when it comes to choosing a student, we've made the profiles more concise & readable, and they're accessible on our website.

Visit the **NEW** www.rainbownetwork.org to meet our students!



Name: Shemmy Elizabeth Martinez Castro
 Birthday: 3/30/94
 Community: Granadillo #1
 Technical: 1st year University
 School Level: Teachers program
 Student ID: 619-306

Struggling without electricity or water, Shemmy's education has come at great sacrifice. From the community of "men & women, all hard workers" where her family of five lives, she commutes to school on foot, horseback & by bus. Any spare moments are spent in church or playing soccer.



Name: Edwin Bladimir Calero Vanegas
 Birthday: 6/15/88
 Community: La Corona
 Technical: 3rd Year UNAM -
 School Level: Mathematics
 Student ID: 005-633

Edwin's 7-person household includes his parents & "the brothers", all five of whom are in High School or University! The older sons supplement their weekend school schedule with work in their agricultural community, and volunteer time at the local schools in San Ramon project.



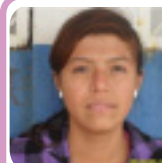
Name: Oscar Javier Antonio Ruiz
 Birthday: 8/6/90
 Community: La Grecia
 Grade Level: 3rd year - UNAM
 Estelí - Forestry
 Student ID: 005-636

In his fatherless household, Oscar & his older brother are responsible for maintaining the family's \$100 monthly income while also attending college. He continues the difficult balance of work/study to become a forestry engineer because "through education, people always win."



Name: Kimberling Ruth Mayorga Garcia
 Birthday: 12/20/99
 Community: Ojo de Agua #2
 HS Grade: 1st Year
 Student ID: 218-1200

Though her community has 700 residents, it still cannot support a high school, so Kimberling commutes to the next town. Without a scholarship, her parents' monthly income of \$50 wouldn't cover her expenses. Besides studying & volunteering, Kimberling spends her evenings reading and helping at home.



Name: Ninoska Quintero Guerrero
 Birthday: 5/04/97
 Community: Pacaya
 HS Grade: 4th Year UNAM
 Student ID: 419-881

Ninoska and her family are supported by her mother, who earns \$50 monthly working as a maid. Ninoska has pursued four years of study in hopes of becoming a journalist for "improved conditions for the future and of the nation." She also enjoys church activities and soccer.

Technical Students are now available for sponsorship

The Rainbow Network's Technical (college-level) Scholarships have been incorporated into the Student Sponsorship program.

Look for the UNAM designation in their profile, or student ID #s beginning with "00" leading digits, as at left. You'll know that your scholarship donation will play a role - not just in your student's life - but in the lives of their family & neighbors, too.



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(417) 889-8088

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- Mel West
Co- Founder, PET International

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Regardless, our 4-day round-trip visits are the best way to witness the magic. We are finalizing tour dates for 2012.

Potential trips for the remainder of the year include:

- June 19 - 22
- July 31 - Aug. 3
- September 18 - 21
- November 7 - 10
- December 11 - 14

Interested groups or individuals should *contact us at 417-889-8088 to discuss dates of interest*. If you're feeling called to witness the miracle, CALL US SOON - trips with low responses are sometimes combined with other tours.

