

Winter 2010/2011

A Plan for the Future

Networking and Fundraising



As the end of the sixth academic year of our programs approaches, The Sunrise Foundation is looking to the future. Because of our strong programs, we have earned the respect of the Camoapa community. People come to us when problems of many kinds arise.* The needs are great, and consequently, growth is necessary and inevitable. Therefore, we are asking our staff, and community leaders in Camoapa, to help our Board set priorities and make plans for the next 5 and 10 years. During this planning period, we are also seeking professional capacity building expertise to help develop our board, staff and fundraising capabilities. Our programs in Camoapa are growing in a beautifully organic, healthy way. We see that our US support needs to grow to keep pace with them.

In order to prepare for this growth, we are really revving up our fundraising efforts! Over the past couple of years, we have been expanding our support base in the Western Massachusetts area, where our US non-profit is located. We recently organized our 3rd annual book sale in downtown Northampton, MA. And this winter we will hold our second annual raffle fundraiser at Packard's bar and restaurant in Northampton. And we recently joined the [Northampton Chamber of Commerce](#) to raise awareness of our project and expand networking opportunities.

Our short term plans include increasing visibility in other areas of the United States where board members live, remodeling our website to reach more readers, and seeking foundation grants. In Nicaragua, we envision further development of our organic farm, and plan to continue hosting volunteer group brigades. Our long term plan is to diversify our revenue

sources in order to increase our sustainability potential because currently we operate solely on individual charitable donations from people like *you*.

So... we need your help! How can we sustain and grow our programs without your continued support? Imagine the satisfaction you will feel knowing you have helped us continue our work in Nicaragua keeping at-risk children in school!

*See our blog postings and facebook page for cleft palate surgery news and other community interventions, as well as for updates about the progress of these plans.



Networking at the Huge Used Booksale in Northampton

If you are in the Western Mass area and would like to get involved, please contact: Lisa Hall (Board member) at 413-268-9271 or lisahallg@gmail.com to find out what you can do. If you are not from Western Mass, there is still a place for you in our community! Contact: Emily Mew (Program and Development Coordinator) at emilymew@gmail.com for more information.

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Please consider supporting our current and future initiatives by making a donation in one of three ways:

- Go to our website, click on the Paypal link and make a one-time online contribution
- Find The Sunrise Foundation on Facebook, join our CAUSE and become a monthly supporter
- Write a check to The Sunrise Foundation and mail it to : P.O. Box 210, Williamsburg, MA 01096

HOGAR LUCEROS DEL AMANECER & AYUDAME A CRECER

Winter newsletter
The Sunrise Foundation



What's Happening at the Hogar?



← Our newest children in the all-day program: from left to right, Teodoro, Horacio & Ramon. A group of → first graders from Ayudame a Crecer.



Ayudame a Crecer

After one year in existence, our new program Ayudame a Crecer is going strong. We started with 54 children, but as we expected, we are finishing the first full year having hit a few roadblocks and overcome a number of obstacles. We are counting it a major success, ending the first phase with a total of 49 children, a few having left the program for various reasons. Of those 49, 43 were in preschool or first grade and in school for the very first time, despite some being well over the typical first grade age of 6 or 7. And of the 49, 75% passed their grades. Considering that many of these children would not have been enrolled at all, or have passed their grade without our support, we are proud of this huge achievement. We will continue to offer extra help to the children over their 2 month vacation. For the 13 that did not pass their grade, we are hoping the extra tutoring over the vacation will help them pass retesting and be admitted into the next grade for the next school year.

Other news

**Marisela, the Social Promoter for Ayudame a Crecer, has been supporting three of our program's mothers, to go through the legal process of locating and requesting monetary assistance from the biological fathers of their children. There is a relatively new law in Nicaragua that states that the biological father is responsible to pay child support but many mothers are either apprehensive of, or unfamiliar with, the legal process.



German Volunteer brings Help and Hope

Through our partnership with a volunteer placement agency in Granada, called Proyecto Mosaico, a German volunteer named Anja Zehren, was sent to Camoapa to work at the Centro de Desarrollo Infantil (Early Development Center) here in town. While here volunteering she was surprised at how few materials the children had, due to a lack of resources at the center. She reached out to her contacts in Germany and was able to raise \$4000 for the benefit of the children. With this money, she was able to construct one new modest home for a very needy family (three of their four children are enrolled at CDI and the fourth is in our program Ayudame a Crecer), the remodeling of two additional homes, and the purchase of toys, mattresses, medicine and other needed supplies. Her efforts also inspired an increase in funding for food from an additional supporting organization in Arcata, California as well as a follow up volunteer, also from Germany, who plans to volunteer for a full year.

**We are anxiously anticipating the arrival of two volunteers from the United States in early December. They plan to stay for 6 months. One is a psychologist, the other a theater professor.

**Four of the children from the Hogar program received Academic Excellence recognition for this past school year. Roberto and Katy, in third grade, attend class here at our center in Gloria's classroom.

They will go on to the public schools next year. Enrique and Ninoska, in fourth grade, attend the public schools already.

Congratulations to all four!

← From left: Roberto, Enrique, Katy & Ninoska, all received Academic Excellence recognition.



Community Involvement

Though the primary focus of our programs in Camoapa is education, The Sunrise Foundation and our staff members are highly involved in other community development projects, especially those that benefit local children and adolescents.

We especially believe that team sports activities can be a crucial component for childhood development, especially here in Camoapa, where a lot of youth may turn to drugs and alcohol at an early age.

Youth Boxing

Sebastian Laguna, our local Program Director, and Jim Ferriera, our long-term American volunteer, were both instrumental in the development of a Camoapan Youth Boxing Commission for a local project. With donated space from a local Camoapan resident and the vital support from the Police Department and the Mayor's office, a gym was established and a retired professional boxer was recruited and hired from Managua. Five nights a week he trains any and all interested youth, both male and female. A total of 48 young men are involved at various levels. The majority are at-risk adolescents, some of whom are reformed alcoholics or drug addicts. He also trains some younger boys, age 9-12, and an additional 15 adolescent girls.



locally sponsored fights here in Camoapa against other teams brought in from Boaco and Managua, as well as 2 fights outside of Camoapa (one in Managua, another in Jalí.) All 4 local events attracted huge crowds from town and served to raise team spirit and community camaraderie. As a team, Camoapa won all 6 fights that they have participated in, and 7 of the most dedicated boys qualified to fight at the national level. The national event, called Futuras Promesas, was held in Juigalpa, the last weekend in November. Two of the 7 Camoapan boxers won in the first round but were then eliminated. Despite no one making it to the semi-finals, it was a huge accomplishment to make it as far as they did. They will continue to train and will come back stronger next year.

Since opening the gym in February of this year, there have been 4

Girl's Softball

Also recently formed and brand new to Camoapa is a girl's softball team, organized by Emily Mew, our Program and Development Coordinator, and Bismar Sanchez, a local elementary school gym teacher. (Bismar is also a member of the Youth Boxing Commission and has donated his time to give gym classes to the children in our program.)



After less than a year of practicing, the initially small team of just 10 girls played and won a critical and decisive game in Teostepe (the only other girls team in the region) to qualify for Nationals. And in July, having recruited a few more girls, they traveled to Managua to compete in the Nicaraguan National Softball competition. Winning their first two games in the first round, the team classified for the semi-finals. They lost in the semi-finals, but with their record, placed third in the tournament, winning a trophy as well as 3 medals for individual players (best home-run hitter, most runs-batted-in and best pitcher.)



Since then, after more than a

year working with these girls, many of whom had never previously picked up a ball or glove, the team has really started to gain momentum. More and more girls are coming out to practice. Placing third at the National level is an enormous achievement because softball is very uncommon for girls in Nicaragua and was unheard of in Camoapa until now. Congratulations to the team!

Olimpitos 2010 (Special Olympics)

Los Pipitos from Camoapa, the organization that works with children with disabilities, also traveled to Managua to compete at the national level, in the Nicaraguan Special Olympics (Olimpitos 2010) after placing first in the regional competition. Two of our children, Diego and Delvin, participated and Diego took home a third place medal in 4 X 500. To watch this touching video, capturing the emotions and excitement of the day (published by La Prensa), [click here](#).

