

WISCONSIN / NICARAGUA

PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS



- **What is Partners of the Americas**
- **Where does Wisconsin fit in?**
- **Who are W/NP volunteers and what do they do?**

Life as we knew it, once upon a time in little central WI....



Then things started to change...

WI Public RadioWisconsin Rural Leadership (WRLP) a two year leadership training program.

3 weeks in Jamaica.....bitten by the international bug,
International Studies with a minor in International Resource Development.

“I found a fascinating world of study right in my own back yard here at UWSP. I was fortunate to have access to faculty with broad visions who provided flexibility in programming and was able to take advantage of independent studies that included everything from the study of cooperatives to third world women in development subjects, micro-enterprise lending, etc.”





Wisconsin Nicaragua

Partners of the Americas, Inc.

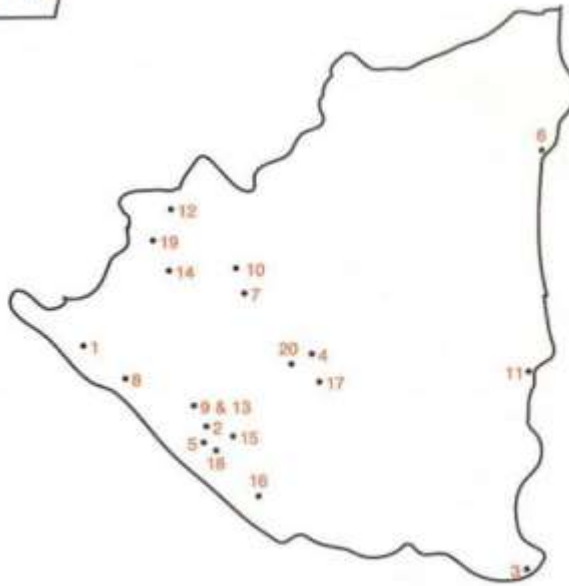


**"WORKING TOGETHER,
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE."**



**Volunteers throughout
Wisconsin are involved at
all levels –Partner City
groups along with civic,
church, youth, and
community service groups.**

1. Appleton - Chinandega
2. Beloit/Menomonic - Masaya
3. Bayfield - San Juan del Norte
4. Clintonville - Bouco
5. Eau Claire - Diriamba
6. Fort Atkinson - Puerto Cabezas
7. Hartford/West Bend - Matagalpa
8. Janesville - León
9. Madison - Managua
10. New Berlin - Jinotega
11. Racine - Bluefields
12. River Falls/Hudson - Ocotal
13. Sparta - Barrio Schick
14. Stevens Point - Esteli
15. Wauscha - Cramada
16. Waunatosa - Rivas
17. Whitehall - Acoyapa
18. Whitewater - Jinotepe
19. New Richmond/Somerset - Somoto
20. Green Bay - Juigalpa



Stevens Point/Esteli



PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

. . . . build unique bilateral partnerships between sections of the U.S. and sections of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Through these partnerships, volunteers on both sides would work together on self-help projects in community and economic development, while fostering inter-American friendship and understanding.

Where did Partners of the Americas originate?

1955 President Eisenhower was interested in exploring possibilities developing closer ties between the Central and South American countries and the United States.

1962 President John F. Kennedy launches the **Alliance for Progress** (*a program of governmental cooperation in the Western Hemisphere*)

1964 **Partners of the Americas** was founded as the *people-to-people* component of the Alliance for Progress.

1965 The **Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partnership** is incorporated and receives the 501 (c) status as a **non-profit, non-governmental agency**



In 1965 . . . birth of the private sector organization

Why Wisconsin and Nicaragua?? **COMMONALITIES**

- **economies heavily dependent on agricultural production**
- **each takes in approximately 57,000 sq. miles.**
- **Extensive stretches of coastline and large inland lake**
- **valuable forest areas**



Program Focus



Working together, we make a difference

Legend

- Partner Cities
- Health
- Learning Centers
- Chica Nica Dresses
- Eye Glass Mission
- Firefighters United
- Lending Library
- Garden Project
- Potable Water Project
- Scholarships
- Stove Project
- Back Pack Project
- Vitamin A
- Preschool center
- Agriculture
- Maiz
- MCW Medical Student Project
- Dairy and Forage Production
- Microlending Project
- Poultry Project

Partners believes citizen participation is essential to a strong and healthy community



Managua Area

●	1	●	1
●	5	●	3
●	1	●	4
●	1	●	34
●	1	●	1

International Community Development



↓

Partners of the Americas, Inc

↓

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners

↙

Helping others have opportunity*

Influences lives at an exponential level here

A dark green silhouette map of Central America. A small green dot is located in the northern part of the region. A white callout bubble with a black border points to this dot, containing the text "Influences lives at an exponential level here".



Survey Results in response to how has this project changed your life ?

I am 36 years old, I have been sewing for 3 years, my life has changed. I now have more money to buy material to make uniforms for my children for school, shoes and school supplies. I have also bought some sand and blocks for a new house. So far we have 1 room. **Learning is better than money, nobody can take it away.** - *Maritza Artiaga*

Microlending Program

Women and Families.....

“Opening Doors”

Propuesta
Para un programa regional de
desarrollo rural de mujeres (MUR) en apoyo de
las mujeres agricultoras, para mejorar sus niveles de
bienestar y calidad de vida.
El MUR se organizará en
5 zonas de trabajo de 2000 - 2500
mujeres de cada zona
El MUR se organizará en
5 zonas de trabajo de 2000 - 2500
mujeres de cada zona



WISCONSIN/NICARAGUA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS, INC.
COMPLETION OF THE APPLICATION FOR MICROFINANCING BUSINESS

PROYECTO DE MICROFINANCIAMIENTO

INDICAR

REVISOR DE: _____
REVISOR DE: _____
REVISOR DE: _____
REVISOR DE: _____

FECHA: 25 de Julio del 2006

ALTERADO POR: _____



Opening doors and creating opportunity for all who are involved is a cornerstone of W/NP, helping people realize their own potential



Beauty Classes at the Ocotal Learning Center





Some examples
of the Women
and Families
projects



Sewing machines making a difference



Lea is the woman who makes the contrast dress and has a new kitchen on her house financed by the doll dresses



Making bags from Pants



Who is Mayra Mendoza



How W/NP brings volunteers together



Health & Humanitarian Assistance

Nicaragua is a country that is faced with earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tidal waves as well as challenges of a man made origin

Wisconsin has always responded generously and with care.



Working Together, We make a difference

Getting donations to Nicaragua takes Collaboration



Humanitarian Assistance

W/NP

U.S. Dept of
Defense

Hospitals, Fire
Depts,
Schools



It takes a team effort





Above: Rothschild turn out gear....

Left: Clintonville airport beacon
now at the pier on Lake Managua!

Opportunity knocks: Be on the look out for items still in good use to share with EMS, Firefighters and the medical communities in Nicaragua



W/NP Warehouse in Stevens Point

2139 N. 2nd Drive

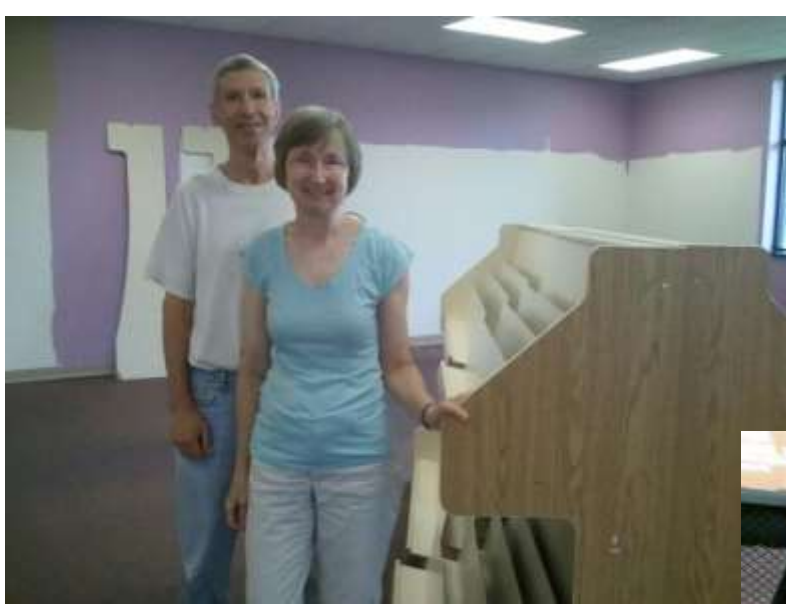


Monday, September 23 was a REMARKABLE day! 63,000 lbs. of donations valued at \$161,400 loaded by a host of area volunteers departed Stevens Point in four 40 ft. containers and is destined for Nicaragua.



Customs to the W/NP office in Managua to the hospitals and fire departments.....



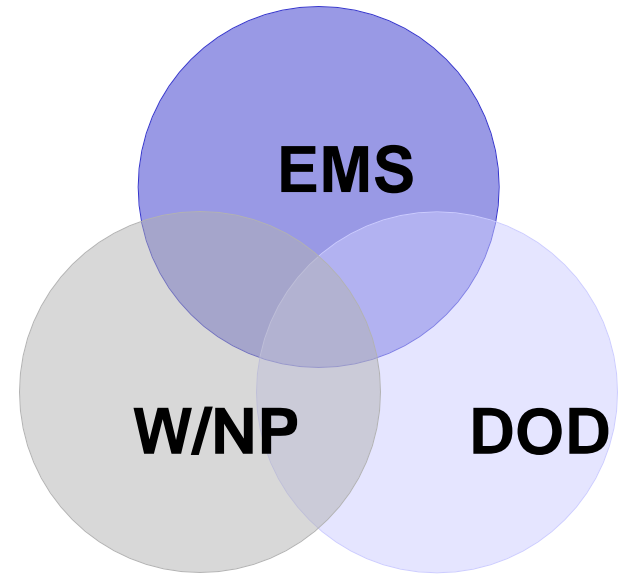


Library Project



McDonalds
from Stevens
Point to
Managua
Public
Hospitals





Nov 9th next shipment



5. 22. 2002



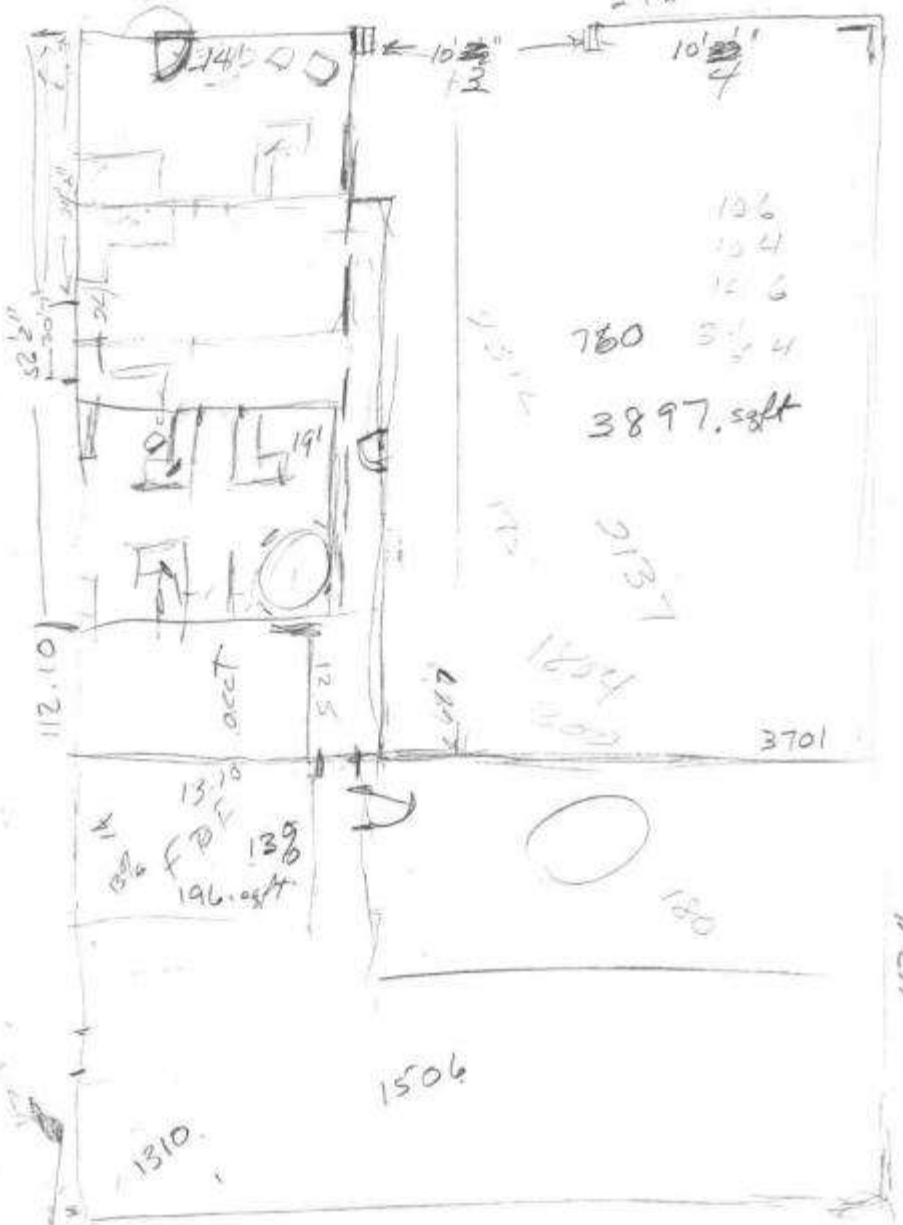
Warehouse/Office in Managua

Figuring out how to be
more efficient with the
space we have



measurements are to the inside face

24.7



Drawing the plan, morning of March 16, 2009 in Managua.

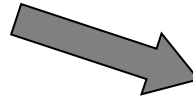
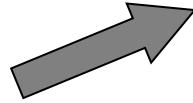


Remodeling the Managua Office - A tough, but not impossible task, for my father to carry out the plans she had in mind, and left for us to carry on.



W/NP Managua Office





Before and after at
the Managua Office



Typical scenes in the public hospitals









The Burn Therapy Dressing Project is a social health program working in collaboration with the Lenin Fonseca and Velez Paiz Childrens Hospital that benefits people who lack resources from rural areas in Nicaragua.

W/NP Learning Center ladies make the therapy dressing for patients recovering from burn treatments or plastic surgeries.





Current Status of Burn Patients in Nicaragua

Burn patients from different parts of the country need to be transferred to the Managua hospitals. The two public hospital options where burn units are available are: Fernando Velez Paiz childrens hospital and Antonio Lennin Foseca general hospital. Currently, the public hospitals are not able to provide appropriate burn therapy dressings for the burn patients.

The patients are referred by their doctor to the W/NP office on Tuesday and Saturday's where the Learning Center volunteers make the burn dressings.





Therapy Dressing Project



Carlos, 17, was hit by an electrical cable of 13,000 watts while he was walking on the roof of his house, his left arm, chest and legs were burned.



The advanced sewing skills acquired through sewing the Chica Nica doll dresses have contributed to the quality construction of burn dressing garments.

Quality control workshops have given the women opportunity to put into practice these past four months how to make masks, gloves, pants, shirts, sleeves, foot and ankle leggings, and different parts of the body garments that burn patients need to wear after the initial treatment and during the healing process”

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners Therapy Dressing Project Update

In 6 months, since the project started, the volunteer staff in coordination with Doctor Leandro has provided services to 51 people.

200 garments have made and every patient is a challenge as some need more than one garment and some of their affected areas are difficult to fit. The process to fit and make the garments can take up to 2 hours or more if needed.

Opportunity knocks: make a financial donation at www.wisnic.org to help buy materials



Gerardo, 22, has a broken arm and 46 % of his body has third degree burns.



Working together
we make a
difference



“The first day she was wearing a black hat and Suyen made the comment: to wear black color is not good for burn patient black attract and keep more so will be no appropriate to use it she was agreement so at her next visited Suyen brought to kind of hat made them from her she let Katherine picked the one so Suyen made it for her. “

Girl helps Backpack Project

Supplies go to students in Nicaragua

By Marisa Gwilt
For the Journal

Eight-year-old Kaylee Jisko is packing her bags for Nicaragua.

The Stevens Point native and Madison Elementary School third grader is quickly turning into the superstar of the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas Backpack Project—a humanitarian mission to collect school supplies and distribute them by backpack to Nicaraguan students and teachers.

"I have heard that you could use some school supplies to go to school with," the youngster typed on a piece of paper that she then slipped into one of the eight neatly packed backpacks she already has donated. "I am going to put together as many backpacks as I can so all of you can go to school with supplies."

Kaylee recently attended a Cassin Boosters 4-H Club meeting where Betty Ponek, of Stevens Point, gave a presentation about Nicaragua. Ponek, who has traveled to the country several times for charitable reasons, introduced Kaylee to the financial plight of Nicaraguans. Among the poorest nations in the Caribbean, Nicaragua is home to hundreds of thousands of children who are not enrolled in the formal education system because they cannot afford uniforms or school supplies.

Ponek's descriptions of the schools made Kaylee want to help.

"The classrooms seem to have one fluorescent lightbulb hanging and not much else," Ponek said.

"The construction is all cement, the floors are tile, the chairs are



Kaylee Jisko, 8, of the town of Dewey, holds some of the school supplies she plans to send to Nicaragua to help kids her age who can't afford them. S.C. KIMMEL/STEVENS POINT JOURNAL

scoured wood or metal and there isn't too much art on the walls because of the lack of school supplies."

At the presentation, there were pamphlets advertising the Backpack Project, which Kaylee immediately told her mother, Sarah Jisko, she wished to participate in. Sarah Jisko contacted the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners and got her

daughter involved.

"I met Kaylee in person last week when she dropped off some backpacks," said Amy Wiza, program director of the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners. "We've never had a volunteer so young and with so much enthusiasm."

Kaylee is not done packing yet. She has plans to put more backpacks together and possi-

HOW TO HELP

To donate to the Backpack Project, visit www.2012.org or search "Helping People Help People" on Facebook for information.

bly get her older cousin involved in the endeavor. "She doesn't want to stop until all the kids in Nicaragua have back-

packs," her mother said. "There are about half a million kids that don't have backpacks over there, so she'll be at this a while."

The Jiskos put together a Facebook page titled "Helping People Help People," where visitors can donate to the project. "This project means that you help other kids," Kaylee said. "We still need pencil sharpeners."





Visiting our Partner Country - Nicaragua



Traveling in Nicaragua.....







Opportunity knocks: take the challenge, go share your knowledge & make new friends!

What can you do?

- ✓ **Take the 1st step, become a member of W/NP**
- ✓ **Find an area or project that interests you**
- ✓ **Travel to Nicaragua (*January, February, March trips 2015*)**
- ✓ **Come to the packing days or next W/NP meeting**



Working together, we make a difference