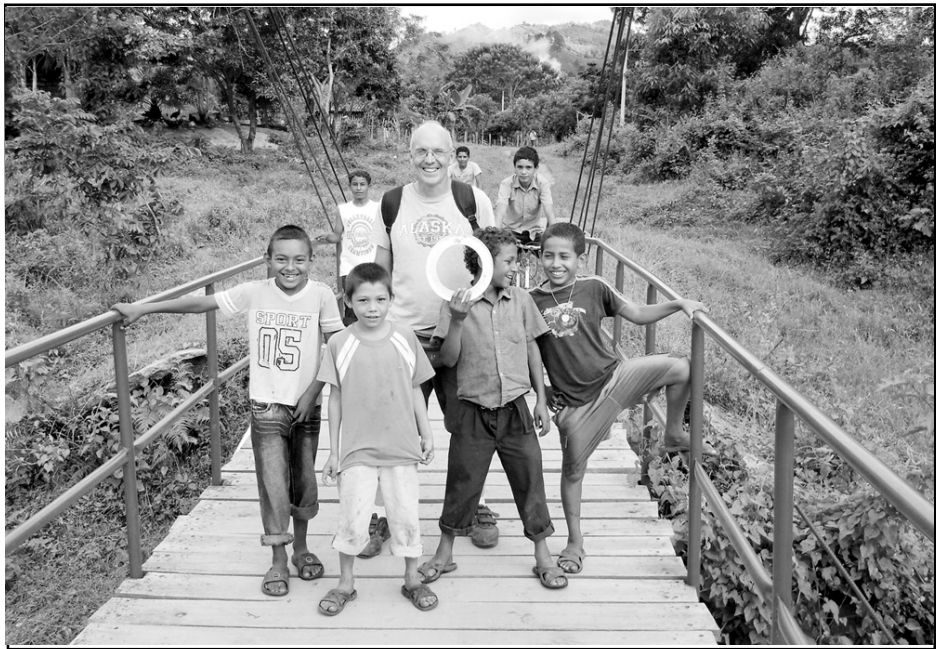




insider

Volunteer Update
Nov. 2011

Interfaith Service to Latin America 270 Page Street West Saint Paul, MN 55107
Phone: 612-819-8877 email: info@isla.cc www.isla.cc www.facebook.com/ISLA.Nicaragua



Tom Nygaard and other members of the October ISLA team made lots of friends in visits to Jalapa area towns and clinics. Photo by Jon Kerr

Floods & roadblocks can't hold back Oct. ISLA team

Some might have been deterred or intimidated, but determined ISLA volunteers on their way to Jalapa in mid-October weren't about to let felled trees across the roadway or a political protest stop them. Even nationwide flooding in the aftermath of a hurricane didn't wet the group's enthusiasm. "We just kind of learn to roll with things," said nurse Gloria Karl, who has plenty experience with 20 trips under her belt. Even newcomers such as physician's

assistant Christina Eichstadt seemed unphased. "It was a little scary when (ISLA staffperson) Javier took that shortcut to get around the tree, but I lived in Colorado so am pretty used to heights. We just kept going." Indeed, the small, largely medical team safely forded all streams - including one on oxcart - to a small mountain community outside Jalapa as part of their 11-day experience.

VOLUNTEERS to P. 3

ISLA'S mission is to partner with communities in Latin America through health, education and construction programs to become self-sustainable.

Board Members

Nancy Johnson, Chair
Katherine Schill, Treasurer
Barb Rose, Secretary
Lu Lindstrom
Laura Trebs
Tom Cooper
Phil Deering
Peggy Wasserman
Bob Mullin & Cecily Brown, Education Directors

Dan Kramer, Construction Program Director
Janet Chestnut & Dave Dexter, Medical /Health Directors

Admin. Director

Jon Kerr
Coordinator in Jalapa
Javier Eduardo Aguilar Cordoba

Look for us on Facebook!
Easy sign up and log-on at
www.facebook.com/ISLA.Nicaragua

Share your thoughts, memories, photos & reconnect: to ISLA friends

Mullin honored for his ISLA education lead

He insists he's not leaving, merely turning over some duties to new ISLA leadership. Yet the man who from the beginning chaired an Education program that has grown to offer scholarships to over 125 high school and college students a year and other programs - including a new initiative supporting the Jalapa Public Library - is due his honors.

Bob Mullin was feted at November ISLA events in Northfield and in the Twin Cities which included tributes from far and wide including some of the Nicaraguan school children he has helped. A celebration/reception at Faith Methodist fittingly concluded with a pinata breaking overseen by "Nuevo Roberto."

Bob's new phase is part of a new ISLA phase as co-chair Cecily Brown and other leaders join in. But education will never be left behind, pledges Mullen, who jokingly says he is taking on a new role as "Secretary of Student Affairs."

"Yes, I am stepping down as chair of the

education committee," Bob said, explaining that he will continue helping handle student records and communication with donors. "That means I would be able to continue watching my 'kids' grow up as I add their pictures to my file."

Similarly Bob expects to see ISLA's Education program continue to grow, "moving education into the community for all ages. I'm looking forward to seeing us working with all Jalapans."



ISLA Education chair Bob Mullen spoke about his 15+ years of volunteer work with Jalapa and other Nicaraguan youth during a Nov. 12 celebration/reception at Faith Methodist Church in St. Anthony, MN. Photo by Jon Kerr

Jalapa wants you!

And it's never too late!



Trips to Nicaragua have openings now through next June!

Be part of medical, construction and education programs helping build a better future with our friends!

More information, dates and applications available on-line

www.isla.cc



Volunteers cont'd from P. 1

Other ISLA medical team members included physician Peter D'Ascoli, and nurse Jenny Koch. Volunteer Tom Nygaard served as a one-man construction team and part-time bus driver.

Other volunteer services to appreciative Jalapa-area residents included over 200 pap smears and other procedures for another 30 patients. As always, ISLA's cervical cancer prevention efforts were aided by partners including the Jalapa Womens Foundation

Other allies on this trip included leadership of Nicaraguan civil war vets who shared their office areas for two day clinics. Former Contra and Sandinista soldiers from the 1970's and 1980's were diagnosed with a variety of long-term ailments ranging from physical issues with eyes, limbs and internal stress and other mental disorders. Many seemed to simply want their stories heard.



War veterans, both Sandinista and Contra, waited to be seen by ISLA medical staff during the team's October visit. A wide variety of ailments and issues were diagnosed with followup plans now under consideration. Photo by Jon Kerr



Jalapa Public Library staff and ISLA Director Jon Kerr display some of the ISLA-donated books that now have a place on new shelves that were constructed by the October team, including the volunteer photographer. Photo by Tom Nygaard

That was, in part, the role of ISLA team member Lisa Fitzgerald - who was returning to Jalapa to re-photograph locals she had met during the war-time years. She hopes to compile a book based on her photos and experiences, and also pitched in on ISLA efforts.

"This was such a great group,. They were all really impressive and a lot of fun," she said. "I'm very impressed with what ISLA does here and the dedication of the volunteers."



Gloria Karl had her hands full and also had fun on her 20th ISLA trip as lead nurse, chicken carrier and "Flat Stanley" holder.

ISLA outreach plans look to the future

New technologies and opportunities are the focus of ISLA's Fundraising & Outreach Committee, which described ideas to Board Members Nov. 12.

"We want to use social networking and themed events to help raise funds and bring in new people," said Phil Deering, describing plans to conduct a small telethon for ISLA supporters in early December. He described the event

as a way to upgrade databases and reconnect with ISLA trip members.

The possibilities of FaceBook and other social networking strategies are being explored in hope of retaining and gaining ISLA supporters. Director Jon Kerr was charged with developing a strategic plan to attract new volunteers and resources for ISLA.

Kerr outlined another possibility for 2012- organizing a large

container or other shipment to Jalapa bringing more materials in a cost-efficient manner and also involving more ISLA volunteers in a hands-on project. Also included might be a new summer team trip to Nicaragua.

Those with ideas and interest are invited to add comments and stay tuned to:

Facebook.com/ISLA.Nicaragua.



Interfaith Service to Latin America
ISLA
270 Page Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 1961

Remember ISLA in your giving legacy!



With your help ISLA has already made a dramatic difference in the lives of the people of Jalapa and other Nicaraguans. As we sustain and build on those efforts your ongoing support is more important than ever.

Please consider the positive impact your legacy gifts, bequests by will or trust, IRA, life insurance or other benefit plans could make through ISLA. Contact your planner or we can help find qualified expert advice.

For more info: jon@isla.cc or 612-819-8877



**You can make
a difference!**

Your donation of any amount (gifts of \$50, \$100 or \$200 suggested) always have impact through ISLA's medical, education and construction programs.

Send your tax deductible contribution to:

ISLA

**270 Page Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55107**

