

# insider

Volunteer Update **April**, 2014

Interfaith Service to Latin America

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to create a simple medicinal poultice for use in Nicaragua. At right, Dan Kramer congratulates some of ISLA's scholarship recipients during the January trip to Jalapa.

# Youth and wisdom come together in ISLA's future

together. That was demonstrated on ISLA's January trip as veteran team members and students from St. Olaf worked side by side with the goal of helping and learning from their Nicaraguan hosts.

Dr. Thomas Chisholm, a retired Army doctor with decades of experience around the world was a fountain of information and aid to the needy at the same time in the Jalapa clinic with Oles

Youth and wisdom can go regularly at his side. Observing both operations and simple bedside manners with Nicaraguan patients, the good doctor was an inspiration. "Wow, this is great. I never expected an opportunity like this," said St. Olaf senior Ben Pelegrano, who plans to go to med school after graduation.

> Students joined with other ISLA veterans in helping work on the Casa Materna kitchen building

> > YOUTH/WISDOM to P. 2

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

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#### **Letter from the Chair:**

## ISLA programs keep springing forward

Dear Friends of ISLA,

hopeful time of year for us to eight high schools, from 30 northerners as we await the to 130 students, and from 25 last frost and the first green, to 65 donors. not necessarily in that order!

14th year as an NGO and our ways as well. For example, in 22nd year of service to and January 2013, Kay Kramer partnership with our friends in and her team partnered with Jalapa, Nicaragua. This long- the Jalapa librarians and some standing relationship is one of pre-school teachers to give the reasons I wanted to be part workshops of ISLA. The length and the language for children at the depth of the commitment of newly ISLA's volunteers and donors Library. Other trips have to the health and welfare of the been Jalapeño people is something Education to celebrate!

As Chair of the Education Health/Medical mission. Committee, I want to report that our Scholarships Program continue to explore new is currently supporting 112 activities and fun, useful high school students and 19 ways to engage with our college students in Jalapa and partners in Jalapa. I am most surrounding thanks to the generosity of our year which will be the firstdonors. We have grown! In ever "Family Trip." Jon has

the past ten years, our Happy Spring! It is a program has grown from four

The Education Program In 2014, ISLA began its continues to grow in other in renovated Jalapa developing ISLA's mission connection with our Public

> This year, our ISLA trips communities, excited about the July trip this



ISLA volunteers Rita Brown and Lu Lindstrom help oversee January scholarship distributions in Jalapa.

been working on this idea for include exciting ideas for several years and it is finally language going to happen this July, learning for Minnesotans when several adults will be and Jalapeños of all ages at traveling with our children, the Jalapa Library, our base ranging in age from 3 to 14 camp El Pantano, years. I will be among them, perhaps also at the schools. traveling with my 14-year-old daughter and one of her friends. The activities we are developing for this trip

and culture

I hope you will join us! Best wishes. Cecily Brown ISLA Board Chair

#### Youth/wisdom cont'd from P. 1

project (Page 3) and helped repaint the War Veterans center in Jalapa.



Oles gave thumbs up to their experiences in the Jalapa operating room.

But most of their focus was on comparative public health themes., visiting Nicaraguan clinics, nursing centers and learning about immunization, disease prevention, disabled youth education centers and other programs.

But if the theoretical became old, Chisholm was there for practical lessons - a role that he took on in his usual modest fashion think we saved a few lives, so I guess it was a good trip."

## Remember ISLA in your giving legacy!



For more info:

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.

ion@isla.cc 612-819-8877 or

### ISLA teams get things cooking at Casa Materna

Wait ends for expectant mothers who get major kitchen, garden upgrades

A little technology, a kitchen little elbow grease and lots of love will hopefully get that included digging some Nicaraguan children new footings, walls and and families off to a better much more. start in life thanks to ISLA January and March teams.

Team members, Nicaraguan contractors, uncomplainingly took on Jalapa." what started as a small roofing project and turned even volunteered to stay into a much bigger new

and outdoor prep area building effort

"That was some pretty tough ground," said Dan Kramer with a laugh. "We slept well those nights in

Some team members for an extra day's work in



March construction team members Tom Nygaard and John Cambronne helped cut and weld beams for the roof over both the kitchen and awning areas. The final results below show the benefits of everyones' hard work.





January team members used their cement mixer and physical labor to literally pave the way for building construction. Photo by Lu Lindstrom

then passed to the March young ones. team which finished up the roofing mothers and

Jalapa. The torch was washing clothes for their

"I think we all felt pretty work, good seeing that roof including a new outdoor completed and I'm sure it awning - which will will be really appreciated provide cover to young by Casa Materna.," said others March group leader Gloria Karl.

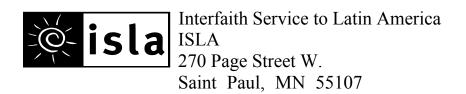
A side project for the January team included design and construction of a "hoop" greenhouse at Casa Materna. Staff and expectant mothers will now be able to grow fresh fruits and vegetables year-round.





outdoor washing and food prep area near the garden is now covered and protected from sun and rain thanks to an awning.





# Nicaragua awaits you! And it's never too late!



ISLA
teams/trips
have
openings July
through next
January!

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 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
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