



Interfaith Service to Latin America

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Dr. Thomas Chisholm, above, shows St. Olaf students how 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.



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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Youth and wisdom come together in ISLA's future

Youth and wisdom can go 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

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

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

Letter from the Chair:

ISLA programs keep springing forward

Dear Friends of ISLA, the past ten years, our program has grown from four to eight high schools, from 30 to 130 students, and from 25 to 65 donors. Happy Spring! It is a hopeful time of year for us northerners as we await the last frost and the first green, not necessarily in that order!

In 2014, ISLA began its 14th year as an NGO and our 22nd year of service to and partnership with our friends in Jalapa, Nicaragua. This long-standing relationship is one of the reasons I wanted to be part of ISLA. The length and the depth of the commitment of ISLA's volunteers and donors to the health and welfare of the Jalapeño people is something to celebrate!

As Chair of the Education Committee, I want to report that our Scholarships Program is currently supporting 112 high school students and 19 college students in Jalapa and surrounding communities, thanks to the generosity of our donors. We have grown! In

the past ten years, our program has grown from four to eight high schools, from 30 to 130 students, and from 25 to 65 donors.

The Education Program continues to grow in other ways as well. For example, in January 2013, Kay Kramer and her team partnered with the Jalapa librarians and some pre-school teachers to give workshops in art and language for children at the newly renovated Jalapa Library. Other trips have been developing ISLA's Education mission in connection with our Public Health/Medical mission.

This year, our ISLA trips continue to explore new activities and fun, useful ways to engage with our partners in Jalapa. I am most excited about the July trip this year which will be the first-ever "Family Trip." Jon has



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

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

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

ISLA teams get things cooking at Casa Materna

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

A little technology, a little elbow grease and lots of love will hopefully get some Nicaraguan children and families off to a better start in life thanks to ISLA January and March teams.

Team members, and Nicaraguan contractors, uncomplainingly took on what started as a small roofing project and turned into a much bigger new kitchen and outdoor prep area building effort that included digging new footings, walls and much more.

Some team members even volunteered to stay for an extra day's work in

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

Some team members even volunteered to stay 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 everyone's hard work.



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

Jalapa. The torch was then passed to the March team which finished up the roofing work, including a new outdoor awning - which will provide cover to young mothers and others

washing clothes for their young ones. "I think we all felt pretty good seeing that roof completed and I'm sure it will be really appreciated by Casa Materna.," said 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.



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



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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



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a difference!**

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amount (gifts of \$50,
\$100 or \$200
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