



insider

**Volunteer Update
May 2011**

Interfaith Service to Latin America 270 Page Street West Saint Paul, MN 55107
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Members of the March construction team were honored by students, teachers and community at Campo Hermoso school. Photo by Jon Kerr

ISLA still stands with Jalapa Jan. & March teams continue cause

After 18 years, some things never get old - like the smiles, personal contact and friendships. ISLA volunteers once again got that message on January and March 2011 trips to Jalapa, Nicaragua.

Medical, construction and education projects kept everyone busy - along with side visits to places like Selva Negra coffee resort, Granada and San Juan del Sur.

Working with the Womens Foundation and our other partners, ISLA doctors and nurses saw hundreds of patients - doing pap smears, colposcopies and other

procedures. Followup lab work done in the U.S. no doubt will help save lives.

Another health-related effort, the Stoves Project, continues with assistance from the Foldcraft Foundation and other donors. It was demonstrated to members of the March team invited into homes of Jalapan families who constructed the smoke-reducing, fuel-efficient stoves.

Though the January and March construction teams were both small in number, a significant amount of work was accomplished on each trip. The main project for the January trip was the

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

Board Members

- Lu Lindstrom, Chair**
- Katherine Schill, Treasurer**
- Dean Neuburger, Secretary**
- Nancy Johnson**
- Dwayne Cowdin**
- Tom Cooper**
- Barb Rose**
- Garth Osborn**
- Kathy Furey**
- Peggy Wasserman**
- Michelle Murphy**
- Bob Mullin, Education Director**

- Dan Kramer, Construction Program Director**
- Dave Dexter, Medical Director**

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- Admin. Director*
 - Jon Kerr**
 - Coordinator in Jalapa*
 - Javier Eduardo Aguilar Cordoba**

Look for us on Facebook!

*Easy sign up and log-on at
www.fbook.me/ISLA
Share your thoughts, memories, photos & reconnect: to ISLA friends*

Education programs aim for lifetime of learning

By Bob Mullin, Education Director

New learners and old school friends are both the focus of ISLA Education Committee efforts this year. Student scholarships continue at high numbers while exciting new opportunities to fund lifetime learning at the public library have also gained support.

ISLA is supporting 127 high school scholarship students and ten college students in the 2011 school year that include 28 First year high school students, 28 Second year students, 25 Third year, 26 Fourth Year, 20 Fifth Year, seven First year college students, and three Second year college scholars.

Because the number of donors has declined over the past two years, 12 of these students are being supported from education reserve funds. We hope this trend can be reversed.

New Initiatives

The new Community Library Project is under way. A grant of \$3000 was made to the library in the fall of 2010. So far a total of \$2,500 has been spent on books ranging from 'Bambi' (\$1.00), to 'Historia de America' (\$11.50) and 'Fundamentos de Filosofía Medica' (\$65.00). The two Jalapan librarians selected the books for this grant.

We are now working with Hispamer, a major book seller in Managua, to participate in the "Books for Life" program. This international effort is dedicated to the development of community libraries in third world countries. It offers to match a book purchase of \$2,000 with a grant of \$3,000 for additional books and two computers. The book selection in this program is designed specifically to enrich the reading world of students from preschool through high school.

You can learn more of this program by going to www.booksforlife.org.

By making an additional \$2,000 gift to the Jalapa library in 2011 there is the potential of raising its inventory of new books to a total of \$8,000. This program replaces the ISLA school library project which had become difficult to manage due to new government policies and restrictions. It also has the advantage of serving the larger community.

Some of you may already know the Jalapa public library. It is the small building with large blue murals just down the block and around the corner from Mama Chunga's. The



Encouragement of reading from earliest years is the goal of the ISLA Education Program's recent funding support for the Jalapa Public Library. Photo by Grit Youngquist

building will need some to work closely with ISLA. construction attention before it The potential exists for the is fully safe for young users development of a true and books. But the librarians "Community Center" serving are very excited about this children, youth and adults of from Mama Chunga's. The project and express their desire the extended Jalapan area.

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 for our friends!

More information, dates and applications available on-line

www.isla.cc

ISLA 2015 process plans for the future

By Nancy Johnson

What's ahead for ISLA? Including both old and new members, ISLA has embarked on a strategic business planning process called ISLA 2015 to build for the future.

Working with a consultant from MAP for Non-profits, ISLA 2015 is tackling many critical questions as we articulate our promise to the people of Jalapa and to current and potential volunteers. New board members, staff and chairs will meet in retreat after the

July 25, 8:30 am. ISLA Annual Meeting at Faith Methodist Church, St. Anthony. To be part, or for more information, call 612-237-1448.

Board members and committee chairs have completed an Organizational Life Stafe assessment to help define where we've been and where we're going. This leads to clarifying the board's roles and responsibilities for realizing ISLA's Mission, i.e., strategic leadership, recruiting talent, raising money, tracking and reporting successes.

The second phase of the July 25 Board retreat is to work on a 3-year business plan. We'll focus on goals and accountability for our lines of business, potential growth areas, volunteer recruitment and management, fund development, outreach, and communications. An important issue is to maintain ISLA's special relationship to Jalapa while exploring expansion to other cities and the potential of partnering with other organizations.

Volunteers cont'd from P. 1

addition of a classroom to INAJAL, the high school in Jalapa. The footings had been poured when we arrived, so immediately we began to lay block walls with the assistance of Felix, a local mason. The local PTA hired another man to assist in construction of the reinforcing columns.

Since the room was added to the end of an existing wing, only three walls were needed. While the walls were going up, a local welder worked on assembling the steel rafters, which were already being put in place the day we departed.

Several other small projects were also worked into the schedule. Soffit repair was done to the existing INAJAL building. A new roof was put on an outdoor baño at the hospital. And repair were made on the roof of a clinic in Tauquil. That last project was accomplished on our last afternoon with a steady rain falling most of the time.

The March team, with the help of local volunteers, was able to backplaster and paint the two-room school at Campo Hermoso, a



ISLA medical team members were sometimes greeted by long lines of patients on recent trips. Photo Jon Kerr

building that ISLA put a new roof on in 2010.

In addition, they painted they backplastered and painted the new room at INAJAL. They were able to accomplish this with a small crew because of the fact that Dwayne Cowdin took along a labor-saving paint sprayer.

Perhaps the highlight of the March trip was the thank you ceremony that PTA and community members gave at both schools.

"In all my trips, this is one of the best things I've seen," said Cowdin. "It's really nice how much they appreciate us and vice versa."



It wasn't all fun & games. But March team members enjoyed a musical chairs at the request of their INAJAL school hosts.



Members of the Jalapa Womens' Federation showed their appreciation for ISLA team members in what has become a regular event.

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

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Nicaraguan music & fun!
with singer/songwriter *Carlos Lumbi*

Aug. 13, 6:30-9 pm



Hennepin Ave. Methodist
Church, (Parsonage)
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Minneapolis 55403

\$20/\$10 student ID

Fundraiser for Interfaith Service
to Latin America (ISLA)

**Silent auction,
cash bar/free snacks**

RSVP/info jon@isla.cc or 612-819-8877



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a difference!**

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amount (gifts of \$50,
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have impact through
ISLA's medical,
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