



insider

Volunteer Update
June, 2013

Interfaith Service to Latin America 270 W. Page Street Saint Paul, MN 55107
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San Rafael students eagerly greeted the delivery of desks from Minnesota brought by May's Idaho ISLA team.



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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Desks bring love & hope from Minnesota (& Idaho)

Like a line of ants, happy children each eagerly rushed to grab a folding desk from the back of the pickup truck that had made its way up a steep Nicaraguan mountain road. From Kenyon, MN to San Rafael school, with an assist from ISLA's May team of Idaho nursing students, a long journey had been completed - bringing not only desks for impoverished students but also mutual love and hopes for a better future.

Next to having my children, delivering those desks up a mountain dirt road to a remote school in need is one of my proudest moments! I will treasure my entire experience with ISLA!

-- Elaina Rose Williams, Idaho nursing student on May team

DESKS/CONTAINER to P. 2

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

Desks/container cont'd from P. 1

ISLA's construction of the two-room school outside Jalapa in January, 2012 was itself a momentous task in driving rains alternating with scorching tropical sun. Classes began almost immediately with almost no desks or supplies - meaning that students sometimes dropped out.

But SLA's first 40-foot shipping container to Nicaragua last summer presented an opportunity for both the desks and approx. \$150,000 worth of medical, construction and other needed materials and supplies to come to the Jalapa area. By Sept. 2012 the container had arrived at the port of Corinto.

Then things became curiously complicated however, with delay after delay by customs and health officials leading to a build-up of storage fees. It took national publicity and the intervention of Nicaraguan Pres. Daniel Ortega to eventually release the container.

But it's arrival in Jalapa at least coincided with ISLA's May team - which found itself the subject of TV interviews and other welcoming attention - not the least of which was from the students of San Rafael.

"We can't tell you what this means to us," said a teacher that day. "You are always welcome here."



The re-roofed Sandinista War Veterans Center became a convenient temporary staging area for the container's supplies, many of which were sorted by Idaho nursing students on the May ISLA team.

Jalapenos of all ages were pleased to see the ISLA container arrive. It will also serve as a hospital storage area.



North Idaho College nursing instructor Peggy Wasserman helps a Nicaraguan war veteran make an adjustment on his prosthetic leg - using supplies brought by the May team and the ISLA shipping container.

ISLA night with the Saints!



Friday, Aug. 23,

5:30 pregame tailgate

Followed by baseball, fireworks & fun

Midway Stadium,

Energy Park Dr., St. Paul



VS



\$25 includes ticket, photo Fundraiser for ISLA
Easy ticket orders:

www.SAINMSGROUPS.com

(password: ISLA)



More information: jon@isla.cc

or 612-819-8877

Jan.-March ISLA teams lead the route to changes

Veterans Center rehab, new library programs, & rethought scholarship awards mark new ways to old goals

ISLA veterans on the January and March teams were just the leaders needed to problem solve new programs and approaches aimed at building even better connections with our Nicaraguan friends.

A year of major new projects began with a

wildly popular pre-school reading program at the Jalapa public library, included a record number of scholar awards partly based on new public service requirements, and brought down the house (before raising it again)

on the Sandinista war veterans center - thus



Nicaraguan workers, funded by ISLA, completed a major re-roofing and re-ceiling of the Jalapa war veterans center and storage areas this spring.

opening up new physical rehabilitation and community program options in our allies' greatly improved space.

Accomplishments for the year went even further, with another St.

Olaf student group visit focused on public health study coinciding with ISLA's ongoing womens health efforts.

With groundwork laid, the future for new and old ISLA projects looks bright.



March construction team members experienced the high and lows of construction - bringing down roofs and digging footer trenches to pave the way for valuable Jalapa building improvements.



Kay Kramer (right) led a pre-school reading and arts program at the Jalapa Public Library in January. The effort was a pilot project for more ISLA programs utilizing the recently-remodeled space and community connections.



Dan Kramer (right) and ISLA staff Javier Aguilar survey the growing crowd of parents and students before January's scholarship awards.



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ISLA
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Saint Paul, MN 55107

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Nicaragua awaits you!

And it's never too late!



**ISLA
teams/trips
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**



**You can make
a difference!**

Your donation of any
amount (gifts of \$50,
\$100 or \$200
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