

insider

Volunteer Update June, 2013

Interfaith Service to Latin America

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Desks bring love & hope from Minnesota (& Idaho)

Lke 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 desks for impoverished students but also mutual love and hopes for a better future.

DESKS/CONTAINER to P. 2

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

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/container cont'd from P. 1

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

shipping container 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.

sun. almost that students But SLA's first 40-foot

Then things became complicated curiously 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 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



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

www.SAINTSGROUPS.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 wildly popular pre-school January and March teams reading program at the were just the leaders Jalapa public needed to problem solve new programs approaches building even better connections with Nicaraguan friends.

projects began with a veterans center - thus

library, included a record number of scholar awards partly aimed at based on new public service requirements, and our brought down the house (before raising it again) A year of major new on the Sandinista war



a major re-roofing and re-ceiling of the Jalapa war veterans center and storage areas this spring.

rehabilitation community program study greatly improved space.

Accomplishments for

opening up new physical Olaf student group visit and focused on public health coinciding options in our allies' ISLA's ongoing womens health efforts.

With groundwork laid, the year went even the future for new and old further, with another St. 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.



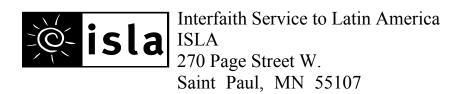
Kay Kramer (right) led a pre-school reading and arts program at the Jalapa Public Library in January. The effort was a pilot project for more ISLA programs utilizing the recentlyremodeled space and community connections.





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





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 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

