



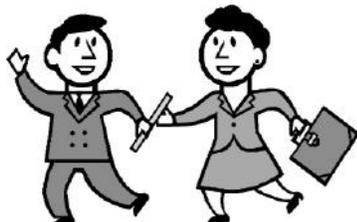
insider

**Volunteer Update
December 2008**

Interfaith Service to Latin America 270 Page Street West Saint Paul, MN 55107-3422
New! Phone: 612-819-8877 E-mail: info@isla.cc www.isla.cc

Welcome...

We are pleased to welcome Jon Kerr as ISLA's new Administrative Director. Jon comes to ISLA with experience working in various forms of communication, education and public service. He has worked as a reporter, editor and publisher and has owned and operated a coffee shop. Jon has a passion for Latin America and Nicaragua in particular; he has been traveling there since the mid-1980s. Jon brings a variety of skills to ISLA and traveled to Jalapa with the October team, staying on in Nicaragua for the entire month. He and his wife, Grit, live in Saint Paul and have recently purchased property in Nicaragua on Isla de Ometepe. Please join us in welcoming Jon to ISLA!



...and Farewell

While we are grateful to have found Jon, we are sorry to say farewell to Jean Kennedy who has been ISLA's Administrative Director for the past two years. We are grateful for the many contributions Jean has made to ISLA; we wish her well and hope that she remains connected to ISLA in some fashion.

Jean says, "It has been my great pleasure to work with all the ISLA volunteers. I always marveled at the rich history that returning volunteers brought to each team orientation; your service and commitment to the people of Jalapa is inspiring. I have enjoyed working and traveling with; learning from and laughing with all of you. Thank you for your friendship and hard work. ISLA's future is bright and full of possibilities... and you just might see me as a fellow team member traveling to Jalapa one day..."

OUR MISSION

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

Board Members

Anne Meyer Ruppel, *Chair*
Katherine Schill, *Treasurer*
Dean Neuburger, *Secretary*
Dan Kramer,
Construction Program Director
Bob Mullin,
Education Program Director
Peter D'Ascoli
Medical Program Director
Dwayne Cowdin
Nancy Carlson
Tom Cooper
Rick Panning
Lu Lindstrom
Michelle Murphy
Glenn Punchocar
Dave Dexter
Don Pavek

Administrative Director
Jon Kerr

Program Coordinator in Jalapa
Javier Eduardo Aguilar Cordoba

Newsletter Editor
Jan Foley

How You Can Help

SPREAD THE WORD

This is huge! If you have a passion for helping others or enriching your own life, we want your help! As many can attest, not only do we help our neighbors in Nicaragua, but our lives are enriched at home in a multitude of ways. Please consider gathering your friends and co-workers from your places of work, worship and play to make a trip together. All you need to do is tell our story and ISLA will do the rest! Call 612-819-8877 or e-mail info@isla.cc to have an ISLA volunteer come to your group to tell our story -- a true "plug and play" experience. You give us the names and we will do the rest!

SUPPORT AN ISLA SCHOLARSHIP

Since we believe that education and good health go hand in hand, one of ISLA's goals is to help children complete an education thereby turning the tide into a healthier community. Please check out www.isla.cc to learn about our unique scholarship program and consider making a difference in the life of a child by sponsoring a scholarship. It is now easier than ever to do so just go online to sponsor a high school student for one year or five years (billed annually) or a post-secondary student for one or two years. Your sponsorship will change a life!

VOLUNTEER ON A TRIP

People of all backgrounds and experiences travel with ISLA. Families are welcome to join our teams. The minimum age to participate is 14 years old and a parent or guardian must accompany youth under the age of 18. We send teams of 10-35 volunteers plus a trained team leader 4-5 times per year for 12 days during the months of January, March, June and October. All of the teams serve in Jalapa, Nicaragua located in north central Nicaragua. Upcoming trip dates are **January 14 - 25, 2009; March 25 - April 5, 2009; June 16 - 23, 2009; and October 12 - 23, 2009.** If you have compassion, optimism, a willingness to learn and serve in a different culture, flexibility to work in a team setting and are open to new experiences, you will find this a rewarding experience. Spanish is not required. Interested? Just download the application from our website, www.isla.cc !

ISLA BENEFITS FROM FAITH UMC AUCTION

Great things are happening with Global Missions at Faith United Methodist Church. The 3rd Annual Silent Auction was held in November to raise money to defray the cost of sending mission teams abroad to work on behalf of Faith UMC. Projects for 2009 include mission trips to Russia and to Nicaragua in January and March through ISLA. A wide variety of items were sold in the auction, including handcrafted items from Russia and Central America, art work, theme baskets, and home canned goods.

Together we
can make a
difference!



You can support the work we do by making a tax-deductible donation. The return on your investment in ISLA is fantastic. American dollars go far in Nicaragua. Despite the rising needs and costs, incredible things happen because of ISLA's work. We will gladly accept any donation over \$10, and would suggest donation amounts of \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500, or more. Any amount can help make a difference in our work.

With our newly updated website (www.isla.cc) you can now make your donation quickly and securely over the internet!

Or you can mail your donations to:

Interfaith Service to Latin America
270 Page Street West
St. Paul, MN 55107-3422





Joisis Eneyra
is one
of the 2008
scholarship
recipients

Education Seeks New Donors

By Bob Mullin, Education Chair

Help is needed as we approach the seventh year of ISLA's scholarship program. In January we hope to induct a freshman class of 25 students. To support them and replace donors who have left the program we hope to recruit 35 new high school scholarship donors. Many times donors leave the program for the honorable reason that they have fulfilled their commitment to support a student through their five years of high school. The education committee is thankful for their years of support.

We also hope to send a minimum of 15 of our 2008 graduates on to two years of college. Some of these students will continue to be supported by their high school donors. Others will need new donors.

In December of 2007 we graduated our first group of scholarship recipients, twenty five young men and women. This year we are supporting 120 high school students and eighteen college students. A high school scholarship costs \$150 and a college scholarship \$300. Please join us in our effort to maintain this program for the youth of Nicaragua. They are the future of that struggling country.

Volunteers Gather for Celebration Picnic

On a lovely Sunday afternoon in July, a large group of ISLA volunteers gathered at the home of Don and Bonnie Pauck in Northfield for a time of celebration and sharing of memories. The Paucks opened their beautiful yard and patio on July 20 to their ISLA friends, who feasted on burgers on the grill, compliments of "Chef Donatillo," and an array of pot luck goodies expertly arranged by Chefette Bonatilla. Those gathered enjoyed a game of ISLA trivia and had a chance to reconnect with one another and share ISLA stories. Thank you, Don and Bonnie, for your hospitality!

Help ISLA and help the environment!

Send us your email address to receive your ISLA Insider newsletter . It can save us postage and save a few trees at the same time!

Just drop a note to info@isla.cc. Thanks!

Office help wanted!

ISLA's printer/copier/fax may be on its last legs. Anyone out there have any spare equipment they might want to donate?

Remember, it is tax deductible and you know it would be going to a good cause.

Call Jon at 612-819-8877.

ISLA
270 W. Page Street
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Fresh Fundraising Ideas Explored

ISLA volunteer Don Pavek has been working on ideas for promoting ISLA and its work into the future. Don's vision includes the creation of good promotional materials, including brochures and a video, which highlight medical, educational and construction programs.

"I think project-based fundraising is important," says Don, who would like to see specific projects highlighted when soliciting support, similar to the scholarship and sponsorship opportunities offered to donors within the education program.

Once this is put together, Don hopes to organize an Annual Kick-off Dinner, expanding into offering presentations to service clubs, churches, past supporters and businesses.

In addition, Don would like to promote a means by which volunteers joining ISLA teams could send out a plea to their contacts asking for financial support prior to their trips. These volunteers could utilize the promotional materials made available by ISLA to do just that.

Anyone with an interest in being a part of this promotional initiative, please contact Don or any of the ISLA board members.

October Team Report

ISLA's eight-member October 2008 team accomplished many tasks during its 5 ½ work days, says team member Gloria Karl.

- About 122 patients were seen for a variety of needs, from consults to pap smears and biopsies.
- Psych meds were sorted and counted, bagged and labeled per patient and per community for distribution.
- Medical supplies for First Aid training were distributed to the hospital and Red Cross, as well as pediatric gowns and supplies, nebulizers with medication and oxygen tubing.
- Diabetic supplies and Spanish teaching pamphlets were given to a newly formed diabetic program.
- About 450 pair of glasses, cases and sunglasses were given to the Red Cross.
- The gutters around the clinic were repaired.
- Seven schools were visited for future construction projects, and while there, books, bats, balls, mitts and jump ropes were distributed to grateful students and teachers.
- Two large suitcases with maternity and baby needs were delivered to the Casa Materna along with a Fetal Heart Doppler.
- Some group members visited the local OR nurses, who requested ISLA's help with a cabinet for supplies and expansion of the sterilization room. Photos were taken to be presented to the construction team.

According to Gloria, non-work highlights included a flat tire on the way to Jalapa and smoking brakes on the way back! Free day activities included a trip to Granada, visits to museums and a ride on the zip line, followed by relaxation on the beach at San Juan Del Sur!