

# **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners (W/NP):

Promotes multicultural understanding
Cultivates lasting friendships
Sponsors community-based training programs
Provides people-to-people activities
Maintains a non-partisan stance





# Why Wisconsin and Nicaragua? *COMMONALITIES*

each approximately 57,000 sq. miles.
extensive stretches of coastline
large inland lake
valuable forest areas
agricultural production



# WISCONSIN/NICARAGUA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

1965.. birth of the private sector organization



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of W/NP.

Through 50 years of Partnership we've come a long way. The age of technology has made it easier to stay connected and work together. Each year new projects are developed while existing programs successfully move forward. W/NP could not exist without the many volunteers who offer their time, talent and treasure.

This booklet holds a snapshot of what W/NP is all about. After reading about the programs, we hope you discover a way to be involved and share your talents.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Ghandi

Sincerely,

Pinda a. Weber

Linda A. Weber President



#### **Executive Committee**

Linda Weber, Pres. Appleton

Betty Pionek, V. Pres. Stevens Point

Lorraine Danczyk, Sec. Stevens Point

Keith Roeske, Treas. Stevens Point

Dr. Brad Martin, Past Pres. Whitehall

Tom Ordens Stevens Point Wisconsin and Nicaragua work together to create lasting



relationships while promoting cultural understanding and community development.

Special thanks goes out to our Board Members and volunteers who take great pride and care in their work with W/NP!







## **Board Members**

Willard Davidson Eau Claire How to get involved and find out more?

Jim Krohelski Mosinee Phone 715-346-4702 Website www.wisnic.org

Dixie Thoyre Appleton Monthly e-newsletters email wnp@uwsp.edu to sign up Follow on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/wisnicpartners

Dennis Tlachac Stevens Point https://twitter.com/WisNicPartners

Follow on Twitter Like on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/wisnicpartners

# Where did Partners of the Americas originate?

1955 President Eisenhower was interested in exploring possibilities of developing closer ties between the Central and South American countries and the U.S.

1961 President John F. Kennedy launches the Alliance for Progress (a program of governmental cooperation in the Western Hemisphere)

1964 Partners of the Americas was founded as the people-to-people component of the Alliance for Progress

The Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partnership is incorporated and received the 501©3 status as a non-profit, non-governmental agency

1973 Fort Atkinson/Puerto Cabezas form the 1<sup>st</sup> Partner City relationship

1990 Formal signing of the Stevens Point/Esteli Partner City with Stevens Point Mayor Scott Schultz, Alfredo Rodriguez, Esteli, Sherin Bowen and Alan Haney, Stevens Point

2015 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners





Jim Boren, one of the early founders, envisioned a two-way network of volunteer partnerships that would enable everyday people to contribute to communities in the Americas.



Photo: Bill Thomas, 1965 on Nicaragua Partners trip,

"The people we met and talked to don't want charity. But they do welcome the encouragement and support of those who will help them to develop the future in which they look forward to so confidently."

# Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas

Thank YOU for the vital role you have in making humanitarian efforts possible.

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." - John F. Kennedy

Please keep this as your reminder, and know that YOU are making a difference!



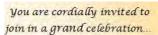








The year 2015 represented the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the W/NP founding. Since 1965 thousands of people have helped directly or indirectly to turn the vision of partnership into a reality. A grand celebration acknowledged the efforts and hard work of many people who have volunteered to make, and keep, W/NP vital, productive and inspiring.





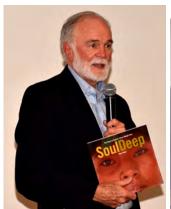
















www.wisnic.org

# **VOLUNTEERING WITH W/NP**

W/NP is comprised of individuals of all ages, groups of all types, a wide array of educational institutions and businesses that desire to work together to make our world a better place.



Please enjoy this booklet as an introduction to what W/NP is all about and know you are welcome to join in whatever sparks your interests!



"My first visit to Nicaragua was as a graduate student with a group of other undergraduates. We were on a Learning Center Trip. This trip changed my life in so many ways. I also earned three credits from my Instructor at University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point for writing assignments related to the trip. Study abroad is a very valuable learning experience!" Lisa Ebert, W/NP Board Member

"I had the chance to write a children's book for the Lending Libraries program for this organization in my Spanish class. Not only did I get to practice my Spanish language skills, I was giving Nicaraguan children the opportunity to learn. I have volunteered two more times after, and I am so happy that I have become involved in this organization! It has a great mission, and the other people involved are so nice to work with. I have had nothing but positive experiences with the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners of the Americas!" Claire Gorman, UWSP



"Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of America is a seed of hope and progress. I personally have seen the positive impact that W/NP has done in a rural community of Nicaragua. Llano Largo is an example of a new growing community where a sewing project is changing the lives of many young women by giving them the opportunity of learn a craft that will help them to improve their live style. Through my experience of working with Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners, I have learned the great value of doing volunteer work. Giving back to the community is a generous work to do." Juan Carlos Altamirano, Estelí Nic.

# "Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

W/NP facilitates a high volume of projects because there is an incredible network of volunteers in both Wisconsin and Nicaragua who dedicate their time, talent and resources to help improve the quality of life for all who are involved.



"One of the biggest issues in my community is that we do not have a source of water nearby. People have to walk away to bring the water into the home, but the harder part is that water that they drink is not pure and sanitary and sometimes little children, elderly people can get a sick because of the water."

Marling Garcia, Boaco

On the horizon, contact us if you would like to help: Global Garden Program

30 households would like to plant their own garden in rural and urban areas. Objective is to provide techniques to improve families 'health and nutrition.









Music and English classes are taught at the Managua Office as part of the Learning Center Programs. The financial donations to purchase flutes (recorders) and donations of guitars and other musical instruments are really appreciated and help additional Learning Centers to offer classes to people of all ages who desire to learn.

Snapshot of how Gaylord boxes and pallets from Onvoy are used after shipping much needed items from Wisconsin to Nicaragua...











# WOMEN AND FAMILIES LEARNING CENTERS

Over the past 30 years, the W/NP "Sewing Centers" transitioned into "Learning Centers" as more skills became increasingly necessary and useful. Each of the Learning Centers maintain the common goal of providing opportunities for skill enrichment and development, yet each self -governed Learning Center is unique and special in their own way. By working together identifying needs and desired goals, the support from Wisconsin has been tremendous through the gathering of supplies for the Learning Center classes. Current areas of interest include sewing, handcrafts, knitting, ribbon embroidery, bags, jewelry, bakery

classes, gardening, fruit and vegetable dehydration, building kitchen stoves and chimneys, microlending, lending libraries, student exchanges, Chica Nica doll dresses, sports and most recently the

therapy dressing projects and music classes.



Each LC is autonomous with organization and management by the women of their communities. Class subjects are in response to requests from community members. All classes are designed to include skill-building, personal dignity, and selfsufficiency, with a focus on employment for (rural) women. The program is focused on the care of families and communities, the encouragement of members to assume leadership responsibilities and strives for international understanding and friendship.



The last Saturday of every month, the Learning Center participants meet at the Managua Office for program updates, opportunities for involvement and continued education they can take back and share in their communities. We asked, "Why is the Learning Center"

program important to you?"

It's a program in which we can learn different things and expand our knowledge.

The program has helped me to grow and also to help people who need me personally and economically.

Through Learning Centers we can help other people who are willing to learn different skills in order to provide an income for their homes.

It has helped me to see that there are

different ways to provide an income for my house, with no need of going out of it, by applying techniques I've learned in the Managua office.

It's important because since I got in the program my life has changed, I have helped others, teaching all the skills I've learned in my community. It's also great to be able to meet volunteers from Wisconsin and Nicaragua as well.

Through the knowledge I have gotten here, I can help other people to improve their life's quality. Because it serves the community.

I help other women to become independent, being their own boss. It promotes equity, growth as a person and helps to transform life. Because it supports entrepreneurs.



The Nicaraguan W/NP Learning Center participants are immensely grateful to all the people that share in various ways to help this life changing project continue. Some people provide finances so supplies can be purchased, others donate, transport, or pack sewing machines, craft supplies, fabric & notions, and still others travel and share time teaching. Each and every expression of support, so generously given, is vital, appreciated and important.

Luz Marina Hernandez, leader of San Gabriel LC in Valle Los Aburtos in Managua. She received three boxes of fabric from which she is going to make tote bags and sewing supplies, baking pans, school supplies for children who don't attend school, who are mentally ill, and deaf. She has always had the inspiration to help others in her community. She doesn't keep the knowledge to herself, instead is shared with others that have the initiative to learn. They

teach basic skills and offer services that are needed in the community. Her LC was created since 2001 and so far she has around 50 active women working with her teaching different skills. She is very thankful with WNP for the donation received, although is not much, she has enough creativeness to make anything out of tiny piece of fabric. It is all very well received and useful for the Learning Center.

Thanks a lot!

CHICA NICA

The Chica Nica Project came about as a way for women to use their fine sewing and

embroidery skills to earn an income. The project has thrived for nearly 20 years, having 35 unique dress styles and still continues to grow with the firm foundation set by Lynda Pracht. Lynda traveled to Nicaragua in 1998 on a W/NP sponsored Sewing Center Tour, and since that time, over 10,000 Chica Nica dresses have been carefully constructed and sold. The excellent embroidery, design skills and enthusiasm of the Nicaraguan women, set these dresses apart from others.



"We totally love the (Chica Nica) dresses, this is my third time ordering. My daughters tell me that all the other clothes they have purchased from other places (mostly made in China) have come apart and worn out but, these dresses stay beautiful. Thank you for your ministry. Please let the ladies know how much joy my granddaughters get from their pretty dresses." Gratefully, Ms. Susan Finlay AKA Beachgramma to 7 precious children.





In honor of the Partnership's 50th Anniversary and in memory of Lynda and Sherin, several new dresses were designed and are now available. More information about the dress sewers and styles can be viewed on the website: www.chicanica.org



The

Sherin Dress





We are very grateful to the Nicaraguan and Wisconsin women that are working together to keep the Chica Nica Project growing strong, and also to all who purchase the beautiful hand made dresses.



# From doll dresses to compression garments.....

In response to a call for help from medical professionals at public hospitals in Nicaragua, the Chica Nica sewers applied their advanced sewing techniques to custom design compression garments for burn patients who have no other options. Since April 2013, over 1,500 custom garments have been designed and constructed for patients, all by volunteers. The services provided by the W/NP volunteers in Nicaragua meet the acute need for proper treatment of burns and wounds following initial treatments by medical professionals. The project continues to grow as patients with varicose veins, breast cancer, and hemangiomas are also attended to.











Marcia (volunteer) said she never thought she could make a glove. "But when I see the needs of many people I did!!!! There isn't another place where these women could receive help and the treatments."

25 yr old male: failure in ironing system at work resulted in 1st and 2nd degree burns







"Thanks to Jesus and Wisconsin/ Nicaragua Partners my life has changed very much. I had first and second degree burns on my chest, face, arm and arm pits. I went through a lot of pain, every day was difficult for me and in many occasions I experienced depression.

After my burns, the doctor recommended that I use a special piece of garment. Thanks to Jesus Christ during all this time He sent angels my way and one of them was WNP. Here I found many hopes and was told I wouldn't have scars on my body. Today, I am one more patient that uses the garments to improve my appearance in the areas affected.

I cannot complain about the goodness, mercy of the Lord and the excellent attention I have received at WNP. The people assisting me have been friendly and just good to me. Since I got here, they give me a friendly smile, I feel very happy because they do everything with so much willingness and love for their love ones and that gives me

strenath to move forward.

# **PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS**





# **EYEGLASS PROJECT**



Each year the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI supplies refurbished eyeglasses to W/NP and the WI Lions for distribution in Nicaragua.





Nearly 10,000 people are evaluated and fitted with eyeglasses annually by the Martin Eyeglass Project and the WI





Lions Mission. Significant planning and resources from a vast group of participants,

make clear sight and improved vision a reality for many who otherwise may have no other options. This project is made possible by Lions International. There are approximately 20 Lions centers worldwide that coordinate, sort, clean, categorize, box and label donated eyeglasses to prepare for distribution to developing countries such as Nicaragua.

# STOVE AND CHIMNEY PROJECT



The stove project is about working together to solve common problems. Three million people die each year from household air pollution according to the World Health Organization, with poorer countries most at risk. Fred Scales teamed up with W/NP to help educate how to decrease respiratory hazards by incorporating a stove and chimney combination. Learning Centers are identified that could use a model stove to teach people in the communities how to construct one of their own.









Working Together, We Make a Difference

WISCONSIN SWINGS FOR NICARAGUA Another great golf outing at the Winagamie Golf Course! Each year the % of return participants gets higher and higher as they learn how much fun it is to come together for a very good cause, some have even made all 10 outings! Judy Miller's excellent coordination has had a lot to do with the event's success. A spectacular silent auction as well as fun raffle prizes draw both golfers and non-golfers with the proceeds helping to fund the Nicaraguan Scholarships as well as many other W/NP projects.









# ANNUAL BIKE/HIKE EVENT "I Went the Distance!"



Participants from all over Wisconsin and Nicaragua join in together and strive to collectively complete a total of 2,350 miles during the month of October, which is the distance between Wisconsin and Nicaragua.

The event is super flexible to fit anyone who wants to

join in as a group, individual, or even sponsor another person to do the walking/biking for you! A great way to spread the word about the wonderful partnership Wisconsin has had with Nicaragua for over 50 years!





# **OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES**

The Opening Doors project is intended to give business training plus a small amount of funds to enable men and women to start a business enterprise, thus learning while actually running their business. Many of the participants in the Learning Centers have learned skills that they would like to use to start a business, but do not have the funds or business knowledge. Each participant is expected to repay the loan so that others could be given the same opportunities in the future.



Business training is a vital and important part of the project. The training sessions cover the components such as; what is a business, what is a business plan and why it's needed, description of the product to be produced, resources needed, costs involved, how to sell the product and recover costs plus profit, explanation of the cost of borrowing money, and how interest is figured.

Doris invested in materials for making crafts. The finished product was for sale at her home. Doris is not working on her own, her daughters are assisting her at home while she works. Also, her daughters take products to offer them to their workmates. All income was re-invested in more material to make more crafts, as a result, a new line of business was opened and added to the previous one. "I am glad to share that my daughters have cultivated their own customer network that places orders continually." This is a plus benefit, my family has learned about savings and economy, and have learned the basics on administration.



Yanira, 25, former Learning Center student and still active sharing knowledge to her community members shares, "I received a loan of US\$250 that I have used to sustain my family and myself,



since I opened my own line of business of an Ice Cream Shop. I decided to work in this line because in my barrio there is no other business quite like it and more importantly my Ice Cream Shop has provided a good income. I support the center I graduated from

four years because of the gratitude I have for all the support this LC had gave to me. As a conclusion I would like to highlight my gratitude

to W/NP and people who make possible the Loan project for all chances they all gave me to work from home for my family."







Working Together, We Make a Difference

W/NP TRAVEL

A variety of trips to Nicaragua are available for volunteers interested in learning more about

W/NP and the valuable work taking place. Seeing first-hand how projects are impacting lives adds an important dimension to the whole experience. The size of the groups vary, volunteers have options to participate in activities and translation is provided. A great introduction to W/NP for your friends & family!



Careli Tours Nicaragua has received well deserved recognition of their high quality

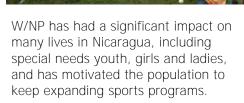
services with the 'Central America Award to the Tourism Excellence Without Borders.' W/NP is grateful for the always top notch, exceptional service provided by the Careli staff for our travel groups.

"Juan Carolos was very well informed on just about everything in his country, couldn't have asked for a better tour guide. The tour bus and driver were excellent, having to navigate the country with free range to everything is extraordinary. Loved every minute of it. Would recommend to anyone. What a wonderful experience." Lynn, 1st time to Nicaragua



Axel & Lourdes

There have been many donations from W/NP volunteers that help to support youth sports in Nicaragua. Donations are distributed among the Learning Centers and sports leagues while not forgetting the rural areas and poor neighborhoods as well.







Special events and booths at Cultural Festivals happen all over Wisconsin and Nicaragua throughout the year. We appreciate the many W/NP Volunteers who prepare for these events, and are out spreading the word, helping people to learn about the valuable partnership between Wisconsin and Nicaragua.

# Education SCHOLARSHIPS "Learning is better than money, no one can take it away"



"I work hard so you will be proud of me because all that I have achieved is thanks to you. Without your support I wouldn't have been able to be where I am today." Mayerling Saravia, graduate from UPOLI nursing program.

The program coordinators set clear expectations for the students which include community service requirements. Scholarships give hope for the future. Educational programs impact individuals as well as families and communities.

# Sponsorship continues for scholarships to secondary school, university and for INATEC (training) programs. Secondary school scholarships are sponsored by Partner City activities as well as individual donors. Students attending the university are funded by individual donors. INATEC courses have given young adults life skills in programs like computer training, beauty school and woodworking.



#### BACKPACK PROJECT





...... help fill a backpack with school supplies and we'll send them on to children and teachers in Nicaragua.

"There is no doubt these

supplies are greatly needed by poor Nicaraguan children. There is a good percentage of parents who cannot afford to buy a backpack or even the supplies that go with it so these kinds of donations do make a difference for students who come from families of scare resources."







Working Together, We Make a Difference

# LENDING LIBRARIES



Promoting education at all levels continues to be a primary goal for W/NP volunteers.
Handmade books from the Wisconsin students studying Spanish, individual



book donations, fund raisers from church and school groups, services clubs and many others are what builds the collections at the libraries that help make significant improvements for a student's educational experience.



"I come to the library to read books in order to have more knowledge, and this helps me in my daily studies. Also, I have had a very enjoyable time with other members of the library that are my friends now."









Several of the libraries are now offering classes, as funds are available, for the kids to learn baking

and cooking skills, thanks to donors who sponsor cost of ingredients and volunteer teachers.



## **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

<u>SHIPPING:</u> About twice a year, several containers filled with donated items are shipped from Wisconsin to Nicaragua. About 75% is for the Learning Center Programs and 25% general humanitarian assistance. Much of W/NP's activity focuses on education and leadership training; providing skill-building opportunities to improve vocational skills, community focused leadership and emergency humanitarian assistance for natural disasters. The W/NP shipping program provides the essential resources that keep each project active and credible with the larger effect of reducing the pangs of poverty.



The Warehouse Packing Days have allowed many volunteers a way to join in and help out. Local volunteers continuously sort and pack donated items for designated recipients in Nicaragua.









The Managua staff receives shipments and coordinates the distribution of goods to their

most needed destination.
We are grateful to the staff of the Denton
Program and the Funded



Transportation Program who assist non-profits in transporting goods to developing countries.

# FIREFIGHTERS UNITED "Firefighters United" has brought together



Wisconsin and Nicaraguan firefighters in a very unique way by moving equipment where it is needed most. W/NP began to ship fire trucks and ambulances to Nicaragua in 2000, and soon firefighters in both countries began to join in the activities. An average of three or more emergency vehicles are shipped each year, as



well as firefighter coats, boots, helmets, air packs, hoses and other necessary equipment.





11/18

35 fire trucks and 24 ambulances with a value of more than \$1,000,000 have been shipped via the Denton Program which transports the vehicles on Air Force cargo planes. Our most successful projects occur when there are committed people on both ends, in this case Dr. Brad Martin who facilitates the gathering of EMS donations and vehicles in Wisconsin, and in Nicaragua, Comandante Jaime Delgado, Asociación Civil Cuerpo de

Bombero Voluntarios de Nicaragua, who coordinates the incoming vehicle shipments and identifies locations of greatest need.





WAREHOUSES and OFFICES are maintained in both Wisconsin and in Nicaragua to

facilitate and carry out the humanitarian mission of W/NP.



Nelson Hall, UWSP

> Managua Office, Nic





The Wisconsin warehouse facilitates the gathering, storage and shipment preparation of items to support the programs in Nicaragua.

The Managua warehouse receives the shipments that include items such as such as sewing machines, fabric, desks, school supplies, backpacks, bicycles, sports equipment, emergency vehicles, cooking supplies, firefighting gear, wheelchairs, and Learning Center training and material equipment.

W/NP Wisconsin Office 1209 Fremont Street • Room 129 Nelson Hall, UWSP • Stevens Point WI 54481 715-346-4702 wnp@uwsp.edu

W/NP Wisconsin Warehouse 2139 North Second Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481

W/NP Managua Office/Warehouse De donde fue gallo y villa sur 1c al lago, 1c abajo, 20vrs al lago, Batahola Norte Managua, Nicaragua 011-505-2-268-7586 wpartner@turbonett.com.ni

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc. is a not-for-profit, non-political organization working to enhance quality of life in both Wisconsin and Nicaragua, by people-to-people programs promoting cultural awareness and sustainable development.

Name:	Phone:	Email:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Online Option at www.	wisnic.org GiveDirect credit ca	ard processing service	
Charge my credit card: MC/VISA #		Exp.Date	Security Code
Monthly recurring donat	ion to my credit card of \$	or Single donation \$	

I would also like to renew my membership Membership Dues: \$25 Individual, \$40 Family, \$10 Student, \$100 Amigo, \$500 Lifetime \$\_

W/NP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas

Room 129 Nelson Hall, UWSP, Stevens Point, WI 54481 715-346-4702 Email: wnp@uwsp.edu

Contact preference (please circle one) email postal mail







When in Stevens Point, Wisconsin or Managua, Nicaragua, visitors to the warehouse and offices are always welcome!









There is a growing awareness of how effective nonpartisan efforts can be among citizens who are responding to global challenges. W/NP works hard to provide opportunities for citizens who want to get involved; we leverage support to maximize our resources and results. Fulfilling the personal responsibility each of us has as citizens, to do our part as we are able, is beyond measure. Thank you!

W/NP is deeply grateful to our many benefactors who support this organization's work. We wish we could share all the expressions of appreciation we have received from our Nicaraguan friends, the recipients of your goodwill in Managua are equally appreciative. We wish to thank the thousands of people who have donated material goods. Many of you are unnamed heroes and heroines whose names we may never know or whom we may never meet. Thank you for your assistance and generosity. To those who provided financial support, please accept our appreciation and know that we recognize you as our Partners.



The underlying theme is collaboration. The coordination of many projects has been made possible by having a diverse network of volunteers, humanitarians, community leaders, government leaders, firefighters, teachers, and hospital volunteers.

Every gift given to W/NP, be it time, in-kind donation or financial support is very much appreciated and needed. Thank you

#### Women & Families

Learning Centers Lending Libraries Chica Nica Doll Dresses Vocational Training Opening Doors Project

#### **Humanitarian Assistance**

Shipping Project Firefighters United Disaster Relief

#### Health

Eyeglass Project Vitamin Project Sports



















#### Youth

Backpack Project Scholarships Library Project

## **Natural Resources**

Poultry Project Potable Water Kitchen Gardening

## **Cultural Diversity**

Bike/Hike Travel Tours Arts & Crafts Sales Cultural Festivals Annual Golf Event





