



Tell It Like It Is

This newsletter is *only* coming out in e-newsletter form as we try to save [funds](#) to buy medicines, pay staff and bills, etc. Please share with "paper folk" who might be missing it.

Thanks, Sarah

July 2022

Nicaragua has been having lots of rain so far this season. We got lots of rain in June. More than 20 people have died in mudslides and flooding. As I write this (June 30th) the Caribbean coast is getting ready for its first named storm of the season, [Bonnie](#). The army and navy have been dispatched to provide emergency services to those vulnerable, such as erecting over 700 shelters, mobilizing electrical and water support as well as medical assistance. They have also evacuated people from islands, cays, and other at-risk areas. This year is supposed to be a fierce season of storms and hurricanes.



With the rains,

COPROEXNIC, the organic agriculture cooperative, was looking forward to a good **sesame** crop, but they lost their one million dollar credit line with Shared Interest and thus didn't have enough capital to plant as many fields of organic sesame as they wanted.



The reason Shared Interest gave for canceling the credit was that COPROEXNIC didn't follow through with Shared Interest's suggestions; but their first suggestion was to renegotiate a new contract with Once Again Nut Butter, which was accomplished with the Shared Interest people present in the same virtual meeting.

The second suggestion was that the farmers take a lower price for their crops and the response from the co-op was that a lower price was not a good way to help

poor farmers, particularly when they had more demand for their product than they could fulfill.

The third suggestion was that the farmers did not seem invested in helping the co-op, but it is the farmers waiting on payment for their crops that is keeping the co-op afloat.

Right now the buyers are talking with each other to see how to keep COPROEXNIC operating and continuing to help farmers.



FARMER SHARES, a business which we are now operating, created to sell El Porvenir cooperative's organic coffee, is selling coffee roasted at and shipped from Little River Roasting in South Carolina. Of

course our desire is to sell more coffee. If you would like to support El Porvenir and try the delicious coffee, use the code **ZIDDEC6** for 20% off your next order from <https://www.farmershares.com/>.

Buying this organic, shade-grown coffee will ensure that we can continue to buy their coffee in the future. This guarantees income for the 56 families of the co-op who live on top of a remote mountain. Proceeds from Farmer Shares helps us maintain a revolving loan fund and provide limited medical care for the co-op.



Our dentist and doctor were going to go up in June to see patients, but with the extensive rains, the roads to their cooperative are impassable right now. In order to reschedule, the co-op will inform us when a vehicle can pass.



[The Nueva Vida Clinic](#) continues to serve the people of the Nueva Vida barrio in Ciudad Sandino (city of 180,000) and the surrounding rural areas.

Our [dental clinic](#) is the only low-cost dental care in the whole area. We are trying to work more closely with the Ministry of Health to [fill in gaps](#) as well as continue to be a family clinic with a pediatrician, general practitioners, and a psychologist.



Many families depend on our clinic for [medicines](#) for their elderly, asthma treatments for their kids, family planning, etc. The whole family is cared for.



We hosted two Hikma Health representatives who came to see how their digital service was working (or not) and to do research. After seeing with their own eyes the variety of services we offer and the volume of patients we attend, they have recommended another digital system to us. We have applied for an

initial 12-month pro bono account, and are waiting to hear back, as we [need to move forward](#).

The [solar panels](#) are working well even with days of rain. The newest additions will work better after some trees are trimmed, but so far we are saving 1/3 to 1/2 of the monthly electric bill... we have saved 1.08 tons of carbon output or the equivalent of planting 12 trees in just 5 months! Thank you one and all who contributed to these projects.



The [Lobas](#) and [Leones](#) Groups for at-risk youth are going really well. Claudia teaches make-up applications using moms and friends of the girls as their models. She says the girls are really talented. The boys are learning bicycle

repair with parts bought... often they are happily covered with grease after a session.





Casa Benjamín Linder
Educación Arte & Solidaridad

CASA BEN LINDER, the **solidarity/hospitality house**, hosted the *Light and Legacy Brigade* in May. The group held a commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the assassination of Ben Linder, Sergio Hernandez, and Pablo Rosales by the US-backed Contras in 1987 when they were building a hydro-electric system for San Juan de Bocay. The brigade also went to El Cuá to see the finished working hydro system and into San Jose de Bocay to remember with the community the lives and work of those three.

August 6 -15th, CBL, together with the Alliance for Global Justice, will be hosting another delegation - *Women in Nicaragua: Power and Protagonism*. There is still room on this delegation for you! Come learn how Nicaragua has reduced the gender gap by 80% in just 15 years. Meet women politicians, union leaders, and visit women's co-ops. [More information and applications available.](#)



In October we will be hosting a medical delegation from Alaska and a delegation exploring the untold story of Nicaragua and the events of 2018. In early 2023 we will be hosting church groups and others. If you are interested in joining one of these [delegations](#) or bringing your own group, [please write us](#).

Nicaragua reports that 96% of its population has received at least one [COVID vaccination](#). Now anyone can travel to Nicaragua with a [vaccination card](#) or a negative COVID test. So c'mon down, y'all!

*Ciudad Sandino
COVID vaccine patient*





During travel restrictions and COVID, fundraising has and continues to be a challenge. We continue our [ZOOM presentations](#) and would love to talk with any of you about the work. [Just write to us please.](#)

The JHC organization is in good standing with the Nicaraguan government.

Many of you may have been reading about the "slashing of NGOs by the 'dictatorship'," but the reality is that the government is just providing more oversight than it has in previous years. Nicaragua, like other countries, must adhere to international regulations that address the risks posed by unregulated nonprofits. These include widespread international concern that nonprofits are susceptible to money-laundering.

[For the first time ever, Nicaragua has been praised by the Financial Action Task Force \(FATF\), set up in 1989 by the G7 governments, for “largely complying” with its requirements.](#)

Hiring an accountant has been an immeasurable help in getting us in compliance with previously existing laws and also new regulations..

We continue to be in good standing with North Carolina as a [licensed charity](#) and with the U. S. government as a [501\(c\)\(3\) organization](#). Our annual 990 form is publicly [available](#).



We said "goodbye" to Rogelio as he retired. (In quotes because not two full weeks went by before we called him to do a consulting job for us!)

Rogelio has been with us for 25 years. He has drawn plans for schools, homes, the buildings for the cotton gin, spinning plant, and the sewing co-op, as well as health clinics including our own Nueva Vida Clinic. Not only did he draw the plans but also oversaw and built them all.

He worked closely with volunteers and Sarah to ensure that everyone's help was used and the work stayed true.



He has driven brigades in the infamous yellow bus, fixed plumbing, done electrical work, masonry, carpentry...the man could do just about anything and would. The water pump stopped working on Sunday and he dropped everything to juggernaut it together.

Probably one of the hardest things he ever did for us was to lift Kathy and Pat's mother's body out of the car in which she had died to bring her into the

house. Rogelio has dealt with so much death in his life, he tended to avoid it, but for us he faced his issues and gently cradled her body to move it.

This work would not have happened in the way it did without him. No way. We will miss him.



Counting Rogelio, we have lost one part-time and five full-time staff members in the course of a month due to retirement, resignation, and/or termination of their contracts with the CDCA. This is taking a major redirection of energies and money. Under Nicaraguan labor law, the CDCA is required to pay one month's salary for each year an employee has worked for us - up to five years - in severance pay. This has cost the CDCA over \$19,000 that we had not expected to have to pay at once, and has left the CDCA in a [huge financial bind](#).

Kathleen officially retired as Clinic Director due to health, CRS (Can't Remember Sh*t), and just plain weariness. There was no severance pay for her retirement. In fact, all of our non-Nicaraguan staff have opted to not receive our stipends in months trying to keep the CDCA afloat.



Becca is serving as interim director for the clinic. Paul is taking over maintenance. Daniel is doing some bookkeeping but mostly learning the COPROEXNIC business as Mike tries to bow out. Claudia is our Human Resource person and is keeping busy with all the changes in staffing. Sarah still

stays on top of so many things in many different areas. Kathy is starting to do less accounting as we switch to our Nicaraguan accountant, Carlos. And Kathleen continues to write and do odds and ends.

We currently have moved our base of operations to the clinic while we figure out all the needs, the ins and outs, and how to be as creative as possible with the staffing we have left. It is a massive adjustment for all of us and the remaining staff, We will keep you posted as the dust settles.



The [aquaponics](#) project is going well with 18 established systems and 10 more to be installed soon. Diana, our point person, is working with systems at two schools, as well as adding tower systems for yards that are too small to handle the regular system. She works with the communities, the Ministry of Education, and now with a municipal system growing tilapia in a pond. This pond is being converted to an aquaponics system large enough to clean the dirty pond water and grow vegetables for people in need. What great news!





JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY

*"You shall not oppress one another for I am
the Lord your God." —Lev. 25:17*

JHCommunity:

Becca and her family enjoyed a visit from her sister, Naomi. Naomi is the first family outside of Nicaragua they have seen since 2019. It was a special time.

The Murdock/Woodards are looking forward to hosting three of their four adult children that live in the USA with their families in July in Nicaragua. None have been back since 2019.

Becca, Eibhlín, and Orla are working on their black belts in karate; their exam will be in December. Samantha is getting ready to attend a new preschool. Daniel is taking voice lessons.

REFLECTION:

As I write this, the United States' Supreme Court has handed down some historical rulings:

1. The reversal of Roe vs. Wade.
2. [The reversal of a New York gun law restricting gun toting outside the home but instead giving Americans the right to carry guns in public.](#) This after so many mass shootings.
3. [The reversal of being able to address the failure of law enforcement in informing a person arrested of their Miranda rights.](#)
4. [Cutting the EPA's authority to limit power plants' emissions](#) in an age of Climate Crisis or Crises.

The social media, the press, and law makers are either cheering or furious.

Bet you missed the third and fourth ones, I did.



Our fear levels rise as we are constantly bombarded by the realities of inflation, the war in Ukraine and will this war spread worldwide, mass shootings, and the list goes on.

On June 28th, a semi-truck smuggling immigrants mostly from Mexico and Guatemala was found with over 50 people dead from heat exposure and dehydration...sprinkled with steak sauce to throw law enforcement off of the odor of dead bodies. Wonder how long that will be in the news?



Humans have been pitiful creatures of evil from the time they evolved and/or were created. They have also been creatures of immense love and caring. But very few humans work together to bend the long moral arc of the universe towards justice...and the wealthy who control the lawmakers, the media, and law enforcers know this, and they know how to manipulate us.

Who has the energy and will to fight for equal health care for all, when so many have to fight for reproductive rights? Who has the energy to fight for good education for all children, when [anyone can carry guns that kill our babies](#)? Who has the energy to make sure that every person knows their rights under the law? Who has the energy to work for a world without borders when empires invade,

tear down legitimate governments, and keep small nations impoverished? Who has the energy to fight for the environment?



The wealthy throughout history have learned to keep the poor fighting among themselves...they foster race against race, keeping women below men, immigrants vs citizens (though most of us were immigrants), evangelicals vs. Muslims, and on it goes...because WHO has the energy to look beyond the bombardment of messages to see that it is the wealthy tearing the world apart?

The wealthy keep us so bogged down in day-to-day survival that they can keep polluting to make billions while our earthly habitat dies.

They give us emergencies and heartaches so we don't move forward but backward. We are such easy targets. We get scared. We get mad...we rant and rave...our adrenaline spikes...and then we are too exhausted to make true changes.

If we want change, then we have to be like the tortoise...steady...always progressing...gathering more and more together....avoiding the temptation to run blindly into a pit of depression...and maybe, just maybe, carrying a rocket launcher on its back.



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Yes! I want to help support the ongoing work of the Center for Development in Central America.

A note about the e-newsletter... We send out over 7,000 newsletters by email each quarter, and more than 30% are actually opened.

You have asked us to let you know when we have needs, and so we are letting you know! But maybe you don't realize how important your gift is? The math works like this:

- If 10% of the folk receiving the e-newsletter gave (or upped their giving) just \$10/month, it would cover the medicine needs for all our patients each month!
- If each person who opened the e-newsletter gave an extra \$25 quarterly, that would provide salaries for over 20 Nicaraguan staff including our doctors!

YOU keep this work going. We are so grateful.

Donations can be given & designated on-line in US\$ or Euros through Network For Good

Donate Now



<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/jhc-cdca>

or mail your donation check to:

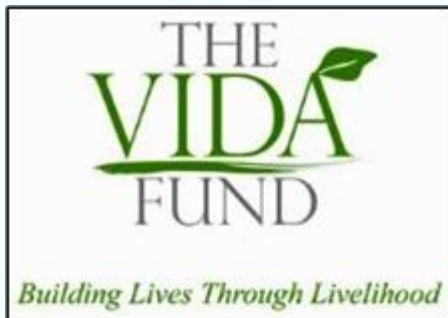
**Jubilee House Community - CDCA
c/o Sue Williams
4376 Pennington Rd**

Rock Hill SC 29732-8159

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Please contact us at jhc@jhc-cdca.org for more information on how to include the JHC-CDCA in your Estate Planning / QRD donations



or for more information on loans to the [Vida Fund](#) to help organic farmers.

Keep In Touch Please!

(If your preferred address or email has changed, please include old and new information to avoid duplications)

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This message was sent to joeburmester@gmail.com from Sarah@jhc-cdca.org

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