



JustHope Justice and Hope in Nicaragua

About JustHope: College Hill has been a longtime supporter of the 11 year old JustHope agency. Through JustHope, we financed two micro banks which gave entrepreneurial hardworking women economic independence, self-sufficiency and self-confidence. We have hosted three “JustHope” celebration days in our Fellowship Hall where we saw some of the high quality wares made by our friends in Chacraseca.

Finally, many of us enjoyed past Wine To Water celebrations showcasing the work of JustHope. JustHope provides a great deal of services beyond the micro-banks that we fund. They build houses, innovate farming techniques, preserve Nicaraguan culture, and provide medical services. Their model let a small rural area in Nicaragua flourish.

Historic Challenge: Now JustHope faces an unprecedented challenge to their mission. In April, simmering disenchantment with government boiled over into protests that met with violent response from the government. The information JustHope has on this is limited and typically very local, but this appears to be the situation. The US closed its embassy to the public. DHL and Fed Ex have stopped delivering. Strikes occur periodically. In scattered communities, trenches are being dug in the streets and barricades are being built. Through mid-June, 160 Nicaraguans died through protests. There are attempts to have peace talks, but they are fractured and limited. JustHope’s work continues, but it takes heroic work to do so.

Houses still get built; the farms are still producing; clinics continue to offer services, and events continue at the cultural center. JustHope continues to finance and manage these services, although getting cash there is getting difficult to deliver. JustHope brought its U.S. based staff back to the U.S. The dozens of trips that JustHope partners go on have been canceled, hurting funding and also partner engagement.

What can we do: JustHope’s Executive Director, Jennifer Payton, has visited faith partners, offering church school programs and small group discussions to share the news. She is ready to provide more information. *Beyond this, following are steps you can take if you feel called to help JustHope:*

1. Learn more about JustHope’s Programs at <https://justhope.org/programs>. This informative web site shows the diversity and success of programs that JustHope provides.
2. Understand the impact of the Nicaraguan unrest on the agency at <https://justhope.org/> on the Latest News section, and share this in your circles to broaden awareness of what is happening.
3. Providing services takes financial resources. Loss of partner program trips takes 15% out of JustHope’s revenue stream and challenges their ability to finance programs at the same level they have in the past. Consider supporting this temporary shortfall with a donation through their donation site, <https://justhope.org/donate>. Alternatively, consider joining the annual Wine To Water dinner event on October 11. College Hill is usually well represented at this event.
4. Remember JustHope, and, in particular, the staff in Nicaragua who are facing down fear and uncertainty each day to continue their programs and services. Cards or letter expressing your support can be sent through Jennifer at JustHope ~ PO Box 4542, Tulsa, OK 74159, or emailed to her at jennifer@justhope.org.