



## Roots of Change Foundation Source de Développement

### July 2011 Newsletter

### Bulletin d'information juillet 2011



### Children of Ciudad Sandino

The people of Ciudad Sandino, a poor community north of Managua, wanted better for their pre-school children. The Foundation has fulfilled their need by constructing a shelter to hold classes for their young. Now there is no need for the children and their parents to walk 3 km to a nearby community.

*This is one of the many ways we help the unfortunate in the country. We sincerely thank you for your generous donations that allow for ...'development that will guarantee a transition from less than human conditions to truly human ones'... (Paul VI)*

#### Énoncé de vision

"...le vrai développement, qui est le passage de conditions moins qu'humaines à des conditions toutes humaines." (Paul VI)

#### Flyer Distribution by Email

In an effort to reduce costs, the Foundation is now offering distribution of their flyer through email. We ask those who would be interested in this service to please contact the Foundation at [mail@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:mail@rootsofchange.ca). The Foundation has 3 flyers a year; March, July and November. Thank you for considering this service. The result of this initiative will be more funding for projects in Nicaragua.



### Can You Help?

Do you or your organization want to know more about the Roots of Change Foundation? How can you or your organization help?

The Foundation has members who are willing to give short or long presentations to young people or adults, in small or large groups.

Please contact Raymonde Schile at 780-459-8680 to discuss your needs and to make the necessary arrangements.

#### November 2011 - Delegation to Nicaragua

Are you interested in traveling to Nicaragua to see first hand the work being done with your donations? If so, you are invited to join a delegation that will visit Father Denis and experience the day to day lives of people in this country. Tentative departure will be November 30, returning December 9. Space is limited to 20 people and cost is approximately \$2500 per person. For more information, contact [rick.leblanc@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:rick.leblanc@rootsofchange.ca) or call 587-785-4699.

## 2011 Fundraiser - June 11 Holy Family Parish Hall



This past June, the Roots of Change held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual benefit dinner and silent auction. The event was made a success by all the volunteers and supporters who were able to join us. The evening included a dinner, a silent and live auction as well as musical performances by local guitarist Shaun McDonald, singer songwriter Quetzala Maria Carson and a dance performance by Peruvian dance troop Aculpeca.

### Planned Giving

In an effort to provide sustained funding for projects and activities in Nicaragua, the Foundation will be offering to its donor base a Planned Giving Program that will include Endowment Funds, Bequests and Life Insurance Proceeds. Look for further information in our November Newsletter.

Karen Blanchet, a local renowned artist donated her time and effort to support our cause creating a beautiful portrait that was later bid on during our live auction. We thank the generosity of the businesses and individuals who donated items to the silent auction. As well, a number of hand-crafted Nicaraguan artifacts were for sale during the event.

On behalf of the people of Nicaragua and Father Denis, the foundation would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all the individuals and supporters who helped make this evening a success. With your support, we not only help the people in Nicaragua meet their essential daily needs, but more importantly our involvement provides our brothers and sisters with hope and an improved standard of living.

In an effort to improve the event for next year, we encourage you to send comments to [info@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:info@rootsofchange.ca).

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Alexia Caron and Rachel Lacrampe for being the successful applicants in the **2011 Father Denis Volunteer Awards**. The two \$1000 awards are used to offset costs associated with the volunteer work they will do in Nicaragua this year.



The Roots of Change Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their help and for the support they provide to the Foundation.

- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis for their generous donation towards our efforts in the poor farming community of San Benito
- The Hebert family of Vancouver and area who held a fundraiser in support of the Foundation
- The members of the St Joseph's Casa Esperanza Society and St Joseph's Hospital in Comox BC for their continued support of the Managua clinics and other programs
- To the schools of the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord and Greater St. Albert Catholic for their support in our programs
- The many businesses and individuals who donated items to our silent auction
- The volunteers and committee who organized this year's fundraiser

## Sowing and Growing the San Benito Agricultural Community



It is indeed heartening to hear a story of hope overcoming personal limitations and the whims of nature. Such a story has come to our attention from San Benito.

A June 2011 Fundacco report notes that the local farmers in this area are giving special attention to finding better ways of working together. They have made considerable progress in this area of their lives because of Fr. Denis Hebert's patient guidance. Under his tutelage they are learning that achieving positive social change requires a certain set of skills, cooperation, and a sustained effort on the part of the community; it requires learning how to trust each other; it demands a respect for the uniqueness of your brother and sister. Building healthy communities is a complex process at best; in Nicaragua, it is a challenge compounded by man-made and natural disasters. Thus, we should not be surprised that it will take additional time, talents and resources to support this community in its attempts to develop a

sustainable and successful agricultural base.

The report indicates that at this time, "not everything is rosy" in the San Benito agricultural cooperatives. Identifying suitable individuals to take on and develop appropriate leadership skills is a major challenge; it is difficult for some to believe that they have the capacity to affect the destiny of their community; it is all too human to want to give up in the face of adversity and disappointment; learning how to participate effectively in group situations is difficult for others. In addition to these human factors, crops are sometimes destroyed because of extreme weather. All of these problems have taxed the abilities of the emerging leadership and tested the commitment and resolve of cooperative members.

However, it is clear in the report that hope, for now, has had the last say. Despite the setbacks, it is your ongoing personal concern for this community's welfare that has become the major source of inspiration and motivation to keep this important agricultural project alive. Your involvement has given a group of farming families the courage to come together and to go back into the fields to sow another crop on the heels of a crop failure. A successful harvest of melons, corn, and squash will help to pay the bills and feed the soul. It will be another confirmation of how a community can profit when its members work as a collaborative unit: that is, the farmer, his neighbor, and you. Moreover, any success will also motivate others to think about participating more fully in the community. Thank you for sowing Hope into the lives of farming families in San Benito.



## L'école La Mission offre de l'aide au Nicaragua



Pendant le Carême 2011, les élèves et les membres du personnel de l'école La Mission de St. Albert ont collectionné de l'argent envers une bourse d'étude pour un étudiant post-secondaire de Cinco Pinos au Nicaragua. Ils ont été inspirés par les paroles de Pape Jean Paul II qui nous encourage de "porter attention aux pauvres, non comme à un problème, mais comme à des personnes qui peuvent devenir sujet et protagonistes d'un avenir nouveau et plus humain pour tous." Le 5 mai, ils ont donné un chèque de 1 047,44\$ à Source de Développement qui offre ces bourses d'études FUNDACCO! Merci très chaleureux à tous les élèves et les membres du personnel de l'école La Mission pour cette générosité, ce partage, cet offre d'espérance.

Si vous voulez plus de renseignements au sujet des bourses d'études pour des élèves du Nicaragua, SVP communiquez avec Raymonde ou John Schile au 780-459-8680 ou par courriel [johnschile@hotmail.com](mailto:johnschile@hotmail.com).

## Fundacco Scholarship News



We are very grateful to all our loyal donors who have made a commitment to support scholarship candidates for four years, enabling them to graduate from their respective programs.

We are particularly concerned for the young adults of Cinco Pinos who have no resources to go on to post secondary education and little opportunity for employment. The scholarship program is a source of hope for them to improve their lives and the well being of their community.

We hope to offer at least two new scholarships for 2012. We need a four year commitment to enable students to complete their programs. The total cost including all expenses for sponsoring a student for one year is only \$1800. We will gladly accept smaller contributions from donors with the hope that they will continue their support

over the four years. A charitable receipt will be issued for your contribution.

Please consider making this one of your main charities, as this will provide hope for poor students that they could never dream of achieving without your help.

Please contact John Schile, Coordinator of the FUNDACCO Scholarship Fund at 780-459-8680 or by email at [john.schile@rootsofchange.ca](mailto:john.schile@rootsofchange.ca)



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*Please help by supporting this ministry of Hope*

The goal for our 2011 campaign is \$180,000 and the estimated cost of this publication is \$1800 (printing and mailing costs combined)

"O Seigneur, notre Dieu, qu'il est grand, ton nom, par tout l'univers!" (Ps 8).

"Le juste est confiant: il s'appuie sur le Seigneur"(Ps 111).



Send your Donations to:

**Roots of Change Foundation ~ Source de Développement**

**P.O. Box 92**

**St. Albert, Alberta Canada T8N 1N2**

Registered Charity Number 81320 5077 RR0001

Canada Revenue Agency: <http://www.cra.gc.ca/charities.html>



Online and Monthly donations can now be made by Credit Card through CanadaHelps.org

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I would like to contribute the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the poor of Nicaragua.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_