

# DOS PUEBLOS

New York–Tipitapa  
Sister City Project

**BUY ORIGINAL ARTWORK AND SUPPORT  
NICARAGUA!**

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6pm**

Join us at our Spring Art Auction & mingle with New York artists in a beautiful UWS townhouse to celebrate our work and welcome spring. Limited number of tickets available. Please RSVP ASAP!

www.tipitapa.org

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## Our Second Library is open!

By Arlene Tolopko



Vanessa reads 'The Little Prince' outside our new library space

As our van slowly approached Esperanza's house, we could see a sea of anxiously awaiting children. Obediently, the 52 youngsters rushed to their colorful plastic chairs lining the entrance to greet us with an enthusiastic "Bienvenidos!"

We unloaded nine huge bags of donated Spanish children's books and school supplies, including four boxes of brand new books from the New York Public Library. (continued pg. 2)

## Progress In Tipitapa?

By Steve Siegelbaum



Esperanza, her husband Luis, and their daughter Adriana

Whenever I return from my Dos Pueblos delegation trips to Tipitapa, I am always asked "How are things going there?" I understand that, especially for New Yorkers, who are used to experiencing change in milliseconds, it is well nigh impossible to convey the achingly slow pace of the kind of progress we support. With each victory over the debilitating effects of poverty comes an almost equal force generated by that same poverty. (continued pg. 2)

## The Water Effect

By Helen Shannon



Working the manual pump at the community of 15 de septiembre

On a delegation there is nothing more emotive than meeting people who have benefited from our hard work. This year we went to '15 de Septiembre', a rural community of over 375 people at the end of a long dusty road, to see the Dos Pueblos-funded rehabilitated water well. This community does not have electricity so the well is completely manual, and although the locals could easily turn the handle to fill up buckets – it's not as easy as it looks! (continued pg. 2)

## Our Delegate Voices



*"I will continue to share my witness and will return soon in hopes of contributing to more growth and opportunities for the people of Nicaragua. I cannot express how proud I am of the children and their contributions to their communities and families, and how sad I am that often they do not have the opportunity to just be kids."*

Scott Woods–AZ

*"Learning from this experience of directly sharing life limitations on a daily basis made a lasting change in my life. In seeing the strength, of the people, their daily challenges and struggles, their ability to laugh, love, and give of themselves (and what little they had), has left a profound impression on my life".*

Yolanda Mayo–NY





Ricardo and his favorite book

*(continued from Our Second Library is Open)*

The children's eyes were bulging. Many children lined up to see samples of the new books and immediately sat down to share books amongst themselves.

We were shown the empty space to the left of Esmeralda's house that would soon become the new library. It was determined that cement would be poured for a floor and within moments two neighborhood dads arrived to do the necessary assessments and measurements. Our delegates, Mike, Monique, and their 12-year-old son, Luke, arrived equipped with tools and casters to build four wooden mobile shelving units.

Four of our community volunteers (including Vanessa and Adriana, pictured above) were put to work immediately on the important task of adding the donated materials to their impeccable inventory system. When we returned to the library two days later to see the great progress, we had just enough time to plant a small garden in the front yard... the seeds of progress had been planted. We watched as Mike and Luke, along with the community put the finishing touches to four rolling bookcases and Monique painted a sign "*Biblioteca Tesoros del Rey*" (Treasures of the King Library).

Our work was complete, but not before singing a few folk songs to the talented strumming of Luis, Esmeralda's husband, and his daughter, Adriana. In Tipitapa, the arts flourish.

**Go to [www.tipitapa.org](http://www.tipitapa.org) to read more updates and stories on our libraries and other projects in Tipitapa. Please also 'like' us on Facebook at the Dos Pueblos page to receive weekly notifications from our blog.**

**And remember that without your support we could not do this wonderful work.  
PLEASE DONATE TODAY**

*(continued from Progress in Tipitapa)*

For example, villagers for whom the installation of potable water systems represents a major step forward, often find obstacles because of natural or man-made factors. Or a new hospital, while immensely beneficial, may not be accessible when the cost of transport or the loss of a day's wages are prohibitive.

All the more remarkable, then, to encounter people whose energy and determination to forge better lives for themselves and their neighbors never flag. Their enduring optimism takes many forms. They volunteer to build fences; inventory books at the library; train women in microfinance enterprises; and teach or merely read to hundreds of children who are frequently left out of life's daily equation.

So it is important for us to understand that progress in Tipitapa will come in tiny increments – two steps forward, and one and nine tenths steps back. But progress it will be, thanks to the unwavering spirit of local community organizers like Rosa, Marina and others in Tipitapa, and their Dos Pueblos supporters.

*(continued from The Water Effect)*

Our share of the work in water projects has mostly consisted of providing tubing to bring water from a municipal water source into communities, eliminating the need for women and children travelling long distances for water. But in our last two projects, we have tapped into remote communities that have built their own water systems, independent of their government, mostly due to their remote location. When asked how they were able to build their water well, they fundraised by going door-to-door and asking for donated materials from local churches. Unfortunately the demand for water outperformed the materials and they had to seek more help. This is an enormous feat for a community who does not have electricity, schools, nor fare money to seek regular medical care. Fortunately they caught the attention of our volunteers Elmer Rojas and Andres Orozco who are water experts—they quickly agreed that we could help. We are so proud to support this community who quickly elected a well organized water committee to guarantee the completion of this project and ensure that the water keeps flowing for a long time. With Elmer and Andres on the ground, this community will continue to benefit from CAPS, a national water committee that works with communities in Tipitapa.

Access to water is the first step in a place with so little. We learned that *15 de Septiembre* has no schools. By the end of the day it was agreed that we would work together to establish a school here. As we drove away the women were already writing up lists of all the children – a testament to the direct community action that can be seen when working at a grassroots level.