

DOS PUEBLOS

New York–Tipitapa
Sister City Project

An International Partnership for Sustainability, and Human Rights

www.tipitapa.org

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JOIN OUR NEXT DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA

January 28 – February 4, 2012

Come and see the work of Dos Pueblos in Tipitapa. Please contact Lupe Ramsey at 917-776-4246, or email info@tipitapa.org

Water As A Human Right

By Lupe Ramsey



Access to water is a basic human right. That is why much of our work focuses on getting clean water to the neediest in Tipitapa. Potable water protects the most vulnerable, children and elders from water-borne diseases, and frees residents, especially women, from the endless daily task of obtaining what they call “*el líquido vital*.” It is one of the most powerful – and cost effective – ways of helping communities organize around meeting their basic needs to break the cycle of poverty.

In the last eight years, our partners in Nicaragua have coordinated many projects bringing clean water to growing communities (over 20,000 families). With support from our individual donors and the generosity of the Cottonwood Foundation, our experienced volunteers lead the way by providing technical expertise, and the communities always contribute the ‘sweat equity’ to install the refurbished wells. Once the basic necessity of water is met, our volunteers continue to engage the communities in addressing local health and education needs.

The bad news is that the Cottonwood Foundation is closing its doors in May. The good news is that they have recognized our work with a final Legacy Grant to provide healthy water to 10 new communities. This grant will allow us to reach the most rural regions in Tipitapa – those that are most excluded from society – so that they may play an active role in protecting their health and their families. In other words this means child mortality is reduced, schools are built, water pollution is decreased, and economic opportunities begin. Help us provide these basic rights to Nicaraguans. We need your support more than ever to continue this important work. Please don’t forget to make a generous donation today.

Voices from Tipitapa

By Helen Shannon



Community volunteers in Tipitapa

Despite the continuing economic challenges this year, the strong commitment of our donors ensured many accomplishments in Tipitapa. It’s hard to know where to begin. Our second library in Ciudadela San Martin opened its doors in February, and now has over 180 children enrolled which includes special needs children; our microfinance women finished the first round of valuable workshops to learn new business skills and how to save for the future – thank you Blossom Fund! And we provided the community of Via Japon with a potable water system that will bring much needed clean water and social services to many.

Please read some of our success stories straight from Tipitapa on Pages 3 and 4.

Also in this issue... John McCutcheon and Peter Yarrow Sing for Nicaragua, Pg 4.

Go to www.tipitapa.org to read more updates and stories on our libraries and other projects. Please ‘like’ us on Facebook at the Dos Pueblos page to receive notifications from our blog.

IF YOU HAVEN’T SENT YOUR YEAR-END DONATION, PLEASE DO SO TODAY.

Yorlene Lopez, a participant of the new water pump in Villa Japon



“I’ve lived in Villa Japon for four years now, and this is the first time we have seen support for the hardships we deal with every day. We’re so happy to be working with the volunteers of Dos Pueblos to install a water system which we can use with dignity, while bringing the community together to address our many needs. It has been emotional to see how my community wants to be involved in improving our environment for our children. I moved here from Estelí to find work near Tipitapa – we cook tortillas here at home to sell in the center of town, and for this we need clean, healthy water every day. Thank you Dos Pueblos and I hope together we can continue to develop our community so the rest of my family can soon move here too”.

Azucena de la Trinidad Salinas received her first loan and training this year for her cake business

“The microfinance workshops have been so useful and supportive that I feel I can now teach other people how to start from scratch. I especially enjoyed the self-esteem session where we got to talk about things that I didn’t think matter but really do. After learning from other women in my community I can now make four cakes a day and a whole one can sell for 200 cordobas (\$8.50). I also make fresh fruit juices, especially mango because it is the most popular in my community. If I continue to save I will be able to buy a blender to make smoothies too. The best thing about working for myself is that it makes me feel confident, and I am able to support my two children financially. I am so proud to work and be a mother at the same time. Last semester I was able to buy my oldest son Benjamín more school supplies to help with his studies”.



Kevin, Adriana and Wiston: our team of library volunteers in Ciudadela



“Our house is so busy all the time now and we love it. Boys and girls in our community know they have a safe, fun place to do homework, play with friends or read a new book, and we thank Dos Pueblos so much for all the books and materials from New York – we couldn’t have welcomed over 180 children without these. We also received donations of resources for children with disabilities, such as modeling clay, educational games and books for special needs learning. In the future we would like to teach English here too, and find more reference books to help children with their studies”.

Our water committee volunteers, Elmer and Andres



“We work with CAPS (the Nicaraguan water rights network), and working alongside Dos Pueblos to provide our communities with much needed clean, accessible water has been such a great experience. We work together every step of the way, from organizing the local water committee to capacity training and building the well itself. This means that the community pitches in with layering the concrete, digging trenches for pipes and most importantly keeping the water filter clean. CAPS has been involved in introducing the Nicaraguan water laws, which state that everyone in our country has the right to secure, potable water. By partnering with Dos Pueblos we are actually able to make this happen on the ground, while making new friends along the way.”

Jose Antonio Macías García, our scholarship recipient studying Engineering at the Nicaraguan University of Technology (UTN)

“I always wanted to go to university to continue my studies in mechanical engineering, but since my father became sick and couldn’t work it was financially impossible. I am so happy that Dos Pueblos and their donors gave me this opportunity, and hope by working with communities to share what I learn, I can show how grateful I am. I’ve been working with the volunteers in Tipitapa to assess water needs, and what affects me most is that people in these communities don’t just need clean water but also health and education resources. I hope that my education and work in the future will always allow me to reach out to those who need our help”.



Yosmara Rivera, a teacher at the new primary school in the community of 15 de septiembre

“When the last Dos Pueblos delegation came to visit the new water pump, we told them how we had teachers ready to teach and children ready to learn but no school. After the water project here, our community was strengthened, and so with the support of the Tipitapa volunteers we were able to put the wheels in motion, putting together an enrollment list of pupils and utilizing this space (the local church) to hold classes. We have two classes here now up to fourth grade, and teach math, Spanish, history and science. Today it’s Spanish – everyone’s favorite.”

Come With Us To Sunny Nicaragua January 28 – February 4, 2012



Roll up your sleeves and work side by side with the people of Tipitapa. Join Dos Pueblos in a grassroots approach for social change.

On this trip you will have the chance to:

- Join a team of concerned citizens to explore the environmental, healthcare and education needs of Nicaraguan communities.
- Engage in programs that address potable water, health, children's literacy, and women's economic empowerment.
- Participate in meetings with local government officials and community volunteers to address current issues.
- Visit artists and tour Nicaragua's beautiful colonial streets, or hike a volcano!
- No Spanish? No worries, translators will be provided.

Cost: \$800 (double occupancy) \$975 (single occupancy). *Airfare, departure taxes, tips, and personal expenses are not included.

What's Included:

Local hotel, two meals per day—breakfast and lunch, all local transportation in air-conditioned vehicles, tour leader, guides and translators, workshops, community visits, pertinent written material.

Space is Limited. Contact Lupe Ramsey: info@tipitapa.org or call 917-776-4246.

\$200 Deposit due Dec 15th

John McCutcheon and Peter Yarrow Sing for Nicaragua



John McCutcheon with surprise guest Peter Yarrow at the Dos Pueblos Fall Fundraiser, November 7th.

By Ann Garvin

What an evening of beautiful music. On Monday, November 7th, the Dos Pueblos community filled the Upper West Side Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew for our annual Fall fundraiser and concert. We enjoyed food and drinks (including generous donations from Fairway, Trader Joe's and Costco), got updates from Tipitapa, and a wonderful musical program with many old and new friends. The crowd was entertained by singer-songwriter and storyteller extraordinaire John McCutcheon, who played banjo, guitar and hammer dulcimer. His rousing renditions of "Joe Hill", and "Nicaragua, Nicaraguita" had everyone clapping and singing along.

For the second set, John was joined onstage by a surprise guest – Peter Yarrow. John introduced him by describing his own falling in love with folk music on his first exposure as a fourteen-year-old at a Peter, Paul & Mary performance. Together they played songs that captured the special feeling of the night, playing songs that everyone in the room seemed to know and that made people laugh out loud. Eventually, Yarrow abandoned the stage and waded into the middle of the crowd, leading us in "Somos el Barco/We are the Boat," and passionately expressing the importance of supporting better livelihoods, and the hope and responsibility of living in this political moment of growing civic activism. It was truly a magical evening. Thanks to all who attended and made it a success.

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