

November 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

2011 has been an amazing year for Dos Pueblos. We've completed two new potable water projects, opened a new children's library in Ciudadela San Martín, continued to support women's economic empowerment through microcredit and trainings, sponsored young volunteers in university studies, and coordinated a vegetable garden to improve nutrition.

And we just got the good news that the Cottonwood Foundation has approved a Legacy Grant to bring water to ten new communities in Tipitapa! This means that nearly 8,500 people living in the most impoverished rural settlements in the area will gain access to potable water. Just imagine the life-changing impact this will have—8,500 people will be able to spend less time fighting illness and collecting water, and more time going to school, improving their livelihoods, and developing solutions to other challenges in their communities.

But there's a catch. The grant covers only infrastructure items such as cement, pumps, pipes and zinc roofing. As important as these physical items are, we all know that lasting change requires investment in the people as well—investments like the new library our delegation helped to build in January, a tiny room between two houses filled with books you donated. Or like the scholarships and small business loans that change people's lives. **Because water is the basis for a healthy community, we need your help to assist our volunteer committees to maintain these local water systems, to provide environmental health education to residents in remote settlements, and to support the organizers who are making this happen.** Without your support we risk facing the sad outcome we have seen elsewhere in Nicaragua: broken, dry wells built by some outside group without community participation or local leadership to take responsibility for maintaining them.

We know that Dos Pueblos supporters understand the value of investing in sustainable solutions that don't leave community members high and dry a few years down the road. We know you are just as inspired as we are by volunteers like Rosa Lilliam Gómez, Andrés Orozco and Elmer Rojas, who are working tirelessly to meet the needs of the poorest in their communities. **While grant support from foundations is a wonderful boon, Dos Pueblos relies on individuals like you for the majority of our budget—and for the flexibility we need to serve the people of Tipitapa in a way that builds local capacity and produces lasting results.**

In a world of globalized exploitation, and ineffective or toxic "aid," you have chosen to support a different kind of relationship. We are very proud of the results so far and invite you to stay on this meaningful path with us. Another world really is possible.

In solidarity,



Ann Garvin, Board Chair



Lupe Ramsey, Executive Director

P.S. Several of our new water projects will be breaking ground in the next few months, meaning we will need to find a way to support our new water committees and provide health workshops by January. Please help us meet this challenge! If you haven't sent in your year-end donation, please do so today.