

Newsletter

Asociación Pan y Amor
Newsletter N° 3 2018
2018



Educating to transform lives

Situation in Nicaragua and the Pan y Amor School

Dear Friends and Donors,

Nicaragua is going through a terrible period; however we remain hopeful for good times ahead. The Pan y Amor School is open and going forward. We have had to make some adjustments as to the hourly schedule, letting our students out at one p.m. instead of four thirty p.m., and we are flexible to not opening should we feel there is especial danger for both teachers and students who come from barrios all over Managua. So far we have only closed 3 days out of 60.

The daily attendance of our 450 students normally ranges between 80 to 90%, with occasionally 50% on bad days. I believe that for these children, school is a small paradise where they get together with their friends and forget for a while, the violence in the outside world. They still receive two cooked meals a day and attention from our two psychologists, when needed.

During these uncertain times, many businesses in Nicaragua have had to close or to lay off personnel, in hope of guaranteeing their future. We asked our 74 staff members to vote on a reduction in salary of between 10% – 15%, rather than have any one laid off. We are so proud of them as they voted unanimously for a reduction and we have faith in our Good Lord and that with your continued, regular donations, they may soon be back to their normal paychecks.

After 19 years of offering an excellent, integral education to over 450 students annually, which I hasten to say, has only been possible through your generous donations; it is important that we may continue to count on you during these difficult times. These students are the bright future for our Nicaragua; young adolescents brought up with an education including technical careers, spiritual, moral and ethical values as well as capacity for individual thought and problem resolving.

God Bless

Charlotte Somarriba

Our young Doctor progresses in her career



Marina Gomez proudly showing her Certificate

Marina Gomez, ex student of Pan y Amor who graduated from Pan y Amor, with a 97% grade average, has received her certificate for finishing her medical internship in the local police hospital

and is furthering her studies in the Catholic University, UNICA, in Pediatrics Gynecology Obstetrics.

We are so impressed and proud of this young lady who comes from an extremely poor family, fighting all the way against a father who lives in Costa Rica and has never given her any financial help, while living with her grandparents and uncles, who always wanted her to give up medicine and help bring an income into the family.

She would gladly receive any financial help offered during the next two years as she still has many expenses to cover. Please contact us if you would like to help.

Students visit the Ortiz Gurdian Art Gallery exhibiting the life of Frida Kahlo

Our first thought was how nice it would be for our 12th graders to first watch the movie on Frida Kahlo's life, however, on our Academic staff reviewing the film, they changed their minds!! The students enjoyed the outing and the exhibition at the art gallery, as Frida was truly an interesting, although tragic artist.

We supposedly know our students; however we are always pleasantly surprised at their great behavior and the intelligent questions asked on these outings.



Twelfth Graders and Sr. Ramiro at Art Gallery



Twelfth Graders at Art Gallery

Twelfth graders are prepared to enter the work force.

On leaving school we expect our students to not only have received a great education, have a good knowledge of the English language, good technological skills, certification for at least one technical career as well as possessing great moral values. We also want them to know how to dress for the workplace and behave when they

are invited to eat out with their boss; they were therefore invited to have a fun meal at our Buffet Montoya while learning table manner and, oh yes, how to use a knife! All of this was done in the private room at the Buffet and much fun and laughter was had while learning.



Waiting for their class mates to be served



Our twelfth grade students

Learning to eat healthy while having a good time.

One of our wonderful young teachers, Elizandro, every Wednesday has his students bring fruit to school and once it has been cut up, he enjoys a picnic with them while discussing the nutritious benefits of each fruit. How easy it is to learn when one has a creative teacher!



Primary school students



Enjoying the picnic



Bowl of Bananas, melon and watermelon

Celebrating Earth Day



Plants brought to school by primary school students

To celebrate Earth Day, the primary school students brought garden plants to school and planted them in a small fenced off area. Hopefully the football players and the athletic types during recess, will not finish them off as they have done with most of the greenery that originally existed in the school!

While we were still in the Market location, we were given a very large, battered image of the Virgin Mary and we have since had her repaired and painted, although she spends most of her time under a plastic bag. I think she would prefer to sit in this little garden even though she might occasionally receive a “pelotaso”!



Statue of the virgin.

Pan y Amor students receive dental, nutrition and ophthalmic attention

Since 2006 our children have received free attention from our wonderful Dra. Maria Jose Cordoba, ophthalmologist who also happens to be a member of the Managua Tiscapa Rotary Club. She diagnoses the children’s needs and Pan y Amor pays for the eye glasses and then makes arrangements with the parents for monthly reimbursements.

Sometimes we have to foot the entire bill when the parent is financially unable to repay this cost. Over the time we have found different solutions to our students need for dental care and our two social workers look out for the children with nutritional problems, checking how much they eat during meal times, while at school.



A dental check up.



Student having her eyes tested.

May

Pan y Amor's Psychologist and Academic staff attend a workshop to help our students manage these difficult times.

The Central American University, UCA, offered a workshop to help teachers and school psychologist to assist students and parents handle the dire situation in Nicaragua. Our two psychologists, Alvaro and Carla Sabrina are already replicating these workshops with our students and their parents.

Thank you UCA for inviting us to attend these useful workshops. We appreciate the long term relationship we have built between our two organizations, allowing their students to often do their practical studies in our school and in turn offering our teachers and psychologist important workshops and informational material.

June

Inauguration of our new stage

We took the opportunity to inaugurate our new stage while celebrating The Day of The Child. Much fun was had by the primary school students, with the parents donating the piñatas and helping pay for the ice cream treats.

The stage was donated by the Architect Cristhian Largaespada and the Non Profit organization THRIVE. Thank you for this lovely gesture.



Inauguration of our new stage.



Dance group.



Children's Day celebration.



Children's Day celebration.

We thank our sponsors and private donors



The Joan McCaughan Team



Contact



Estatua Montoya 2 ½ c. este. Colonia Mantica No. 20. Managua, Nicaragua
Teléfono: 2268 – 7334 / 2268 – 0695
panyamor@panyamor.org.ni