

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Truly the heartbeat of our ministry... bringing children to our preschool to feed them, teach them, care for them, and let them know how much Jesus loves them.

This year has been another amazing time of seeing God work in the lives of these children and the families of Somoto, Nicaragua. It was 25 years ago that we were in Somoto building churches and houses when Marta and Candida approached us.

They told us that the best way to have a lasting impact on children and families is to build a preschool. A place where children could not only receive an education, but also be fed two healthy meals per day, and have a safe place to be while their parents were out working. So we built them one, and it has been our main focus of ministry since.

This year several of us on the board were able to make the trip to Somoto. It had been several years since we were last there. We were blessed to see that with the strong leadership of Marta and Candida, the preschool was thriving and doing well. A big thank you to these two ladies, our teachers and volunteers, and to those of you who have generously supported this ministry.



It has become a tradition of our fundraising efforts to have some generous supporters provide matching funds to the donations that are received from you. This year we have \$5,000 dollars of matching funds! So whatever you decide to donate it will be matched, up to the first \$5,000 dollars. A great way to double your gift. If you would like to help, please send your tax deductible contribution via check to: Bethlehem- Nicaragua c/o Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1000 W. 15th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501. To make an online donation go to:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXX6/home>

Scroll to the options (tiles) and click on the Nicaragua Project, then click on Donate Now and follow the directions. Thank you so much for your faithful giving.

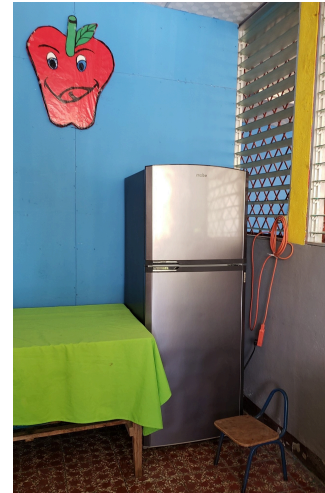


Our preschool kids love to sing and dance! They always put on a lively performance for us, led by their teachers and our special music volunteer Johana.



After 25 years our facility needed some upgrading. We completed several projects including remodeling the kitchen, new appliances, a gas cook stove, new cabinets and countertop. It looks great!

We also installed new ceiling fans and electrical outlets. Outside we built two new bathrooms! Modern ones, not just a hole in the ground.



On this trip we brought back a ministry event that a friend of ours used to do in the past. We purchased 100 pairs of shoes and gave them away to kids in the preschool. Then we took the shoes out into the neighborhoods and gave them to kids who were in need. What an amazing trip! Thank you to all of you who are so faithful to support this ministry. May God richly bless you and your families in this season of thanksgiving and celebrating Christmas.

