



Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

November 2021



People making a difference on Hopeful Ways Projects.

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.

"We provide medical & humanitarian services and educational opportunities to improve the quality of life for the people of Nicaragua. We do this with great love, compassion, and a sincere desire to be of service to those living in impoverished conditions."

President's Message

The second half of 2021 continues to present challenges to our Nicaraguan volunteers as COVID surges. Fortunately, these dedicated volunteers have stepped up to meet these challenges head-on. I cannot be prouder of them for their efforts and the results that they continue to produce. They have improved the lives of so many of their less fortunate neighbors.

This issue will highlight the negative impact of COVID in Nicaragua and the positive results that have been obtained under these adverse conditions. There is also more information on Hopeful Way's strategic planning, including an Endowment Program to provide sustainability for the organization, its mission and its programs for many years to come.



Always in service,

Jim Carlins, President

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"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

-- Mahatma Ghandi (1869 – 1948)

COVID Surges in Nicaragua Services Slowed, But Not Stopped

The dedicated volunteers for Hopeful Ways are persevering through very adversarial conditions. During recent months, a surge of COVID cases in various Nicaraguan communities has caused postponement of scheduled eye care clinics. The clinic in Muhan was postponed twice before a third attempt was successful. Also, the clinic in El Sauce has been postponed since July due to the rate of COVID cases in that region. Fortunately, the number of COVID cases are waning, and we are optimistic that the El Sauce clinic will occur before the end of 2021. COVID may slow our progress, but our volunteers are pushing through the obstacles while maintaining strict safety standards to protect the volunteers and the patients. We are proud of their efforts!



These efforts delivered many services to the Nicaraguan people. Eye care clinics were held in Chichigalpa and Muhan. Both communities represent an expansion of the geographic area receiving Hopeful Ways services. In addition, 14 people with severe cataracts from Chichigalpa, Juigalpa, Boaco, and Santo Tomas received free cataract surgery at FONIPRECE Eye Surgery Clinic.

Appreciation of the significant vision improvement that these people experience can be summed up in the words of Jose Rivera, a 62-year-old cataract surgery recipient. *"My relatives are happy, because they have seen that my mood has changed after the surgery, now I am happier because I have recovered my sight and I can do the things that I could not before."* *"...without sight I am a dead man".*

The Loss of Friends

We are saddened by the passing of two dear Nicaraguan friends who were prominent members of the Juigalpa Lions Club and strong supporters of the Hopeful Ways Eye Care Mission.

Manuel De Jesus Reyes was a key contributor to bringing Hopeful Ways Eye Care services to the needy people in Juigalpa, Teustepe and the surrounding communities. Most notably Manuel was instrumental in facilitating the authorization of Hopeful Ways Mission Teams by the Nicaragua Ministry of Health. Hopeful Ways President Jim Carlins stated: "Manuel was my good friend, colleague and fellow Lion who I worked very closely with for many years. Manuel's guidance and assistance made our common tasks much easier."

Natalia (Naty) Marín was a key contributor during the Hopeful Ways mission trips to Juigalpa and Teustepe. Naty traveled to Teustepe daily during the Hopeful Ways Eye Care Clinic there.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Manuel and Naty. They will be missed by all who knew them. May they rest in peace.



2021 Nicaragua Presidential Elections

The outcome of the 2021 Nicaragua Presidential Elections was almost assured in advance, according to multiple TV segments and published stories from multiple news agencies. Their stories cite the findings of international agencies that have publicly expressed their opposition to human rights violations directed towards government protesters and opposition candidates for elected office.

On October 31, 2021, the CBS 60 Minutes program aired a segment on Daniel Ortega and his activities to centralize control of power under his influence. Google "60 Minutes Nicaragua" to view the full CBS 60 Minutes story. A video segment of this program entitled "Wives of jailed Nicaraguan political prisoners speak to 60 Minutes" can also be found on YouTube https://youtu.be/I_o9CSYVrAE.

Another BBC News story cites that "The company behind Facebook and Instagram has removed more than 1,000 fake accounts in Nicaragua which it says were part of a disinformation campaign by the government." The story further states that "The accounts were controlled by Daniel Ortega's government and the FSLN ruling party..." The full story can be found at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-59129894>.

While Hopeful Ways must remain politically neutral as an organization, we endeavor to keep our supporters informed regarding the political and social climate within Nicaragua. We hope that the government in control during 2022 will provide hope, justice and relief for the Nicaraguan people.

Bicycling for Sight a Huge Success

The bicycling fundraiser through the Green Mountains in VT was challenging, to say the least. Jim Carlins completed the 6-day biking trip that covered more than 300 miles with 16,000 feet vertical elevation change. Not an easy trip, especially with the team carrying their food, clothing and camping gear on their bikes. It was quite an adventure.



Four friends accompanied Jim on this journey and they relied on each other for mutual support. Thanks to Joe Kepic (trip organizer), Norm Decker, Jim Eaton and Isaac Thomas.

Thanks to the generosity of many Hopeful Ways' supporters, the Bicycling Fundraiser exceeded its goal by raising \$3,500 to improve and restore vision to those in need.

Hopeful Ways Endowment Program

Annual financial support for Hopeful Ways programs is primarily obtained through fundraisers and generous donor contributions. Strategic planning is required to protect the long-term financial sustainability of the organization, its mission and its programs. To that end, Hopeful Ways has established an **Endowment Account** with protected principal that can continue to grow while providing an annual infusion of funds to support its programs. It will take years for the account to accumulate sufficient funds to support the full program, so now is a good time to start.

To celebrate the launch of our endowment fund, **an anonymous donor is contributing \$20,000 in matching funds** by adding \$1,000 to the first 20 donor pledges of \$1,000 or more. These matching funds will double the impact of your donation towards Nicaraguans in need. Pledges are available at various donor levels and can be completed by one-time payments, recurring payments, stock/securities transfers bequests / estate planning and/or another payment plan customized to meet the donor's needs. Hopeful Ways' financial reports are public records and are available for review.

To receive more information, or to speak with an Endowment Program advisor, contact Jim Carlins at 716-909-8942 or jicarlins@hopefulways.org.

Make an investment that will pay returns in human happiness by providing hope and enriching lives. Consider joining the family of Hopeful Ways endowment fund donors.

Let Hopeful Ways and helping the poor become part of **Your Legacy** to the world.



Set your Amazon account to support Hopeful Ways on AmazonSmile



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Login to smile.amazon.com using your normal Amazon login and select "Hopeful Ways Inc".

GIVING TUESDAY

NOV 30, 2021

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