A note from our founder

Almost 15 years ago we had our first distribution of school supplies in Nicaragua. While I was hopeful that our determination and efforts would help these children and their families improve their lives, it still seemed impossible to actually envision these kids graduating from school. Most children from this community at that time were dropping out at grade three, just after they learned to read.

“Rome was not built in a day, but they were laying bricks every hour”. That's what we have been doing in Nicaragua for the past 15 years - laying our bricks, one at a time. It is a labor of love and perseverance, not just by myself but by our team and our generous supporters. Together we have laid a foundation in the community to enable these kids to succeed. The benefits from our building efforts are becoming clear:

- Kids are now routinely finishing primary and secondary school.
- We have technical school and university graduates who are gainfully employed, which was absolutely unheard of from this community until recently.

In December 2013, I was deeply touched and honored to walk in formation with our first student ever to pick up her university diploma. Today Jeaneth is working with us as our child sponsorship coordinator, after working 5 years in management positions at five star hotels. She is excited to be giving back to the same organization that helped educate her. You may have interacted with her!

- Abigail is another former EI student who is now a medical optometrist working in Granada and is on our Nicaraguan board of directors.
- Franklin, who just graduated from EI and technical school, was employed immediately as an equipment technician in an assembly plant.
- Anyelo, another former student, is working as a chemist in a pharmaceutical manufacturing company

With almost 15 years of your support, the culture of this community is changing. The parents now value the long-term benefit of education over the short-term benefits of sending their children into the streets to beg or work, as was the norm.

It's not a grand feat of strength, stamina, or intelligence but rather persistently and lovingly laying a brick every day, year after year. That's how you build something. In our primary and secondary school programs, our retention rate regularly exceeds 95% year after year. Over 20 students are furthering their studies in technical college and universities and this number is growing. Thanks to our wonderful and tireless donors, the road out of poverty is not only being paved but the path is now paved for others to follow. This is an exciting time for us as our program continues to grow and become sustainable on its own.

Thank you for all of your support on this journey; we are incredibly grateful.

Sincerely

Kathy Adams
MISSION

Our Mission is to break the cycle of poverty before it is transferred to another generation by building educated and empowered communities.
VISION

Our vision is to enable every child to go to school and achieve the level of education they desire.
Overview

Empowerment International, (EI) a Colorado registered nonprofit 501(c)3, has been working in Nicaragua since 2004. EI offers community-based holistic educational program to children and families in two extremely impoverished communities in Nicaragua. Most of the families live on less than $2/day. Most adult members of the community have an average of a third-grade education and do not always understand the value of the long-term benefits of educating their children. The goals of EI's program are to instill the value of education in the families and children and to remove the physical and emotional barriers that prevent regular attendance of school. This is done through daily home visits where parents are encouraged to send their kids to school and are mentored on how to enhance their children's education. In addition, during these visits, counseling and emotional support are provided to help them find solutions to barriers, physical or otherwise, that prevent children from attending school. EI provides material support as well, such as mandatory school uniforms, shoes, supplies, tuition, and transportation for rural high school students. The program participants have access to tutoring, a computer center, a small library and research center, several enrichment activities, and professional counseling. Since 2009, EI has achieved a program (and school) retention rate of over 95% and the percentage of students that go on from primary school to secondary school has been over 90% and rising.
Education and Health
"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." ~ Benjamin

337 students

Annual School Retention Rate

Primary School: 99%
Secondary School: 97%
University: 100%
Education Programs

1. Peer Tutoring Program
   Peer tutoring is an innovation of our Nicaraguan program team. Older students volunteer an hour a day or more to tutor younger students. Younger students look up to the older students while older students master the material, develop leadership skills, and feel a sense of responsibility to their younger peers.

2. Reading Program
   A solid ability for reading and comprehension is key to students' long term success. In order to strengthen this, we have developed a reading program that uses technology and makes reading fun. 100 students in primary school participated in this program twice a week.

3. School Uniforms and Supplies
   School uniforms, shoes and supplies are one of the main barriers to kids attending and finishing school. While this is by no means the only barrier, it is the one that is the easiest to solve. EI provided 337 students with material items needed for school.

4. Secondary School
   116 secondary students were offered scholarships which includes an option to attend a private school, as well as homework assistance and materials. Additionally they have access to computers for home work. In 2018 we celebrated a record 97% school retention rate for these students.
Career Counseling
Choosing a career is difficult for any student and even more so with students who have had little exposure to career opportunities. We offered over 30 students skills assessment tests, counseling, and vocational field trips to help our students get on a path that will help them succeed upon graduation from the program, helping them find a career that they can excel in and where there are opportunities.

English and Computer Classes
Knowing how to speak English and use a computer are becoming increasingly essential for students to succeed. We awarded 28 of our students scholarships in these areas which give our students an added advantage upon graduation.

Technical College & University
20 students who have been in the EI program for at least 3 years with a good track record received a scholarship for university and technical college. This means they are offered tuition, transportation and a stipend. All students who receive this benefit are also interns to give back to the community in exchange for the scholarship.

Student Internships
Our students can become an intern in their last years of high school or in the university. These students have a high need for financial assistance and receive a nominal stipend in return for their support of our program. This is a win win. They develop skills while not feeling pressure to drop out to help support their family, Internship roles vary from home visits, leadership in activities such as art or sports, help with home-visits or community development.


**Health Programs**

**Health Care**

Health issues are a direct obstacle to attending school. ECI facilitated access to 525 medical consultations in 2018 for our students.

**Home Visits**

Home-visits are fundamental to our program. It is here where relationships and trust form and issues are addressed before they become obstacles.

**School Meals**

Since mid-2018 we have provided a meal a day since recent political issues have impacted the economy of the areas we serve.

**First Aid and Safety**

During a very dangerous political crisis, our local team became acutely aware of the need for first aid and safety training. 332 staff, students, parents and partner organizations were trained in first aid and disaster response.

**Parent Classes**

Parent involvement in a child’s education and upbringing is key to the success of the child. We offer classes to our parents on a wide variety of topics.

**Youth Groups**

Youth groups parallel parent group topics with focus on emotional intelligence, life skills, and making good decisions. The emphasis is on pregnancy prevention, acceptance of others, self-esteem, drug and
Rural Development
AN ORGANIC COMMUNITY GARDEN WAS INITIATED IN SANTA ANA.
Santa Ana also worked to have their first community park. Much of it was made from recycled products.
ARTS, SPORTS AND RECREATION

Yoga, dance, art, baseball, soccer, biking, photography and other activities have kept the kids engaged, healthy and happy.
Geyling de los Angeles

“If you are always trying to be normal, you’ll never know how amazing you can be.” – Maya Angelou

Geyling de los Angeles is a young woman who at twenty years old has struggled to achieve her dreams; Despite the economic difficulties of her family and the distance of her community (Santa Ana) with the university centers, Geyling has not given up - “I always knew that everything was going to be difficult for me, but this opportunity is what will make a great difference in my life and my family”

Historically, in her community, it is rare for someone to finish high school as they end up working in the fields and marrying early instead of traveling the long distance to high school daily.

Geyling is the first student in Santa Ana community to enter the university and finished her 3rd year in 2018. She is studying to be a pharmacist. Geyling has had an unrelenting dream since she applied for a scholarship with EI - to open the first pharmacy in her small community. Geyling has been forging a path for her younger peers to follow. Others are now completing high school and 7 more are studying in tech schools and universities. By her example, by her effort, by her work, Geyling has made a difference in her community.
Jose Armando

*A child without education, is like a bird without wings.* - *Tibetan proverb*

Jose Armando was one of our very first Nicaraguan students in 2004. He was 5 when he joined our program and started school.

Faced with extreme poverty and an unstable childhood, Empowerment International worked hand in hand with him and his parents, supporting them along the entire journey. The odds were against him yet he rose literally to the top of his graduating high school class.

While the past 14 years for Jose and El have been complicated and full of challenges, he is now a medical student in the most prestigious university in the country. Successes like this one continue to demonstrate the importance of our work. Believing in each child and persistence pays off!

Jose Armando and his family (top). High School Graduation (bottom left). Jose Armando in 1st grade (bottom right).
Revenues: $281K

Donation Sources by Type:
- Foundation Grants: 36%
- General (Individuals): 13%
- Corporate: 5%
- Child Sponsorships (Individuals): 45%
- Earned Income: 1%

Donation Sources by Investor Location:
- USA: 75%
- Switzerland (19%)
- Nicaragua (2%)
- Other (4%)
Thank you 2018 partners and supporters!

Funding Partners

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Robert and Nuay Winter
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