



# Chacocente News

PO Box 128, Lexington, MA 02420

[www.outofthedump.org](http://www.outofthedump.org)

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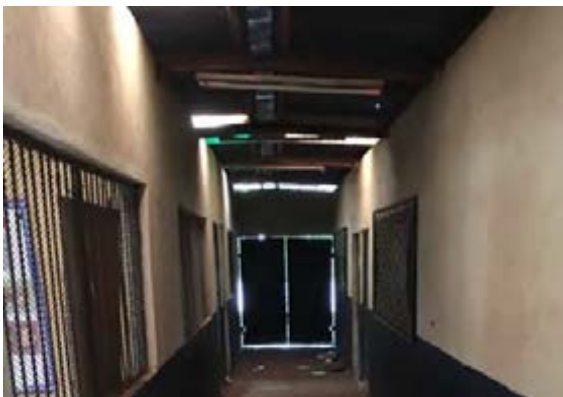
## OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS NEED RENOVATING...

...and now seems like the perfect time to do it. Although chapel construction had been in full swing before the pandemic, it seems wise at this moment to pause in order to take advantage of the opportunity to renovate the elementary school. Since classes are suspended due to COVID-19, our six elementary classrooms are idle. Built between 2004 and 2006, they have had steady use since then and are in dire need of major repairs. The roof needs to be raised and replaced, ceiling fans installed, and lighting upgraded. The floor needs to be repaired and tiled and the walls need new paint. We want to provide a safe, inviting and comfortable space for our students and teachers.

Omar and Juan Carlos have provided cost estimates, and the Chacocente Board of Directors has enthusiastically approved the project. Omar and Juan Carlos will hire residents from the Chacocente community to help with the labor, plus professional masons, electricians and tile specialists as needed. The cost of renovation will be \$3,500 per classroom, and the entire project should be completed in two months. Given the emergence of COVID-19 in Nicaragua social distancing will be maintained and face masks and hand washing stations provided for everyone's use. Each day, the women of Chacocente will provide a hearty lunch for all.

We hope you will support this worthwhile work! You may wish to sponsor an entire classroom for \$3,500. If so, we would be pleased to recognize your gift with a plaque in that classroom with your name on it or, if you prefer, the name of someone else whom you wish to honor. Or you may choose to donate any amount to help renovate a classroom that will honor Project Chacocente's founder, Cheryl Avery. In the happy event that donations exceed the amount needed for the elementary classrooms, we will move on to the high school classrooms and the chapel.

To donate, visit [www.outofthedump.org](http://www.outofthedump.org) or Paypal, or send donations to Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA, 02420. Please designate your donation for "School Renovation." Email us at [projectchacocente@gmail.com](mailto:projectchacocente@gmail.com) with questions.



Elementary classroom hallway



The floor in one of our elementary classrooms

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Nicaraguans are doing their best to socially distance, but for people living day-to-day, it is nearly impossible. To eat, they must work. To work, they must commute daily on crowded buses. With no means to store food safely, they must travel regularly to local markets. Inevitably, the virus is spreading and claiming many lives, although the government does not provide reliable statistics. We are told that hundreds or thousands of people are dying of “pneumonia,” and the novel coronavirus is the likely cause. Testing is rare and hospitals are overwhelmed. Personal protective equipment is woefully lacking, and some health care workers have quit their jobs. Each evening, government teams collect the bodies of the deceased from hospitals, homes and streets and bury them quickly, often before families are able even to see their departed loved ones.

As always, the staff and people of Chacocente remain determined and full of hope for the future. Their faith in God carries them through. Thanks to you, we continue to offer education (online for the moment, and in person for those of our scholarship recipients whose classes have not yet been suspended), employment, food relief, masks and hope.

Please pray for the safety of our friends at Chacocente and for the people of Nicaragua. If you wish, consider uniting your voices with ours in this prayer:

*Loving God, we pray for the families, staff and community of Project Chacocente. Keep them safe and healthy. Provide them with daily food. Strengthen and enable our teachers and students to provide and receive education despite the suspension of classes. Guide Omar and Juan Carlos to provide leadership and calm. Inspire the board of directors to carry out your will. May your peace be upon us all. Amen.*

## A NEW HOME FOR AMELIA AND HER FAMILY



Amelia receives the keys to her new house from Juan Carlos and Omar

In our March letter, we told you of work being done to build a new home for Amelia and her growing family. Amelia has always helped with any construction project undertaken at Chacocente, and the community came together to build her and her family a safe, well-constructed home. Our thanks to Troy First UMC and Asbury First UMC’s January 2020 mission team for providing the funds!



Amelia and her family in their new home

## EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF



With the worsening economy, many Nicaraguans are hungry. To help, Omar and Juan Carlos will be distributing food to needy families. To donate, visit [www.outofthedump.org](http://www.outofthedump.org), PayPal or send donations to Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA, 02420.



Food relief ready for delivery



## VIRTUAL 5K

A virtual 5K is being planned for August. Stay tuned for details.

***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)***