



Chacocente News

PO Box 128, Lexington, MA 02420

www.outofthedump.org

February 2021



REFLECTIONS OF FIRST GRADE TEACHER GLORIA

The love of bringing knowledge to the homes of our students has been stronger than the pandemic which in the last year has threatened the stability of educating our students at Chacocente Christian School in Nicaragua.

Gloria Cabistán García That same love that God has planted in my heart He has also planted in the hearts of each and every donor who make it possible for our students to set goals and see them through.

The satisfaction of seeing the achievements made by our students is the best reward that God gives to the participants of this great ministry.

Our achievements are a reflection of your support.

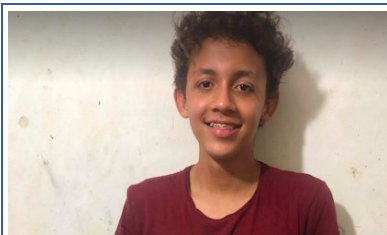
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Heymi Massiel Avilés Flores, Ingris Vanessa Alarcón Gutiérrez, Duan Misael Tijerino Rizo, Elías Enoc Hondoy Gómez, Jhon Marcos Obregón Bermúdez, Luis Antonio Zelaya Sánchez, Walmer Daniel Mejía Vivas

We are so proud of our recent high school graduates, and congratulate them and their families on their wonderful accomplishment. We celebrate their dedication to hard work and the pursuit of learning and wish them a happy and fulfilling future! Congratulations graduates!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ISAAC

In December, Isaac who graduated from Chacocente Christian School in 2019, completed a 15-level course in Advanced English at the University of Central America in Managua. Many thanks to his donors who made it possible!

CLASSES RESUME AT CHACOCENTE SCHOOL

After a year of disruptions due to the pandemic, students, parents and teachers have eagerly returned to the campus on February 1st to begin the 2021 school year. Our enrollment is back up to pre-pandemic levels: currently 128 students are signed up - 10 in pre-school, 68 in elementary and 50 in high school. To ensure everyone's safety, classes will initially be half-day, and students will receive a nutritious lunch to bring home. Teachers are available in the afternoons for individual instruction. Strict hand washing, social distancing and mask-wearing are required, and classes will meet outside whenever possible.

Congratulations!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your prayerful and financial support makes it possible for us to continue to support and encourage the families and students at Project Chacocente. Thank you for helping us to offer hope to so many. Join us in making a difference!

To **make a donation** or **sponsor a student** simply do any of the following: visit www.outofthedump.org or our Friends of Project Chacocente Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfProjectChacocente/>. You may also send a check to Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA 02420

First Day of School



CHACOCENTE HELPING HANDS FUND

Occasionally, individuals in the Chacocente community, usually members of the original Project Chacocente families, have contacted our North American supporters by email or social media, asking for money. They usually give a reason - for example, job loss, the illness of a child or another relative, a motorcycle in need of repair, the desire to start a new business, an inability to buy food. The reason may be legitimate, but it's usually impossible for our supporters to know that. We have repeatedly asked these petitioners not to make such requests, but instead to bring these acute needs to the attention of our capable and accessible in-country staff. Nevertheless, several people continue to solicit funds, putting our generous donors in an awkward position.

We don't presume to label all such requests categorically as "inappropriate." Our friends in Nicaragua often live day-to-day, with very little if any margin, and helping them to lift themselves out of material poverty is the very heart of Project Chacocente. Generally, however, that's not done with "hand-outs," that is, with simple gifting, which tends to create dependency and a self-reinforcing, self-defeating cycle of requests and bequests.

Should you receive such a request, please call or email us. We will confer with our staff in Nicaragua, who will investigate, listen and respond, in dialog with our Board if they think that is necessary. In December we created a special discretionary fund, the *Chacocente Helping Hands Fund*, that is maintained in our Nicaragua bank account precisely to address such occasional individual emergencies.

If you decide, after reflection, to send money to an individual, that is of course up to you. Please bear in mind, however, that IRS rules for nonprofit organizations require that such gifts, earmarked for individuals, be sent privately (by Western Union, for example) and not through or under the auspices of a non-profit organization such as Project Chacocente. As always, we invite any questions or comments!

FUNDRAISING DURING A PANDEMIC

We are blessed with generous donors who allow this ministry to employ 24 Nicaraguans, educate and feed about 135 children at Chacocente Christian School each year, financially assist several college students, offer emergency food and hurricane relief, build safe homes for teachers and community members, and more.

With most churches in the US closed and delegation teams unable to visit Nicaragua, we relied on two virtual fundraising events in 2020. Thanks to you, *Steps of Hope*, our first virtual 5K, and *Positivity Amidst the Pandemic*, our annual #GivingTuesday event, were successful - raising a total of nearly \$25,000! Stay tuned for more virtual events.

We also rely heavily on our steadfast donors who give generously during the times when no fundraising events are occurring. Even during those times, board members are making phone calls, sending emails, writing grant proposals and more actively seeking donations to keep the promise of Chacocente alive.

HURRICANE RELIEF FOR NICARAGUA

In November, two Category 4 hurricanes struck Nicaragua's Atlantic coast in quick succession, causing landslides, crop loss, destruction of homes, illness and death across the northern section of the country. Because of the success of our "Steps of Hope" and #GivingTuesday fundraisers, which reflected your generosity, the Board of Directors and our leadership team in Nicaragua together decided that God was calling us to help. In early December, we were able to send relief funds, which our staff allocated to three trusted and effective Nicaragua-based ministries with whom we have worked closely since 2010: Acts 1:8 (Ronnie & Angi Hopkins), Acción Médica Cristiana (Dr. Belinda Forbes) and Banco de Esperanza (Bank of Hope). Because of your gifts, food, medical supplies, building materials, clothing, bedding and other essentials were delivered by truck, boat, foot and horseback to people in great need.

"GIVE UP" & "GIVE TO" WITH A \$5,000 LENTEN MATCH

Walk alongside the people of Project Chacocente during Lent by taking part in our Lenten "Give Up & Give To" \$5,000 Match fundraiser. We will focus on water, protein and desserts. Here's how it works:

Each Monday During Lent: We rely on the Chacocente well to provide safe drinking water for the families of the Project and students of Chacocente Christian School. It is also used for hygiene and by the Orchard School to irrigate the fruit trees and vegetables grown to supplement the daily lunches for students. **For every glass of water you drink, place 25 cents in a jar.**

Each Wednesday During Lent: Protein is an important part of a healthy diet. Many Nicaraguans cannot afford eggs, meat or beans. **For every protein serving you eat, place \$1 in a jar.**

Each Friday During Lent: Dessert is a rare thing in Nicaragua. **For every dessert you enjoy, place \$1 in a jar.**

Each & Everyday During Lent: Pray for the families, staff and students of Chacocente. Pray that each will have the water and protein they need and the dessert they wish for!

On Easter Sunday: Pray with JOY for the miracle of Chacocente and the blessing of all things made new! Give from your heart so that all God's children live with dignity and hope.

All donations up to \$5,000 will be matched dollar for dollar. Check our Friends of Project Chacocente Facebook page for updates. Donate at outofthedump.org or Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA, 02420

MEET CHACOCENTE 9TH GRADER MAYNOR MANUEL RODRIGUEZ

Contributed by Oswaldo Mauricio Guevara, Clinic Psychologist, Chacocente Christian School.



His family tenderly calls him "Maco," he tells us with a quick smile on his face. He is a young boy with a strong character forged in the harshness of life and daily work from a very young age. Maynor shared with us two pictures, faded over the years, that witness to a challenging childhood. As you can see, his maternal grandmother holds him in her arms with love and concern. Because Maco's mother was only 13 when he was born, his grandparents took responsibility for his education, and they instilled in him faith in God and respect for all people.

Teacher Jacqueline, Director of the Chacocente Christian School tells us:

From a young age Maynor showed that he was a very smart child. Even as a preschooler he worked in the fields with his little machete, right beside his grandpa. Maynor has been extraordinary, not only in the learning of his duties at home and in the fields, but also during the pandemic. On the days that he wasn't scheduled for in-person classes, he helped support his grandparents at home and still faithfully completed all his homework.



Maynor tells us:

The family is having many difficulties. He worries about his maternal grandparents, especially his grandpa, who is 80 years old and has many health problems. Recently, because of the economic difficulties, they sold their farm animals to support themselves. Because of bad weather, they have not yet sown the land. But Maynor remains positive. He helps with housework and performs various day jobs to help provide food for the family. Through it all, he is determined to continue his studies and one day realize his dream of becoming an automotive mechanic.

His grandmother tells us:

I raised Maynor from a young age. His mother was pregnant when she was very young - 13 years old - and had no life experience. He doesn't get sick easily; he is pretty healthy! One of his hobbies is singing, but above all his dream is to be a mechanic. I tell him that I would like him to be a nurse, but above I want him to study and prepare to be someone in life.

I thank all the people who have helped us since Maynor was little, the donors, since having a school like this and so close is a great blessing for everyone! I appreciate all the affection of the teachers who guide him and look to us to help us. Thank you all very much!

