



Chacocente News

PO Box 128, Lexington, MA 02420

www.outofthedump.org

June 2021

IMPROVING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY



Chacocente Christian School has hired a second English teacher! Chacocente's Board of Directors approved the position 2 years ago, but it was not easy to find the right person: *Must be eager and energetic; must love kids, teaching and learning, and must work well with others; must be fluent in English language, and enunciate well.*

Meet Roxana Juniet Silva Mercado. Roxana is 19 years old - "almost 20," she points out. Roxana interned at Chacocente in February and March this year, working alongside our senior English instructor, Maribel. Roxana clearly has the attributes we have been seeking. "I don't have much experience in teaching," she allows, "except for the two-month-training I had this year at the Chacocente Christian School, which I loved so much, and so, I feel that my heart is at teaching. I humbly hope you will consider me worthy for this position."

We absolutely do. We believe that Roxana has the gifts, work ethic and enthusiasm to be a superb "Docente de Inglés." Accordingly, we are doing something new that is entirely in keeping with our fundamental mission of enabling Nicaraguan people to improve their lives and the lives of their families and fellow citizens. Roxana will work full-time at Chacocente Christian School during the week (M-F), and on Saturdays she will attend UNEH, the Nicaraguan University of Humanistic Studies in nearby Masaya, to become certified in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Project Chacocente will pay all her educational expenses and, pending full certification, also pay her a modified salary, including government-mandated benefits. She has essentially entered our well-established scholarship program (joining 10 other young "scholars") but with the new wrinkle that she will immediately be a valued employee as well. Roxana will teach English to our youngest students, in pre-school through the fifth grade, and Maribel will focus on grades 6 through 11.

English proficiency is an invaluable asset for our students and sponsored scholars, as it opens doors to rewarding and relatively high-paying careers – for example, in business, law, the travel and hospitality industries, and customer support services. Historically, English proficiency in Latin America has been low, and Project Chacocente aims to be part of the solution!

Several years ago, Lexington United Methodist Church (Lexington, MA) made a gift of \$30,000 to Project Chacocente, to be used in an amount of up to \$3,000 a year to support and enhance our English program, ideally by attracting matching funds. With this announcement of the addition of Roxana on June 1st, **please consider making a gift toward English instruction at Project Chacocente.** Your gift will support the salaries of Maribel and Roxana, Roxana's studies, and English scholarships. It will be matched up to a total (of all such gifts) of \$3000. If we surpass the \$3000 mark, we will still designate the whole of your gift for our English proficiency efforts, unless you specify otherwise. Thank you!



MAKING MORE SCHOLARS

Many of you already sponsor a "Chacocente Scholar" - either (1) a promising student who currently attends Chacocente Christian School and wishes to venture above and beyond the normal curriculum (usually in English), or (2) a CCS alumnus in good standing who seeks a college degree or vocational certification as the foundation for their career.

Now we have expanded that program! In May the Chacocente Board of Directors voted unanimously to offer financial assistance not only to current CCS students and alumni but also to members of Chacocente's original families, current Project employees seeking to enhance and enrich their work at Chacocente, and the offspring of current employees who have worked for the Project for at least 5 consecutive years.

For one degree or certification program per student, and from the time of enrollment through graduation, Project Chacocente will cover tuition and fees, books and graduation costs, and in many cases transportation to the various university campuses where our scholars choose to study.

Applicants for assistance must provide the details and expected timeline of their proposed course of study, and project the costs. They will be asked to write a short essay as to why they have chosen their specific program and institution, and how they hope their studies will impact their own lives, the lives of their families and communities, and if applicable (in the case of a staff member, for example), Project Chacocente.

Accepted students will be asked to submit their grades and evaluations to confirm satisfactory achievement, and receipts for all covered expenditures other than transportation (which is typically a very modest bus fare); both grades and receipts have always been required of our scholars. Although regular volunteer service at Project Chacocente is not a requirement, it is both welcome and strongly encouraged for non-employee participants.

Ambitious? Yes! But we know that education is at the heart of our mission, and that the adventure of an education that truly prepares people to be a blessing to their Community does not stop at graduation!



HAPPY AND WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT, PEDRO!

Pedro's journey has been long and difficult. Before Project Chacocente, he and his family foraged for a living at La Chureca, the toxic city dump of Managua, Nicaragua. After the loss there of three beloved young sons, Daniel Ezequiel, José Alberto and Moisés Rubén, on December 8th, 2004, Pedro and his remaining family had to flee to the mountains for a time. Finally, thanks to Cheryl Avery, they found refuge at Project Chacocente in 2005. Since then Pedro has been an active participant in nearly all the projects this ministry has undertaken, and he was employed by the Project as School Security Guard until retiring this spring. Pedro is now able to collect his social security, farm on the land he owns and enjoy his family.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

"...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen. 12:3)



We could not be more proud of this year's senior (11th grade) class at Chacocente Christian School! Upon hearing of Hogar Pajarito Azul (Little Blue Bird) Orphanage for disabled children in Managua, the students were inspired to help. Disabled children in Nicaragua are often left abandoned at orphanages. With little hope of adoption and limited budgets for operational expenses, the orphans and staff rely on donations.

With the help of their teacher, Yadira del Socorro Alarcón Gutiérrez, our Chacocente students devised a plan - and an economics lesson! They pooled their resources and bought a hammock for \$23, which they then raffled off, raising \$56. Hoping to do even more, they made and sold smoothies at the school and raised another \$20. With their \$76 and God's Love in their hearts, Omar drove the students, Yadira, and School Director Jacqueline to Managua to deliver the money. It was happily received by the orphanage staff. Like a proud papa, Omar treated the students to a slice of pizza on the way back to school.

Many thanks to the Chacocente staff for instilling the Love of Christ in our students, and to all who donated for the Project's truck, which remains a daily blessing.



STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ON THE 2021 VIRTUAL 5K

Our first virtual 5K in 2020 raised \$10,275 as people across the country walked, jogged, ran, biked, and pushed a stroller for 3.1 miles (the distance from the main road to the front gates of Project Chacocente.) Plan to invite a friend (or two) and join us for this year's event.

More information will be available soon on the website and facebook page.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT CHACOCENTE

Your prayers, donations and efforts to share the unfolding Chacocente story make all the difference. **We appreciate you!**

To make a donation by PayPal or to learn about sponsoring a student, a scholarship, or a teacher, visit our website: www.outofthedump.org

We welcome your questions! Email us: projectchacocente@gmail.org

Donations may be mailed to:

Project Chacocente, PO Box 128, Lexington, MA 02420.

Feel free to cut out this section and mail it with your donation:

YES! I want to sponsor a:

___ Child (\$30/month or \$360/year);

___ Teacher (\$525/month or \$6300/year)

I'd to make a one-time donation of:

___ \$50, ___ \$100, ___ \$500, another amount ____ .