

Chacocente News

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THE CHACOCENTE SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2023

The mission of the Chacocente Scholars Program is to provide life-changing educational opportunities to materially poor Nicaraguan youth and adults who would not otherwise have them. Some elementary and high school-age students, lacking even the means to purchase essential school supplies and uniforms, cannot attend school without assistance. Some high school graduates, despite past academic success and splendid dreams, cannot afford to pursue those dreams in an accredited university or vocational school. Some adults lack the skills or, sadly, the political affiliations that enable them to find meaningful employment.

In the last several years, Project Chacocente has funded the educations of young people pursuing careers in Medicine, Nursing, Education, Computer Sciences, English and English Education, Physical Education, and other fields. For elementary and high school students, funding typically covers school supplies, shoes, uniforms, and food if needed. For high school graduates it covers registration, tuition, fees, transportation, books, supplies and other miscellaneous expenses directly related to the student's course of study. For adult scholars, expenses for vocational enrichment are addressed. The amount of scholarship funding varies, depending on the specific requirements of each student's course of study. Fair "means testing" (the adjustment of support to recognize a "family contribution") is simply not possible, and we do not attempt it. The level of material poverty is nearly unimaginable to us here.

Our program administrator in Nicaragua, Norlan Ruiz, disburses the scholarship funds, monitors students' expenses and academic progress, and conveys academic and financial reports back to the PC- USA Board. Students submit copies of their grades, when they become available, and receipts for all expenses paid for by Chacocente. Claims without receipts are not reimbursed, and this sometimes results in little lessons in fiscal discipline! Students who fail to submit grades do not continue to receive support. Any abuse, or violation of trust on the part of the student or the student's family ends their participation in the program.

As with most "sponsorship" programs operated by nonprofit organizations, your donations go into a pool of funds - the "Chacocente Scholars Fund" - that is restricted; that is, although specific gifts cannot (by IRS rules) be earmarked for specific recipients, they will be used only for our Scholars Program and disbursed among all the scholars according to need. When we solicit individual sponsorship support, of course, we estimate each student's costs as precisely as possible; we "connect" sponsors with their students and try hard to maintain and nurture that spiritual bond.

We remain a 501(c)(3) organization, so that your donations are tax-deductible. We will receive any financial support gratefully and, as always in the past, we will use it responsibly and transparently, and we will keep you informed along the way. Our website is being updated now. We will enable it to receive donations (securely) as soon as possible. Please call or email us with any questions!

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela

SCHOLARS IN NEED OF SPONSORSHIP

Chelsea Ortiz- PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL



Chelsea is a charming, motivated young girl who lived with her parents and siblings at Project Chacocente after relocating from the Managua city dump. She excelled academically and in sports while attending Chacocente Christian School from pre-school through 2022. Since CCS became a public school, Chelsea's parents have been concerned that

she is not getting the education she needs. They sought the help of local missionaries who are the parents of Chelsea's best friend. After researching options, it was decided that she attend a private school in Managua and per the request of Chelsea's parents, live with the missionaries. Although most of her academic expenses have been met by generous donors, funding for her room, board, transportation, and medical expenses is needed. We estimate this to be \$300 monthly.

Elieth Alexandra Arias Ruiz – CIVIL ENGINEERING



Elieth maintained an average of 93% while attending a private high school in rural Masatepe. Her mother is a schoolteacher and was able to pay the tuition of a private school thanks to support she received

from other sources. That support is no longer available, but Elieth still hopes to attend the Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria (National Engineering University) in Managua for Civil Engineering. Her monthly tuition would be \$65 and transportation would be \$125. From her home in Masatepe, Elieth will need to take a moto taxi and three buses each way to attend classes. Total annual expenses would be \$2,280.

José Luis Paiz - ENGLISH



Many of you have probably heard the story of José Luis gathering computer parts at the Managua city dump and then assembling them into a working computer. After relocating to Project

Chacocente in 2007, he embraced the Project's vision of lifting himself and his neighbors out of poverty by working together in Christian relationship. While teaching computer classes at Chacocente Christian School, he was respected by his students and fellow staff members. José Luis lives down the road from the Chacocente campus with his wife and two young children. His small chicken farm is not enough to sustain his family. He hopes to learn English so that he can get a job at a call center. His monthly expenditures for the 20-week course are \$60 tuition and \$40 transportation. Total cost for the 20 weeks is \$2,000.

"May the Lord bless all of you for the hard work you have done with all the families here in Nicaragua. I taught with pride at the service of the community, and I thank my God for having been part of your organization. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for all the blessings that came through your help." (Translation of note from José Luis Paiz)

Jacqueline Hernandez Roa – PHARMACY ASSISTANT



Jacqueline was employed by Project Chacocente longer than any other employee. She first taught pre-school, a job she loved. As Chacocente Christian School added grade levels, she moved from teaching to administration, first as

Assistant Director and then as School Director, Jacqueline quietly and ably fulfilled the many responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and the Project Chacocente Board of Directors. With the worsening economic situation in Nicaragua, she hopes to find a job in a local pharmacy and is requesting funding for a Pharmacy Assistant course at FUNADENIC, Nicaraguan Development Foundation, which is located in San Marcos. Her monthly expenditures for the 4-month course are \$16 tuition and \$11 transportation. Total cost for the 4 months is \$176.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity you gave me to work for many years, where I was able to gain a lot of experience. I am also grateful for the trust you had in me working for the Project, a place where I could grow in knowledge. Now, due to the circumstances we live in Nicaragua, I have not been able to have a good job and I would like to improve my resumé. I hope you can support me." (Translation of note from Jacqueline Hernandez Roa)

THANK YOU FROM OUR SPONSORED SCHOLARS

Christhian Isaac Membreño Catín - ENGINEERING



Isaac's interest in the English language began when he was a student at Chacocente Christian School. He excelled in all subjects and thanks to a generous sponsor he attended the University

of Central America in Managua, earning a certificate in English in November 2020. Several years ago, he and another student were featured on Project Chacocente's Facebook page singing "We Are the World." Since graduating from Chacocente Christian School in 2019, Isaac has been attending the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (National Engineering University) in Managua, where he majors in Computer Engineering. It is a five-year course, and his expected finish date is 2025. We are grateful to his sponsors for their continued support.

"I want to thank you for all the support you have given me throughout these years, I am very grateful to you. Thanks to you, I am doing what I like and I thank you very much." - Isaac

Aemy Beatriz Aguilar Silva – GRAPHIC DESIGN



In 2022, Aemy graduated with honors from her high school. She lives in León with her parents and two sisters. Her parents are unable to provide funding for Aemy to attend college. Her dream has been to study Graphic Design at the University of Central

America. Her monthly tuition would be \$110 and monthly transportation would be \$107. Total yearly cost would be \$2,604.

"I wanted to know if it is possible for you to support me with the financial support I need, I promise to continue being an exemplary student with an excellent average, I am a young woman who strives to always give my best."
Translation of note from Aemy Beatriz Aguilar Silva

We are pleased to announce that Aemy now has a sponsor!



Elias Enoc Hondoy Gómez -MEDICINE

Elias first shared his dream of becoming a physician while he was still a student at Chacocente Christian School. He comes from a family that values education – his mother was the Assistant Director at CCS and his father taught there for several years. Elias lives with his parents and brother in Managua. Thanks to a generous donor, Elias is beginning his third year of medical school.

"Thank you for your attention, love and support. Blessings in the New Year!" - Elias



Mayerli Auxiliadora Mercado Vázquez - NURSING

Mayerli studied at Chacocente Christian School for seven years, graduating in 2019. Since then, she has studied Nursing at Martin Luther King University in Masaya. Thanks to her sponsors she received her nursing cap (a milestone for nurses!) in August of 2021. She anticipates graduating with a degree in Nursing in 2025. Mayerli lives on a small farm near Chacocente with her parents, three sisters and brother.

"Hello dear sponsor, I hope you are well, Mayerli greets you, the reason for this letter is to thank you for all the support you have given me during these three years of my career, I hope to continue having your support, since it is very useful to be able to continue studying and be able to complete my degree." (Translation of note from Mayerli)

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR STUDENTS TO PURCHASE
REQUIRED SCHOOL UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES**

Ranulfo - \$240 is needed

A 15-year-old living in Masatepe who hopes to attend a public school. Last year, he completed 8th grade at a private school. Since then, his parents divorced, his mother lost her job and his father left the country. Ranulfo hopes to return to public school but is unable to buy school uniforms, shoes, a backpack and school supplies.

José - \$218 is needed.

A 14-year-old who recently lost both parents and is now living with two older sisters. He hopes to return to public school as an 8th grader. Since public schools are half-day, he will find odd jobs to help with family expenses. To enter school, he needs school uniforms, shoes, socks, a backpack and school supplies.

Adriana & Isamara - \$218 is needed for each girl, \$436 in total.

These two sisters both attend public school and are good students. Their father provides for them by selling candy on buses and their mother works as a domestic day laborer. Both girls need uniforms, shoes, sneakers, socks, backpacks and school supplies.

Henry Murillo - \$70 is needed.

Henry lives near Chacocente with his family and attended Chacocente Christian School for several years. He hopes to return this year to the now state-run Chacocente School but needs to purchase uniforms,



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

We welcome Robin Dal Soglio as the new President of the Chacocente Board of Directors.

She is an attorney, licensed in California, Oregon and Washington, who specializes in employment law, especially issues of workplace legal compliance, discrimination, and harassment. Robin has extensive trial experience in state and federal courts and advises small and large companies and organizations in almost every aspect of the employment relationship. Robin is passionate about Chacocente and it is clear that her unique skills and experience will lead Chacocente to new and exciting ministries.

GRATITUDE TO OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

We are grateful for the many ways Dr. Larry Gage led the board, staff and families during the past five years. He gracefully mentored our Nicaraguan employees, fine-tuned our grant procedures, and, following the closure of the Project by the Nicaraguan government, found ways to care for our staff and explain the complex issues to our supporters. Larry plans to continue on the Board and remains committed to helping Nicaraguans.

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be."

John 12:26



MASAYA METHODIST CHURCH

Music is a vital part of worship everywhere, connecting us to God in unique and personal ways. The music in Nicaraguan churches usually includes electric keyboards, guitars and amplifiers. It is played loudly to encourage the neighborhood to come and join in! In the past, teams from the United States have attended worship services at Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Masaya led by Pastor Francisco Guzmán. Recently, the church's sound system broke and is beyond repair. Despite the congregation's efforts, the total cost of replacement is far beyond their reach. Thanks to the generosity of Asbury First UMC in Rochester NY, we were able to \$1000 toward the purchase of the new equipment.