

Picture from McLean Church Missions trip to Bluefields in July



GROWING THE BODY OF CHRIST: NEW ARMS, MORE HANDS

Feeding the Crowds: More Hands

ORPHANNetwork is in the midst of exciting expansions this summer. From Puerto Cabezas to Jinotepe, stretching nearly 500 kilometers across the country, we are working to reach over 1,000 children this year, and God is blessing us with incredible success!

Eddy Morales, our Field Director in Nicaragua, recently secured an annual gift of 16 metric tons of food from the United Nations World Food Program. This ensures every child at El Canyon, Puerto Cabezas, and Casa Bernabe—three of our partner Orphanages—one meal each day for an entire year.

Stop Hunger Now, a U.S. non-profit, has also committed to ORPHANNetwork with an annual donation of a 40 ft. container of packaged, fortified rice: 285,000

meals! With this food, we will triple our work in Nueva Vida—a refugee camp in Managua created out of the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in 1998—and reach over 1,000 children in the community.



Picture of Nueva Vida feeding center by Don Monteaux

As One Body We Come: New Arms

In Jinotepe, one hour south of Managua, the Arms of Love orphanage serves 30

children and teenagers, filling their nutritional, educational, and spiritual needs. ORPHANNetwork has partnered with Arms of Love International in support of those children. Through the partnership, we aim to expand the current program to 50 total children served.

Arms of Love International empowers Nicaraguan leadership at the orphanage, providing role models and systems of support for the children as they grow and mature through the orphanage. ORPHANNetwork is incredibly excited for the new partnership.

From increased numbers at Puerto Cabezas, to the new partnership with Arms of Love, and exciting increases in children served in Bluefields, ORPHANNetwork has grown from serving just under 800 children at the end of 2008, to nearly 1,000 so far this year!

Casa Bernabe Update



In late April the Verbo Church congregation and kids from Casa Bernabe came together for a glorious celebration of Baptism. An old pool near Casa Bernabe's team center served as the baptismal water for 19 teenagers from the orphanage, as they professed their faith in Jesus Christ.

It was a powerful expression of faith, as Marlon Cabrera, Verbo's Youth Pastor and the former Director of Casa Bernabe, spoke words to each of the children before baptizing each of them in Christ.

Miguel, one of the older boys at the orphanage, walked up first and was baptized. Then they came one after the other, fully submerged as they dove into a life with Christ! What a joy and blessing to support the work of Christ in children across Nicaragua. Visit ORPHANNetwork's website to see a video of this momentous occasion.

Verbo Bluefields Feeding Program Update

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate, and were satisfied.
Matthew 14: 19-20

What a great God we serve! This past June, before the rains started coming steady and loud across the city, Humberto and Lisset, together with a team of brothers and sisters in Christ, opened a new feeding program at the Verbo Church building in Bluefields! The previous feeding program had drawn in an average of twelve children from the area, on the opening day, expectations were blown away as 93 children came to eat on the first day, and increased to 130 on the second!

Children lined the hallway of the feeding center, smiling up at balloons on the walls, talking excitedly to their friends and peers. They sat down to a tasty and nutritious meal of rice, carrots, noodles, ground beef, cabbage, and a tomato salad.



The feeding center is a wonderful environment for children to escape from the streets, and join their peers in fellowship at the lunch table. By the second day, 130 children lined the tables, praying for the meal with Humberto and Lisset. The kitchen facilities are brand new, and there is a larger staff of volunteers than ever before! Praise God for the great work he is doing in Bluefields!

Child Spotlight: Suyapa Ruiz

by Cole Bingham, ORPHANetwork Intern

"I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord"
Jeremiah 30:17

I recently sat down with Suyapa for a game of jacks. Bounce the ball once, and collect one jack. Then two jacks at a time.

Then three. Add in more rules until it's impossible to keep up—she'll win every time.



Photo taken by Eric Kelley

I met Suyapa this past June as she passed her three-year mark living at Casa Bernabe. She loves art classes, and working alongside Casa Bernabe's staff, helping them wash clothes. If you don't see her around the orphanage grounds after school, check the mamon tree just outside her room.

Playing jacks that afternoon was incredibly encouraging. When Suyapa was a child, she was homeless and living with her parents on the street, begging for money and food. On occasion, she was burned for bad behavior, or failing to make enough money in a day, and eventually lost some use of her hands. Nicaragua's child welfare agency brought Suyapa to Verbo's Casa Bernabe, where she was taken to ten separate surgeries in an effort to heal burns suffered over most of her body.

Over the past three years, she has struggled with authority, and with fitting in amongst the other children. Today however, she appears transformed: from a malnourished, scared child, to a beautiful eleven year old playing side by side with her peers. She is catching up at Casa Bernabe's Verbo School, and continuing to hear the word of God through her friends and caretakers here at the orphanage.

It's been a blessing beyond what I could have imagined to get to know this transformed Suyapa—a beautiful child eager to smile and laugh and teach me how to play jacks. Truly renewed and beginning to realize the joy that God has for her life.

Please visit www.orphanetwork.org to learn how you can sponsor a child like Suyapa.

To receive newsletters and updates by email, please visit our Home Page and Register for Our News Briefs!

YOU are ORPHANetwork!

As part of the ORPHANetwork, you are providing hope and love to orphans and children in need throughout Nicaragua. Your support allows the stories above to become a reality! Thank you!

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