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## SOCIAL IMPACT FEATURE: PROMOTING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SAN RAMÓN



Photo: PWB

In 2017 Casa – Pueblito partnered with the Christian Promotional Center for Peace and Life in San Ramon, Matagalpa to promote cultural heritage and identity with children, youth and adults from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

This project provided education in painting, drawing, arts instruction, folkloric dance, traditional music, and muralism to directly benefit 152 students. Through traditional dance, music, and arts education teachers were able to teach students about the importance of their cultural heritage and reaffirm these historic pieces as part of the Nicaraguan and Matagalpan identity.

Young artists in this project were recognized as promoters of local culture and heritage and as the school and students gained prominence, local organizations and the municipal

government began to request art work from students at the art school. As a result, more students became interested in the history of Nicaragua.

An exciting project highlight was an art exhibition in August that showcased the lives and experiences of the youth and adults in the First Literacy Crusade in 1980. The students presented artwork about this crucial moment in Nicaraguan history and exchanged experiences with people who were involved in the original literacy campaign, including the Professor Orlando Piñeda: one of the main coordinators of this 1980s campaign. This exhibition encouraged today’s students to think about the experiences of young *brigadistas* in the 1980s, and reminded them that the work of national development and social change is still important and continues in our present day. This exhibition in the town of San Ramón

is a great example of the power and impact of historical and cultural education.

We are proud of this partnership to provide artistic and cultural education for children and youth who otherwise would not have access to arts education. We are thrilled to have been able to be a part of this project to enrich and preserve the proud historic traditions of San Ramón.



### WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Staff Spotlight: Project Assistant in Nicaragua
- School Delegation Highlights
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# 2018 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

LOCALLY DEFINED,  
LOCALLY-DRIVEN  
WITH OUR  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS



Photo: PWB

## Community Leaders of Jiñocuao Jiñocuao

The rural community of Jiñocuao has been our partner since 2012 when we worked together to build a high school. 2018 is the second year of a three-year project to build latrines in the community to improve hygienic conditions and reduce disease. In 2017 we built 56 latrines and in 2018 we'll build latrines for 44 families. These are provided to the most vulnerable families who, for lack of economic resources, have gone without sanitary services for years.



Photo: PWB

## Hogares Luceros del Amanecer Camoapa

Hogar Luceros del Amanecer, founded in 2004, is our new community partner that provides students from low-income families with nutrition, social workers, tutoring, dance, music, computer coding and English classes. Together in 2018 we will improve the infrastructure and expand classes, bring students to important cultural sites in Nicaragua, and build skills in digital media, radio and television programming with workshops lead by professional journalists.



Photo: PWB

## Christine King Cooperative Estelí

This year we are working with the Christine King Cooperative – a valued partner that provides programs for children and women from low socioeconomic backgrounds - to expand their programming to enroll another 30 low-income students into classes, provide classroom materials for the mature high school diploma program, and purchase necessary medical equipment for the women's health clinic to provide better access to adequate reproductive health care.



Photo: MOES

## Asociación de Mujeres Organizadas Emprendedoras de Estelí (MOES) Estelí

Also a new partner, MOES was founded in 2006 and works with women in high-risk situations; particularly women who live inside Estelí's municipal garbage dump. Our project this year is a series of workshops with 90 women who live inside that garbage dump. Workshops cover themes like women's rights, sexual and reproductive health care, self-esteem, jewelry-making, and helping women access local markets with their handicrafts for new sources of income.



Photo: PWB

## Podcasts for Peace Managua

Podcasts for Peace is a community center that empowers low-income families with cultural and educational programs for children, youth, and women. It is a safe space for members of the community. In 2018 we'll continue our partnership to provide education, vocational classes and cultural expression through art to form values, self-esteem, discipline, and techniques that bond the community and generates change to strengthen the social fabric of the *barrio*.



Photo: PWB

## Gloria Quintanilla Women's Cooperative Santa Julia

Santa Julia has been fighting for potable water for over eight years. A well is now being installed for 90 families living there. With our longtime partner the Gloria Quintanilla Women's Cooperative – 20 women leaders working in food sovereignty, employment and access to basic services - we'll install a shelter to house the well's generator and motor, protecting them from the elements and theft, and increasing the well's sustainability.

# CANADIANS IN SOLIDARITY FOR COMPASSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACROSS BORDERS



Photo: PWB

## UCA Tierra y Agua La Calera, Granada

UCA Tierra y Agua is a union of agricultural cooperatives working in climate-smart agricultural. With this partner and the community of La Calera we're building an artisanal well for families who haven't had running water in their home for over a decade. We began in 2017 and soon learned that geological issues make the original well site unadvisable. This year we'll implement alternative measures and look forward to sharing news of our progress.

## 2018 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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Photo: El Triunfo

## El Triunfo Education Project Sololá

Since 2006, the El Triunfo Education Project has supported the educational aspirations of Mayan youth of students in the community of El Triunfo in the mountains of Sololá, Guatemala. In recent years the project has focused on providing a low cost middle school education to students in grades seven, eight and nine to students who may not otherwise be attending classes. This year the school year started on January 11<sup>th</sup> with 50 students enrolled.



## Highlights: School Delegations

So far in 2018 we have enjoyed three Global Education Delegations: St. Augustine and Loyola C.S.S.; Champlain College; and Robert F Hall C.S.S. In Jiñocuao and Santa Julia, school groups collaborated with community members to build latrines and start a well shelter. We're excited to receive a delegation of students later this year from the University of Alberta in May, and Brock University in October. Our vision at Casa – Pueblito is to promote compassion and social justice across borders, and our Global Education Delegations are a key part of accomplishing this. Students and community members share space, culture, and experiences during their time together. They learn more about one another and come to understand that our common humanity unites us across borders, while obligating us to stand in solidarity with one another in the face of global issues like climate change and wealth inequality.

## A Special Thanks to Our Community

We are truly a community organization with the wonderful opportunity to engage with donors, teachers, students and volunteers. The Casa - Pueblito Annual Report to be published early in the summer includes details on our financial information, social impact, school delegations and the community of supporters that make our work in solidarity possible. With this publication and in all of the work we do:

**Thank You, One and All, for Your Generous Support.**

## Board Member and Alumni Spotlight: Nadine Patel

Over the years our Delegation Alumni share experiences from their solidarity trip with our organization. Featured here, a Casa – Pueblito Delegation Alumni and member of our Board of Directors, Nadine Patel, shares some reflections.

### Most memorable experience from your solidarity trip?

With all the beauty Nicaragua has to offer the social and economic inequalities were very present. I wondered how these living conditions were possible anywhere in the world. Although we were exposed to such social inequalities, we were also exposed to the great work our organization does and how supportive and truly inspirational the Casa team was.

### How has being a delegate on our solidarity trip impacted you?

It led me to study social anthropology and Canadian international relations, with a focus on Latin American-Canadian relations. After seeing what can be accomplished with education, communication, an open mind and the determination to generate change, I decided to work in corporate social responsibility.



## The People in the Pictures:

With this report, Casa - Pueblito features in pictures the people in the communities we serve. Each person has their own story and community leaders that we work with in solidarity for a more caring, compassionate and equitable world. While personal names are not published, we encourage our readers to learn more about the communities and the grassroots leaders in our larger online 2018 Projects section of our website at [www.casapueblito.org](http://www.casapueblito.org)

PWB photos courtesy Tilly Goble, a Photographers Without Borders project. In our partnership with PWB, the standards of practice and the photographs respect human dignity and ensure the rights, safety, and well being of the people being portrayed.

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Appreciation for our volunteer Nuria Jiménez for the layout and design of this report.



## Ada López Rivera: Project Assistant

Ada works at our Managua, Nicaragua office. She likes community work because she enjoys building community capacity for self-management. Santa Julia, for example, has grown and developed their capacity to partner with other organizations. Jiñocuao is one of her favourite communities to work with because people from every generation is involved. This multi-generational involvement and broad participation creates a sense of belonging for community members and an understanding of community development beyond “escaping poverty”. Ada enjoys working with Casa – Pueblito be-

cause our projects are focused on locally-defined community needs. “This enriches us as an organization because it means we can touch different themes, like women’s rights, climate change and education” Ada notes.

Ada is passionate about women’s rights. In her spare time she attends activities and organizes in her community to promote gender equality. She learns about agriculture as she experiments on her farm in San Marcos, Carazo; something she says is crucial to address climate change.

## SAVE THE DATE!

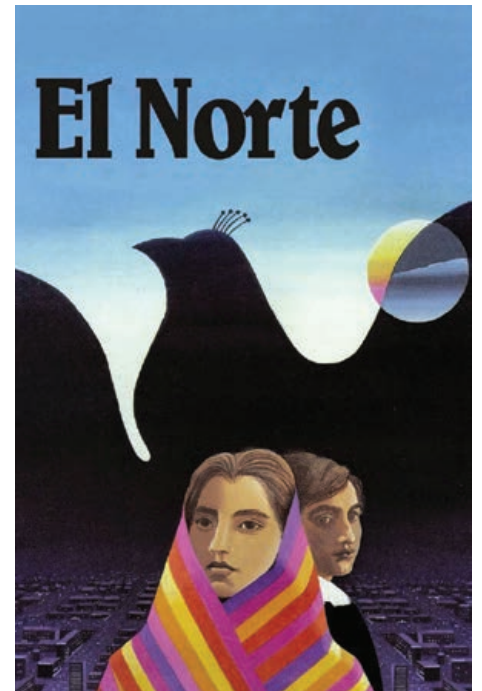
**CASA - PUEBLITO FILM NIGHT**  
Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Doors at 6:30 pm

**REVUE THEATER**  
400 Roncesvalles Ave

**CASA - PUEBLITO PRESENTS:**  
**EL NORTE**

“ *El Norte (1983) tells their story with astonishing visual beauty, with unashamed melodrama, with anger leavened by hope. It is a Grapes of Wrath for our time.* ”

Roger Ebert



## JOIN US

FOR AN EVENING OF FILM, MEMORIES AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT OUR ANNUAL SUMMER EVENT

Tickets: \$15, \$10 for Youth under 20 yrs To reserve tickets email [info@casapueblito.org](mailto:info@casapueblito.org)

