

2012 projects

- MONGALLO Y NEGROWAS** — \$35,000  
System designed for population of 276 people and financed by Peer Waterexchange.
- LA CHOCOLATE** — \$97,200 (partial)  
System designed for population of 196 people and financed by APLV, the Japanese Embassy, and the municipality of San Ramon.
- WALANA EL ACHOTE** — \$70,598  
System designed for population of 141 people and financed by APLV, Rural Water Venture and the municipality of Rio Blanco.
- EL VARILLA** — \$151,788  
System designed for population of 538 people and financed by APLV, Res Publica, and the municipality of El Jicaro.
- EXTENSIONS AND REHAB** — \$15,000  
Extension and rehab of 2 former projects funded by APLV



Agua Para La Vida  
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upcoming projects

No less than 13 new projects have been surveyed designed and budgeted by our Rio Blanco team in widely separated areas of Nicaragua.

Not all of them are ready for construction (the many steps required for village preparation have not all been completed) and of course for even fewer have we found financing.

These projects can be completed with ***your help!***



**December 2012**  
**Board of Directors:**  
*Gilles Corcos*  
*Charlie Huizenga*  
*Anne Corcos*  
*RJ Bunnell*  
*Bill McQueeney*  
*Kelly Naylor*  
*Debbie Parducci*  
*Randy Fay*  
*Nancy Lewis*

the year in review

This year we have faced the challenges presented by the creation of APLV-NICARAGUA in 2011 and we are feeling very good about what has been accomplished. In 2012, the number of working projects has reached 80! That number will keep rising with your continued interest and support. We hope you will go on spreading the word about the good work that APLV does.

Disasters come and go but the day-in day-out need for water never abates. Since its inception, Agua Para La Vida has always considered itself the provider of last resort. The neediest villages, whatever their size, tend to be forgotten or overlooked even as the world becomes more aware of the dire extent of the problems arising from polluted water. We believe these villages are worthy as any. The lives of the village women and children are defined by the daily time consuming physical struggle to find water, good or bad, and haul it home. This is where we come in. Our requirements for building a system are strict, demanding time and patience before the project can be approved so that work can begin. However, with our help, eighty villages have constructed working gravity water systems. There is satisfaction in knowing that along with the improved health in these villages, there is a new sense of opportunity for education and enterprise unleashed by freed up time.

Aside from the water projects, one of our stellar accomplishments has been the establishment of our technical school, Escuela Tecnica Agua Potable, known as ETAP. From this year's graduating class, the 5<sup>th</sup> to complete the program, there is astonishing news. According to the teachers Cecile and Denis Barea, a clearly superior student named Francisco Romero has emerged. His performance is considered so good by his teachers that they think he is a promising prospect for eventually becoming a professor at ETAP! Since Francisco wants to become an engineer, we have come to an agreement with him where he will continue his studies in civil engineering on weekends at a university in Boaco, about two hours from our Water Center in Rio Blanco, and will become a teaching assistant for the next ETAP class. This is as clear an example of a self-sustaining effect of our teaching school as we could hope for. Who would have thought that this could have happened when APLV became an established NGO?

news from ETAP

Denis and Cecile Barea completed their engagement with APLV and left Rio Blanco in May for France where they await the birth of their first child. They had two missions: to take charge of ETAP's administration and teaching, and to facilitate the transition of the Nicaragua team towards autonomy. For the former, they will be remembered as having given the teaching program a solid foundation and a systematic structure that should be very helpful to future professors. They were also effective in presenting ETAP to potential sources of support. Their work on hastening the transition consisted of seeking to create a structure of volunteer support for the Rio Blanco field team and to strengthen the role of the new Board of Directors. They also created a lively periodical for local use, El Ojo de Agua, which had released four issues by the time they left.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find a replacement teacher before their departure. It was only through dogged, time-consuming determination that President Gilles Corcos, searching in the US, France, and Spain, made contact with a Spanish architect engineer, Alberto de Diego Gomez. After a number of exchanges with the Barea couple and with Gilles, he was hired and arrived in Nicaragua on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. He is now hard at work organizing the application process for the new class that will start its studies in early 2013.

Course work for the graduating ETAP class ended in March, and each of the students undertook three months of field work as part of the construction crews of current water projects. Another graduate, Dixon Uriel, has been chosen to undertake a very detailed evaluation of the state of all 80 of our past projects. Francisco Romero will help in this work. (See the Laird Norton grant on page 3). At least three more graduates will find employment either with NGOs or with municipalities in water development.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ☐ I would like to receive this newsletter via email
- ☐ I would like to support APLV in bringing clean drinking water to the people of Nicaragua.  
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:
  - ☐ \$50 – material cost for drinking water for one person
  - ☐ \$100 – material cost for 500 seedlings for reforestation
  - ☐ \$200 – material cost for a latrine for one family
  - ☐ \$250 – sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
  - ☐ \$500 – material cost for drinking water for one family
  - ☐ \$1000 – cost of drinking water, latrine, and health education for one family

get involved

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF  
Agua Para La Vida

Agua Para La Vida is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Agua Para La Vida (APLV). Donations can also be made online at: [www.aplv.org](http://www.aplv.org)



# more on the students

FRANCISCO ROMERO SAMBRANA

Twenty-six years ago when Gilles and Charlie were manipulating rickety rusty pipes to demonstrate to poor campesinos that building a water system for their village was possible, who could have dreamed that Francisco Romero Sambrana would emerge! He is the oldest brother in a family of ten from the village of Cayanlipe in the area of Chandega. He is 20 years old, and the youngest in his ETAP class. His teachers describe him as an excellent student, always ready and happy to help in any capacity; cleaning, maintenance, assisting others who need help or are having difficulties with schoolwork. When he returns to his village on vacations, he goes to work with his family, caring for the cattle that are his family's responsibility on a farm owned by others. It is heartwarming for all who have helped APLV grow to see as a return from our investment the possibility of such a bright future for Francisco.



## DIXON SANDIGO MIRANDA URIEL

Dixon is 21 years old, from the village of Bilwas in the area of Matiguas. He is the youngest of three brothers from a family of farmers. Like Francisco, he was a very good student, worked hard and did well. His teachers, obviously proud of his achievements, describe him as very clever, a bit shy, straight in his behavior, mature, responsible, obliging and a help in the classroom. Who could ask for more?



# Laird Norton Family Foundation \$20,000 Grant

This grant is particularly valuable to us because many of our activities are not covered by the financing of specific water projects. In line with the Laird Norton Family Foundation's suggestions, we decided to use the grant to fund four distinct areas:

- 1. An in depth investigation of the state of each of the 80 water projects built with our help since 1987
- 2. Steps to insure the stability of ETAP's activities
- 3. Steps to strengthen the local APLV administration
- 4. The development and training of the new Nicaragua Board of Directors

**(Francisco Romero and Dixon Uriel are directly involved with the first two areas).**

# our network of associations

We have developing relationships with an increasing number of organizations. Among them:

Rural Water Ventures, Res Publica, Water for People, Ayuda en Accion, Global Water, Danish Committee of Solidarity with Central America, Water for Waslala, the Japanese, French, and Dutch Embassies to Nicaragua, International Rotary Club, Ann Campana Judge Foundation, Laird Norton Family Foundation, and UNICEF.

In particular, we would like to recognize Rural Water Ventures, Res Publica, and the Japanese Embassy for their highly generous support over many years.

The UNICEF has requested that we be their partner in developing a five year program, (2013-2018) whose aim is to train the youth of the most easterly rural regions of Nicaragua to qualify them for employment and development work. The project is now being defined jointly. The professional training of Nicaragua youth would be carried out at different levels over different time periods. One of the components would be the kind of training already provided by ETAP.

The world economic crises have affected charity donations and have forced us to limit our choices and seek out the projects for which we are most likely to find funds. In the central region where we do most of our work, Jaime Alonzo, the chief technician in our Rio Blanco Water Center, recently inquired in a handful of municipalities as to which villages might want to construct our model of sustainable gravity water systems. The answer was an astonishing 312! What a challenge to meet!!

## a letter from Gilles

*Gilles Corcos is Executive and Technical Director of Agua Para La Vida.*

A quarter of a century ago Agua Para La Vida came to Nicaragua, to provide for some of its poorest rural communities the means, material and technical, to allow them access to safe drinking water. Unfortunately, the country's needs are immense compared to the scale of our resources. Our survey of the need for water for a handful of communities was recently answered by an unmanageable avalanche of demands. This is mentioned elsewhere in this annual newsletter. Yet we are practically alone in the vast center of the country where we operate.

This justifies our policy which is not only to make it possible for these villages to build their own water systems but also to facilitate the same intervention by others by providing for them both highly qualified technicians and new design and

pedagogical tools. In this regard the budding collaboration between APLV and the UNICEF, (see Our Network Associations) is potentially important and I hope it will flourish. Increasing financial contributions from a growing number of concerned municipalities are also encouraging. Another step in the right direction is that our technical school, ETAP, may be generating its own native professor, (see page 1).

Certainly the current economic conditions complicate our work by strongly reducing our access to the necessary funds to finance our projects. In 2013 we will face in fact a major financial crisis. Also we have yet to find the magic key which opens the door to powerful institutional fund providers. We are all the more grateful to our faithful donors whether their contribution is modest or not. And we invite all to help us find that magic key.