



Agua Para La Vida

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Our biggest year and we need your support more than ever!

Over the past year we completed five new projects in the communities of La Enea, La Ceibita, Los Valdense, Monte Cristo and Los Alcantaras. We have now helped over 18,000 people in nearly 60 rural communities build their own drinking water systems. We're working as hard as ever to bring clean water to rural Nicaragua and we need your help to continue our work. The current economic crisis is having a significant impact on donations to non-profits. Yet this is a time when those people around the world who are less well-off than ourselves need our help more than ever.

APLV Supporters Pay Us a Visit

Randy Fay and Nancy Lewis are Agua Para La Vida supporters who are on a bicycle journey from the Arctic Circle to the tip of South America. Last March, as they passed through Nicaragua, they spent some time in Rio Blanco, visiting APLV. The text below is excerpted from their blog (www.hobobiker.com/aplv).

Last Tuesday we rode into Rio Blanco, in the rural lowlands of Nicaragua, to visit Agua Para La Vida. It's interesting to see how humble an organization it is (in the good way). They've always maintained a commitment to making sure that every dollar goes to the project, to items of value, instead of to overhead. So their office is not with the other NGO offices on the main street, and definitely does not have a fancy storefront. It's just a nondescript facility on a back street with a simple sign.



We contacted APLV before heading this way and offered to help out where we could with computer issues, GPS management, and Autocad, and they put us right to work - it's quite a pleasure to see such a cadre of enthusiastic workers. Sometimes the workers in an organization like this can get a bit jaded or discouraged, but these people are all giving it their best, retaining their enthusiasm and commitment even after a decade or more on the job.

Esteban Cantillano is one of the amazing success stories of APLV. In 1993 he was a campesino living in a little, remote village where APLV was developing a water project. He was elected the coordinator by the community, asked a pile of technical questions and wanted to know about everything. He was eventually invited to join the first class of the technical school despite having only finished the 6th grade. Fadir Rojas,



In addition to getting clean water, each family in our projects builds a new pit latrine – a major step forward in sanitation.

APLV's reforestation engineer, chatted about his responsibilities with APLV and the growing importance of reforestation within the goals of the organization. He is from a purely campesino family - his parents can't read, but they pushed education and Fadir succeeded in getting a full scholarships at the national university. Liliam Obando and Gregoria Espinoza have been working for APLV in their role as health promoters for a dozen years, and they still find that their educational role is the most important thing they do.

APLV has an integrated approach to water: They work with the community to make sure that each household member gets trained in hand-washing, proper storage and handling of drinking water, trash management, and the like. And each household gets an outhouse - normally in these villages there are very few outhouses, and you can imagine the health impact of having no sanitation facilities at all. Finally, APLV works with the community on reforestation of the area around the water source.

APLV doesn't just drop in a potable water system and disappear. They try to set up a program that will be self-sustaining and which can make a long-term difference in the health and welfare of the community. For that reason they always have a health team in charge of evaluating the community's needs, training them in appropriate health practices, and monitoring the water quality of the installed system. Agua Para La Vida is committed to truly sustainable solutions, and they have a cooperative venture in which the communities participate fully..

Your donation counts! Your generous support is what enables us to continue year after year. Remember the every dollar you donate goes right to our projects in Nicaragua. Consider making a larger gift than you did last year.

Give a gift of water - Make a donation in the name of a friend or loved one and we'll send them a card announcing your contribution to APLV in their name.

Spread the word - Pass this newsletter along to somebody you think will want to help improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere.

We thank you for your support and wish you and the whole world a year of peace, good health and clean water.



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- ☐ I'm interested in learning more about the APLV Nicaragua Project Tour next spring
- ☐ Please add the following person to the APLV mailing list
- ☐ I would like to support APLV in bringing clean drinking water to the people of Nicaragua. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

- ☐ \$25 Material cost for drinking water for one person
- ☐ \$50 Material cost of 500 seedlings for reforestation
- ☐ \$100 Material cost of a latrine for a family
- ☐ \$250 Sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
- ☐ \$500 Material cost for drinking water for one family
- ☐ \$1000 Drinking water, latrine and health education for one family

Name _____

Address _____

City, _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

(we won't share your e-mail address with anybody!)