



LA VIDA  
EDUCATION

# 2008 Highlights

## LA VIDA

### Education



#### 50,000 reasons to celebrate your contribution!



This year marks a significant milestone for LA VIDA, as we passed the **50,000** mark for total visits to the educational community center since its inception in 2004. This still seems hard to for me to believe, considering that back in 2004 we just had a few puzzles, about 200 books, and less than ten kids coming a day. Five years later, the educational community center now serves as the educational hub for several communities, and we consistently have well over 2,000 visits to the center on a monthly basis.

#### Six major reasons that this project continues to work



For a total of \$12,000 a year, we are able to employ **six amazing employees**. Their profiles are on the **other side of this letter**, so check out the staff team that has been employed as a result of your donations. Unfortunately, the average worker in Nicaragua makes a few dollars a day, so our salaries are actually some of the highest in the entire community. These salaries have enabled several of our workers to attend additional university classes on the weekends.

#### Four more reasons to be excited about LA VIDA's future



We're moving closer to purchasing **four acres of land** in San Juan de Oriente, which will give us the ability to finally build a new educational community center. We've been running music and art programs, a library, and a puzzle and games area out of a building that is less than 1,000 square feet. It has become increasingly evident that we can't continue to run all these programs without a new facility. While this new phase will be significantly more expensive, it will increase our ability to serve as a model for the rest of the country. With consistent electricity and a secure building,

we'll be able to add a computer and science center, put the music program in a separate building, and establish a pottery museum to make the center financially sustainable over time. I'm convinced that this project is transforming an entire community (girls have been given respect through our sports leagues, record numbers of students are going to college, and church groups from the US have built lasting relationship with people in town). Building a new center will allow us make these results happen on a long-term basis. **We will need your help to make this vision a reality.**

#### LA VIDA by the numbers



**\$13,730** - Amount spent in 2008

**\$13,055** - Amount received from contributions in 2008

**\$87,000** - Amount needed in 2009 for land, local salaries, and the first stage of construction

Thanks for your help. You are making a difference. — Aaron



# The Staff of LA VIDA Education



## **Adelaida Lopez Ruiz (Program Director)**

- Spends the majority of her day overseeing staff at the community center, working with principals in the area and developing new programs
- Prior to LA VIDA, spent four years as the principal of El Alfarero Primary School
- Obtained her teaching credential from the National University of Nicaragua



## **Sully Cano Carballo (Vice Director)**

- Helps prepare and run the reading programs for learning center
- Prior to LA VIDA, spent three years as a primary school teacher
- Completed her primary school teaching credential and currently attends law school on the weekends



## **Enma Bracamontes (Library Assistant)**

- Checks out books to the community and helps run the kids' learning room, where children play with puzzles and educational games
- Is in her fourth year of university at UNICA, where she is studying on weekends to complete her teaching credential



## **Celia Cano Carballo (Arts and Crafts Teacher)**

- Works during the afternoons at LA VIDA, where she runs the arts and crafts program for students in the community
- During the mornings, Celia is a teacher at El Alfarero Primary School
- Has a teaching credential and studies computer engineering on weekends



## **Osman Latino Rivas (Music Director)**

- Oversees the music program at the learning center and teaches lessons in guitar
- Is fluent in English and teaches language classes at El Faro School
- Graduated from the National University of Nicaragua with a degree in English



## **David Cano Gutierrez (Music Assistant)**

- Helps teach guitar lessons in the mornings to students in the community
- Teaches Spanish in the afternoons at El Instituto, the public high school in San Juan de Oriente
- Has a teaching credential and studies Spanish at the university on weekends