



LA VIDA  
EDUCATION

Educate Communities.  
Transform Nicaragua.



# Highlights of 2010

2010 was an exciting year for LA VIDA Education! We reached major milestones with 100,000 total visits to our educational community center in Nicaragua and the purchase of three acres that will house our future site. **Thanks for your support of what we're doing in Nicaragua.**

## More than 25,000 visits to the educational community center in 2010!

For the third straight year, we received more than 25,000 visits to the educational community center. Over the past five years, the center has truly become the educational lifeline for teachers and students in the area. It is the only site within miles for students to access the resources necessary to adequately complete their homework. In the last year alone, nearly half of the visits to the center were for the use of textbooks and research materials to complete homework assignments. The community still comes regularly to check out story books (more than 7,000 were checked out in 2010), but we're seeing a stronger emphasis from local communities on school, research, and advanced studies (we probably have 10 different physics books now, which would have been unthinkable when we started in 2005). It's actually amazing to look back and compare this to when we started - **most of the kids and teachers in town had never even seen a puzzle!**



**= 25,395 visits in 2010**

## The future site of LA VIDA Education is purchased

After years of overcrowding at the current center, we were able to purchase a great 3.3 acre piece of property that will be used to house our future site. We can't wait to start building. A vastly improved library, art center, tech center and music center will be phase one, but an exploratorium and butterfly farm are also possibilities down the road. We have been forced to limit programs for several years because of space issues, so we're excited to see how the new site can serve an even larger population and help us continue to raise the level of education with new services.



## Emmaus Church Community does art camp in Nicaragua for 200 kids

For this year's volunteer work trip, we partnered with Emmaus Church Community from Lincoln, California. They helped paint the center and provide a week-long art camp to kids in San Juan de Oriente. If the church sounds familiar, that might be because Aaron's best friend is the pastor and went on this year's trip! For more on their trip, you can check out the blog: <http://emmausinnicaragua.blogspot.com/>.



## How the educational community center works

- LA VIDA Education operates a free educational community center in the town of San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua, that includes music and art programs, a library, and a children's learning area.
- Students between the ages of 5 and 16 are the most frequent visitors; additionally, many teachers use the center to prepare lesson plans and adults come to read and check out books for their children.
- Elementary school teachers bring their classes to the center in the mornings to participate in reading programs, while high school students do their homework and use the reference materials for reports and assignments.
- Resources provided by the center do not exist at public schools (most schools don't have enough money for textbooks and some don't even have desks). The center really is the educational lifeline for many people in the area, as some students have taken buses from an hour away to use the center. This model allows us to reach far more students than simply providing resources to individual schools.

## New website is launched in 2010

If you haven't had a chance to see the new website we launched in 2010, check it out at [www.lavidaeducation.org](http://www.lavidaeducation.org). You can see what your donations have accomplished over the past five years and read more about how an entire community is being transformed as a result.

Thanks,  
Aaron

### Five years of impact

- 116,501** Visits to the educational community center
- 23,382** Home checkouts for books from the library
- 5,687** Guitar lessons received
- 3,673** Books available in the library
- 100+** Volunteers for ten-day work trips
- 5** Local Nicaraguan education experts hired
- 3.3** Acres purchased for our new facility
- 2** School construction projects
- 2nd** Most attended library in the country
- 1st** Girls' soccer league in San Juan de Oriente