



# *Fidelity + Tenacity + Creativity ...*

March 2023

From The Friends of Esquipulas

**W**hen the Friends of Esquipulas committee meets with our counterpart in Nicaragua via Zoom each month, we are amazed at how these qualities drive their continued commitment to serve the neediest of their low-income community. The need is greater than ever—their community struggles with lack of work, increasing prices, loss of basic freedoms. Yet despite oppressive measures of the Ortega government, they continue to find ways to provide essential help. We'd like to share some information about the good work being done thanks to your help.



**Fidelity.** The committee's inventive measures have enabled the San Guillermo Clinic to continue and even expand. Dr. Dali, the full-time physician, has a reputation for high quality care delivered in a kind, sensitive way. Drawn by her outstanding care, she receives patients from the town, its outlying communities and even people living a distance from the Esquipulas community. The clinic served 950 people in the most recent quarter, and utilization continues to rise. We are awaiting a proposal to expand the clinic, possibly creating a small lab, or adding space for gynecological services. Although the clinic pays lab fees for needy patients, the ability to perform some basic analysis in-house would both reduce costs and expedite results.

**Tenacity.** Hunger is a long-term, ongoing problem in the highlands of Nicaragua. Suspension of our Organic Farming and Nutrition projects necessitated by government action has been a serious loss in Esquipulas. But our partners have responded creatively. Elba Espinoza, a long term leader in their community, shared her heartfelt concern in a recent Zoom call: "People will be hungry." Recent corn and bean crops are down, and prices have soared. In





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response, the committee has devised a plan to distribute seeds under the guise of the clinic, allowing past participants in the Nutrition program to continue raising vegetables. Their young children will receive essential nutrients; excess produce is often shared with other families. The tenacious team in Esquipulas has also devised a way to continue support for the farmers in the Organic Project: the former staffer has volunteered to raise seedlings for their crops.



**Creativity.** Another recent initiative seeks to preserve some of the child healthcare mission of the Nutrition Project. Formerly Dr. Dali traveled to the campo to provide the children of the 80 participants with regular checkups, any required medicines, and growth assessment. Our partners in Esquipulas will continue this work on a reduced basis: 30 of the children with greatest need will receive the same services by coming to the clinic. Your donations have made this budget expansion possible.



A topic affecting all of us, increased living costs, came up during our most recent Zoom conversation. We learned that Dr. Dali was possibly leaving the clinic, the salary inadequate to meet her family's needs. With the support of our donors, Friends of Esquipulas will be able to fund a just wage for her and two other staff persons.

**Solidarity.** The fluid situation in Nicaragua demands this close level of communication. In the past month, Friends of Esquipulas has funded two additional initiatives proposed by our partners to meet

their community's needs. We anticipate additional requests. We can continue to send substantial support thanks to the generosity of our donors. Please consider a gift at this time of great need. With your help, their tenacity, creativity, and adaptability will continue to make life better in rural Nicaragua.



**How to donate:** Simply make your check payable to Friends of Esquipulas and mail to:  
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Louisville, KY, 40210

Donate with Paypal on our website: [friendsofesquipulas.org](http://friendsofesquipulas.org)

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