



SUMMER 2014 Newsletter



The San Guillermo Clinic

By Nancy Fox, npfox@bellsouth.net

A medical clinic, Dispensario Parroquial San Guillermo, operating out of the main parish offices of Our Lord of Esquipulas (OLE), is the oldest of the projects the Friends of Esquipulas helps to sponsor with the St. William community sister parish in Nicaragua.

In 1998, Nicaragua was hit hard by hurricane Mitch. There were many health problems in the aftermath and because there was not a well functioning health care system, churches stepped in. OLE began a small clinic to address the medical needs of people in the area. In 2000, St William was asked to provide financial support for the clinic and began to fund the salary for a doctor. From the outset, the doctor has served patients both at the clinic located in the heart of town and periodically in the rural communities surrounding Esquipulas. Visits to the outlying villages save residents an arduous trip of up to three hours walking to access health care. Support of the clinic has grown to include the salary for the doctor, money for medicines, visits to specialists and for transportation to the regional hospital for patients who need more care and cannot afford to pay for it. There is a minimal charge for the clinic services (60 cents) that is waived if the patient cannot afford it, and anyone in the area, not just church members are seen. Medications are provided at no cost if the patient cannot afford to pay for them.

The current physician is Doctor Leyla Manzanares who has been at the clinic since spring of 2014. She has recently moved to Esquipulas with her husband and two children. Her husband is also a doctor who works in another area of Nicaragua and is only able to come to Esquipulas several times a month (more on page 2).



Kroger Shopping Helps Our Project! Easier than ever with your Kroger Plus Card!

Friends of Esquipulas (FE) group has benefited from donations through Kroger rewards cards that you have purchased and then used to make purchases. Now it is easier for you to donate -- and to get your friends and family to donate using a **Kroger Plus** card! Simply register it online, denoting Friends of Esquipulas as your charity of choice. FE will get a percentage of most everything you buy without the bother of reloading a rewards card.

TO SIGN UP: register for an online account at krogercommunityrewards.com. Have your existing **Kroger Plus** card handy. Once on the site you will be asked to SIGN UP TODAY as a new customer. After completing the requested information you will be sent an email where you will click on the link and be taken back to Kroger site where you will sign in and **Edit Kroger Community Awards** information. Enter NPO number for FE (12403) and the name Friends of Esquipulas Inc. should pop up. You are done! **QUESTIONS?** Please email Jean Porter at jeanporter83@gmail.com, or call her at 643-7842.

There are detailed instructions on our website as well: <http://www.friendsofesquipulas.org/donate.html>

The San Guillermo Clinic, *continued from page 1*

She is the fifth doctor at the clinic since it began, but the third in a little over a year, as the clinic is finding it harder to pay a competitive salary. A doctor who works in a government - operated clinic can make a considerably higher salary, but Dr. Manzaneras feels the San Guillermo clinic can offer more patient-centered care.

The clinic sees between 350 and 450 patients a month. Common complaints of patients seen by the clinic are respiratory illnesses (especially in the rainy season), acute diarrhea, urinary tract infections, sprains, digestive tract issues such as the need to deworm children and recently an increase in dengue fever, an illness spread by mosquitos. Dr. Leyla provides prenatal care and initial screening for more serious illnesses such as heart problems.

The Nutrition With Vegetables project, initiated in 2007, enables women with young children to grow their own food and give their families a healthy start in life. The clinic doctor visits each rural community involved in the project six times a year to follow the health of the children involved. The project was developed because of the serious malnutrition affecting young children in Nicaragua. Some of the rural communities where the Nutrition program is located are difficult to get to because of poor or non-existent roads. Without the visits to their community, many of the children would not see a doctor. We spoke with Dr. Manzaneras on a Skype call recently. She said she was pleased with how the children in the project are doing and with the knowledge that the mothers have about what to feed their children.

The doctor said she teaches the families about nutrition and hygiene issues that would affect their health. The delegation from St William that recently returned from a visit to Nicaragua reported that they were happy to meet many healthy looking children.

The government health care system in Nicaragua has improved over the past several years, but Dr. Manzaneras said it is not able to provide services for a significant percentage of the population. Medications are in short supply at the government clinics, and many patients cannot afford to fill their prescriptions. The San Guillermo clinic utilizes the medications that are brought by

delegations from St William and gets help from other charitable organizations to provide affordable medications for their patients.

On the recent Skype call to Esquipulas, Pablo Hernandez, a staff person with OLE who coordinates the projects and the relationship between St. William and OLE, reiterated how important they feel the clinic is to both the church community and to the larger community of Esquipulas. They see it as a ministry and are grateful for all that St. William and the Friends of Esquipulas have done to make it a reality.



2014 Delegation Report



Delegation with a banner from
The Producers of the San Francisco Community

Five members of St. William visited Esquipulas and Casa Materna, August 1-10: Dotti and Bob Lockhart, Sharon Grant, Rob Medley and David Hulefeld. The group had an action packed (exhausting!) schedule. The group thoroughly enjoyed visiting with participants in the Nutrition and Organic projects in nine different farming communities. The hospitality extended throughout their trip was overwhelming: lunch-time feast every day in the campo, dinner each night in the home of a member of the parish team. Visit the website (friendsofesquipulas.org) to enjoy some of the photos documenting their trip. The group

plans to share their experiences in a session after liturgy at St. William on October 12th--please come! A few salient observations from their visit:

Men and women in the Organic and Nutrition projects expressed their profound gratitude for the assistance they receive through Friends of Esquipulas. They can offer their families a brighter future because of the projects. They deeply appreciate the staff members who work with them, and the care their children receive from Dr. Leyla. Nicaragua is experiencing its worst drought in over 30 years. Although Esquipulas is not as severely affected as other areas of the country, crops have failed in some parts of the parish, and food prices have spiked nationally. If rains return, they can plant again in September.

The new pastor at OLE, Jaime Juan Montesino, welcomed the group graciously and demonstrated a deep commitment to serving the people of his parish.

Youth groups in OLE are active and have large membership. Their parish is looking forward to welcoming a youth delegation from St. William in 2016.

Fund-raising Effort Needs Hosts

One of the most successful ways The Friends of Esquipulas raises funds for projects in Nicaragua is through a series of annual "Solidarity Suppers," where we break bread and share our mission.

Last year, we raised more than \$6,000 with just a handful of such dinners.

Now, we need your help. If you have been touched in some way from the relationship with our friends in Esquipulas, we ask that you please consider hosting a supper this fall.

It's easy! You don't have to be an expert about our Nicaragua relationship. A returning delegate or FOE committee member will attend our dinner with "the pitch," including a video of the projects that we fund, personal stories, and the ability to answer your guests' questions.

You provide only the space, guest list, an autumn date and the meal, which is a simple dinner of rice and beans (we have an easy recipe), salad, dessert and beverage. We have invitations that you can personalize. We can help with food. We can help you set up and clean up if you need.

Our goal, besides raising money to meet our \$60,000 annual commitment to our friends in Nicaragua, is to expand the base of support for the community there, to share the love. Consider inviting folks who might not already know much about FE: family, friends and neighbors. This will help us to broaden our base of support!



Ismael Jarquin Jarquin,
Esquipulas Project producer

PLEASE prayerfully consider helping us do that. For more information and to get started, contact Jean Porter at (502) 643-7842, or jeanporter83@gmail.com



Friends of Esquipulas

1226 W. Oak Street
Louisville, KY 40210

An Outreach Ministry of St. William Community

How to donate!!

Simply make your check payable
to *Friends of Esquipulas* and place it
in the collection basket or mail

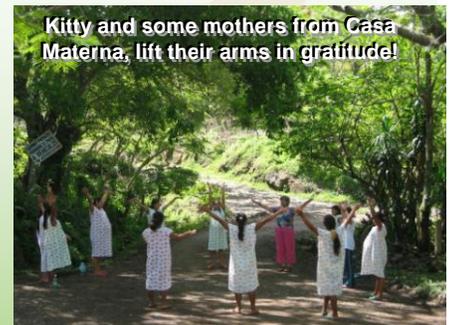
to:

FE c/o St. William, 1226 W. Oak Street,
Louisville, KY, 40210

Donate with Paypal on our website:

friendsofesquipulas.org or through your Kroger Plus card!

FE Newsletter will be
published twice a year.
If you would rather
receive it electronically,
please email us at:
[Friendsofesquipulas
@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofesquipulas@gmail.com)



Thanks for your support!