NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF ESQUIPULAS

PARROQUIA DE ESQUIPULAS, NICARAGUA

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Solidarity Makes Us Stronger: Reports from the Projects

We receive quarterly reports on the Esquipulas projects and ministries made possible by your support. For our year-end newsletter here is a summary of the most recent communications:

Nutrition with Vegetable Project:
Six communities in the parish are served by this project, benefitting 75 single mothers and their young children. They are mentored, supplied and trained in many aspects of growing vegetables without harmful chemicals. The food grown is shared with nearly 500 people in these communities.

- Growth and general health monitoring of the children by the Parish Clinic doctor continue to show positive results
- Inexpensive water filters have greatly reduced the frequency of water-born illness
- In addition to small farming techniques, participants receive training in personal and household hygiene, micro-loan/savings program and production of organic fertilizer and insect controls

Production and Marketing of Organic Vegetables Project:

- The "Green Market," supplied by project participants, is a continuing success, providing an outlet for their crops, generating a profit for the farmers and creating jobs for salespersons.
- Seed management is improving with more varieties and more seeds produced by growers
- Farmers continue to improve the land and facilities at the "farm school" plot. This site is used for training, seed banking, seedling production, and making bio-fertilizer.
- Tree plantings have matured: orchard trees are beginning to bear fruit, and forestry trees are improving the local environment

Parish Clinic and Pharmacy:

The parish doctor, Juliza Mairena, reports that at-risk children in the communities served by the Nutrition with Vegetables Project continue to thrive, gaining weight and showing improved health. There were about 800 patients served in the clinic this past quarter. The number of treatments and medicines distributed was lower this quarter because the doctor was away for maternity leave. The most common treatments are for respiratory issues, diarrhea and urinary infections. Some illnesses are referred to local or regional municipal clinics. Medicines are sold at a very reduced rate and any profits used to provide services to those who cannot pay.

For all the projects, climate change, particularly in the form of excessive rain and accompanying landslides, is a growing challenge. Planting, harvesting, transportation and controlling disease and pests are increasingly difficult. The doctor attributes the increase in respiratory problems to the increased rains.

We give thanks with appreciation and awe for the work of human hands and God's bounty.

Friends of
Esquipulas
1226 W. Oak Street
Louisville, KY 40210

Welcome to Jose Antonio Mairena, the new technician with the Nutrition Project!

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

NEW! Use Amazon Smile to designate a portion of your online purchases for us! Just go to smile.amazon.com and add Friends of Esquipulas as your recipient. Also there are instructions on our website.

Donate with Paypal on our website: friendsofesquipulas.org

Register your Kroger Plus card to help us earn Kroger rewards! Instructions to register on our website or krogercommunityrewards.com

Thanks for your support!

At year's end, many requests for financial support crowd the mailbox and inbox. It's hard to choose among the many worthwhile recipients. We hope you will consider a year end donation to Friends of Esquipulas. All of your gift will be funneled to very needy people: helping kids grow up healthy, keeping farm families intact, providing medical care and medicines for very poor people. We are so grateful for your help!

The Friends of Esquipulas Board provides funding for internal administrative costs (including this newsletter) so that 100% of donations go directly to benefit the projects in Nicaragua!

Praying for Nicaragua

Nicaragua continues to endure hard times: since April, protesting citizens have been met with government repression. Approximately 300 people have died, hundreds are incarcerated. Although its fact finding team was expelled from the country last summer, the UN High Commission on Human Rights is monitoring the situation remotely and has called on the government to restore freedom of the press, free speech and rights to a fair trial. This turmoil is being played out in Managua and the larger cities. As of this writing, Esquipulas has not experienced the worse aspects of this crisis. However the uncertainty of individual rights and the future of their democracy are significant concerns within their rural community. In addition, the unrest is having serious economic repercussions. Please keep the people of Esquipulas in your prayers.

To learn more about what is happening in Nicaragua, check with these respected sources:

- Washington Office on Latin America - https://www.wola.org/
- North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) - https://nacla.org/

And of course, we offer our prayers. At St. William we hold them with us during our prayers of the faithful at each liturgy. A group of people have committed to a day of fasting (based on their own capacity) on the 19th of each month as an act of solidarity

FE Newsletter is published twice a year. If you would rather receive it electronically, please email us at: Friendsofesquipulas@gmail.com