

**Dear Friends of La Escuelita,**

**2022 is turning out to be a interesting year for La Escuelita. - A year of great new opportunities and of new challenges.**

The first week of classes brought in a huge number of new students. It was necessary to hire another teacher, have classes in the classrooms and in the play area at the same time. It is also true that some parents are so overwhelmed with the problems of poverty that their commitment to preschool education is not strong. The harsh realities of life in poverty sometimes overwhelm the desire to educate their children.



**There are also some special times when learning becomes a fun activity.**



The history and culture of Nicaragua's East Coast has always been quite separate from the mountains and West Coast. Schools have begun to teach these differences as a way of culturally uniting the entire country. This became a fun activity as these children played “dress-up” in the traditional holiday costumes that celebrate the history of the East Coast.

Learning also become fun when the children learned about recycling some of the tons of cardboard and plastic that is thrown away every day. Plastic bags float along the streets of Managua with every breeze and clog waterways every time it rains. The children collected, cleaned, and made costumes from the trash – a cardboard robot and a plastic dress.



## **BUT CHALLENGES CONTINUE**

Nicaragua has launched a widespread and quite effective vaccination campaign. In fact the vaccination rate in Nicaragua is higher than in some parts of the US. A few breakthrough infections are happening, but the threat of COVID is finally much less severe than it has been for two years.

However, the increased cost of food and other products has led to more hunger and thus higher food costs for the school. Scarcity of soap in the homes has not only led to more hand-spreading of colds, but also outbreaks of skin problems.

And the newest health scourge of the world has also hit Nicaragua. Two of the children at La Escuelita have been diagnosed with Monkey Pox. Since this is often spread by direct contact, the teachers are being extra careful to be sure that children wash their hands frequently.

The increased cost of food has also made it important to add \$100 per month to the regular costs of operating the school.

## **WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS**

YOU play such an important part in sharing these special times and in facing these challenges. We thank all of you for being such faithful donors and for making all of this possible. We are starting to think about bringing delegations to Nicaragua, so look for more information in our next mailing.

Look For Us Online

[www.littleschoolnicaragua.com](http://www.littleschoolnicaragua.com)

Facebook - LaEscuelitaNicaragua

YouTube - La Escuelita Nicaragua

Donations Can Be Sent To

**CEPAD-USA**

c/o Beverly Kirkman

5605 Groomsbridge Ct.

Raleigh, NC 27612

Please mark for "School"

or "Scholarship Fund"

## **THANK YOU**