



Spring 2019

## *The Long Road Back*

Much has changed in Nicaragua over the past year, yet much remains the same. We remained on high alert when we issued our last full newsletter in the summer of 2018.

The country's problems are not completely resolved, but life there as we have come to know it has resumed. Local Nicaraguan Christian groups have returned to the Skylark Centre and life is in abundance there. The Skylark grounds look fabulous as the staff has employed their creative

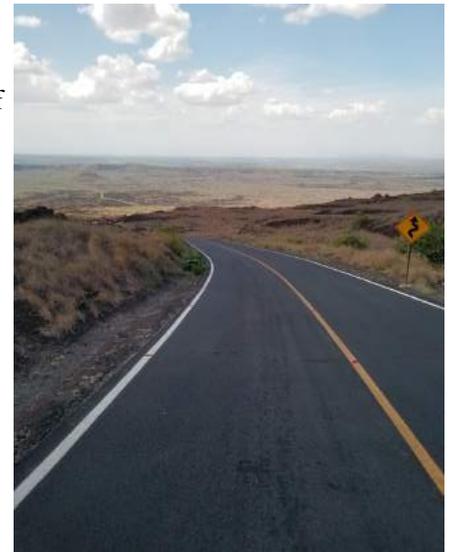
juices to repurpose materials to create even more beautiful spaces. Programs have not only survived, but thrived. The staff team remains largely intact, with only a few having left during the last year due to personal reasons.

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic support that you, our amazing supporters and friends, have given. You have been generous in your prayers and with your funds. Many of you have contacted us with encouragement and

we are exceedingly grateful.

The story does not end there, of course. There is still a road ahead to climb as the U.S., at the time of writing, has not eased the travel advisories, meaning that a gap remains. Elsewhere, for those of you who are considering returning, but are cautious, continue reading. This could just be the right time to consider it, or supporting someone who is.

Our thanks, and our hope, continue in what God has in store.



## *Back on Mission!*



Photo: M. Van Schyndell

The long wait to welcome a Threefold mission team back to the Skylark Centre ended on May 4th with the arrival of the Paramedic training team from Ontario. The purpose of the mission was to empower local fire station employees and volunteers by providing them with training in needed and relevant first-response skills, enabling them to have increased effectiveness to service the people of the local communities.

The week was fantastic for the over 30 participants, many of whom were receiving training for the first time. The youngest trainee, and active fire-station volunteer, was only 13 years old. We already know that skills have been put to practical use. The greatest of thanks go out to Kevin, Heather, Crystal, Nina, Lauren, Dawn, Kailie, Hayley, Melissa, Natascha, Stephanie and Christina who provided training that will truly have impact!

## Skylark facelift as the rains return



The Skylark Retreat Centre is creeping up on its twelfth year of operations—amazing! Unfortunately, dried palm leaves do not have a twelve-year shelf life particularly when exposed to the elements. There is no

choice but to replace the roofs of the ranchitos at the

Centre if it is to remain a welcoming place to those who have returned, or are planning to return. We are asking for your help to refresh and maintain this place that we love and that serves so many. Early donations allowed work to begin. Will you help us to finish? [Click here to](#)

**donate by credit card by June 30th to give us a chance to win \$10,000!**

**Donations by any method by July 15th will be matched 3x!**

Those sheltered beneath those roofs during this and future rainy seasons will be so grateful!

## New! Medical Clinic

There are four primary chronic conditions that visiting medical teams find when serving the population of Los Medranos; diabetes, hypertension, cardiac and thyroid issues arise continually and consistently. The survey completed last year highlighted the desire of the community for a local clinic.

We are responding! The office spaces have been reconfigured and a medical clinic is now in the works to serve those with the greatest need. It is set to launch in July, staffed part-time by a local doctor and an assistant. Up to 40 select patients will receive regular check-ups, much-needed medication, personal health supplies,



Credit: Geralt

clean drinking water and educational material. This clinic will not replace the need for medical teams, but will allow those teams to monitor progress, see more patients and contribute more broadly to community

health. The goal is that there be a marked improvement in patient health resulting from regular care.

We are excited! Watch for more information and regular updates.

## Other program updates

“Best Start in Christ” programming is full and exciting, with 38 children enrolled for the current year and a great group of women learning skills that are being carried forward into the

community. A newsletter specific to “Best Start” is available at <http://www.threefold-ministries.org/about/newsletters-reports/newsletters/> for you to explore.

Relief efforts continue in Mexico, as does expansion of the training centre and church partnerships through our partnership with VELA Ministries.

We are “gearing up” for our third year participating in the [Ride for Refuge](#), taking place on October 5th. Watch for more details and consider joining us!



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**UPDATED!**

*We are collectively part of something grand, something bigger than ourselves. God's handiwork is everywhere and evident!*

*We cannot forget to celebrate each day that programs run, that the Centre is used, that the lives of Nicaraguans are improved.*

*We thank you wholeheartedly for your support. Most of all, we ask for your prayers as we journey through 2019 and beyond.*

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**Building Community, Empowering Communities, Following Faithfully**