

## NicaNews Jan 2017

Happy New Year! A great big THANK YOU is extended to all who continue to support Pathway to Progress Nicaragua (P2P).

### NEWS from Managua

Our Children's Center is bustling with activity today as I write. This gives me no greater joy. We have kids' cooking classes going on, we are painting a mural in the Center with six high-schoolers, under the direction of a Nicaraguan artist, and our tutor is busy working with 3 of our high school graduates who are preparing for university entrance exams. There are also boxes of shiny new textbooks, stacks of notebooks and brand new uniforms awaiting pick-up for the start of classes at Loyola next week.



Of the **seven high school graduates** we had in November, two have been accepted on full scholarship to the University of Central America. They will study psychology and accounting. Three others are writing entrance exams this weekend, with the intention of getting into medicine, tourism & hotel management, and psychology. Another is in the U.S. on a 6-month student visa, repeating a half year of high school to perfect his English-speaking ability and last but by no means least, we have one student who is, as yet, undecided about what

she will do. She's an excellent student though and we know she'll decide well. We are so very proud of all of these kids! Pictured above is recent graduate Camila, proudly displaying her diploma. Camila is sponsored by a family in Halifax. - Barbara

### Breakfast of Hope November 15, 2016

Scarleth Umaña Perez traveled with Program director, Barbara Dunsworth, from Managua to tell her story to nearly 150 supporters of the



Pathway Program on Nov 15th in Halifax. Now 15, she joined the Program when she was only 6. She told the audience how being a part of the Pathway Program has given her hope to one day study at university, something that would never have been available for her if she hadn't been with the Program. She drew applause from the group when

she said, "*Nicaragua is a poor country but it is not a sad place. It is rich in natural beauty and warm loving people who have a fighting spirit despite the many challenges they face. I am proud to be Nicaraguan.*" Despite this, Scarleth sees many problems in her society and bad influences in the neighbourhood where she lives. And she wants to part of the solution when she grows up. "*Many adolescents don't have the support that they need in their lives and find themselves vulnerable,*" she told us, "*They are not able to develop self-esteem, or feel like maybe they don't fit in. They feel... emotionally abandoned... If I did not have this scholarship I could very well be in the same situation. Because of the Pathway Program I have been given the opportunity to study at Loyola Institute, a Jesuit school that has an excellent curriculum and teachers who are truly invested in my future. They make me feel worthy and loved.*" She concluded her speech by thanking the sponsors, donors and volunteers of Pathway to Progress "*who support us students day-to-day and empower us to make our dreams a reality. We know that you help us not only with great efforts but most importantly, with love in your hearts.*"

The event was a great success with sponsorship for 7 more children in the program. Almost **\$45,000** was given in donations (cash, cheques, online) and just over **\$91,000** has been pledged over the next 5 years. Thank you, thank you!!

### We Need You!!

### Join Us in Running for the Kids

The P2P Bluenose Marathon team for the **Scotiabank Charity Challenge** is looking for a few more runners (or walkers). Last year we raised over \$30,000 and we hope to top that this year. If you are looking for a way to be more involved with P2P we encourage you to come out and join our fundraising team for this great Maritime event, May 19 - 21. You can run (or walk) 5km, 10km, the half or full marathon, lots of choices. So if you would like to tie up your sneakers and join us, please contact our team captain Sally Williams at [sallywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:sallywilliams@gmail.com)

#### Our Mission:

*Pathway to Progress Nicaragua is dedicated to supporting an innovative program in Nicaragua that provides educational opportunities for Nicaragua's most vulnerable sector: children and youth living in poverty.*

We welcome all donations which can be made through our website [www.p2pnicaragua.org](http://www.p2pnicaragua.org) or cheques can be mailed directly to:  
Pathway to Progress Nicaragua, P O Box 27092  
Halifax NS B3H 1N0