

Annual Report June 2018

Pathway to Progress Nicaragua (P2P) saw another very successful year of fundraising and support for the Pathway students in Managua, Nicaragua. The Program has stabilized at 90 students per year. In November 2017, six students graduated and have gone on to further studies and when school resumed in Feb. 2018, eleven new students came into the Program. We are very grateful to our donors who enabled us to exceed our budget this year and send over \$130,000 to the Managua to support the education of the students in Managua.

At our Annual General Meeting in October we recognized the contribution of Diana Khosla, treasurer for the past two years, who resigned because of a transfer to Toronto. Sincere thanks to her for implementing a new accounting system which was needed to keep up with the pace with which we were growing. Two new members were elected to the Board: Jeff Purcell, taking the position of Treasurer and Ian MacDonald, member at large. In January, Jolene Mahody, resigned from the Board after five years of dedicated service; Ian MacDonald moved to the Vice-president position and Susan Grant assumed the duties of Secretary.

Our 7th Annual Breakfast of Hope was held in November at the Delta Halifax and there was standing room only when all the guests arrived – a good problem in many ways! Idalio Herrera, a 13 year-old Grade 7 student in the Program came from Managua with Ed Dunsworth and



spoke from his heart telling the audience what it has meant for him and his family to be a part of the Pathway Program. He talked about how his life has been busy and driven with purpose to complete his education and get a good job while some of his neighbourhood friends have started to leave school and follow a different path. He and his family are extremely grateful for the opportunity he has been given and he hopes that many more Nicaraguan students will be able to participate in the Pathway Program. In

the photo with Idalio are Trudy Comeau, President and Jolene Mahody, Vice president of P2P.

Early in March, a special appeal was made to many of our donors who had participated in an immersion trip as Javier, the construction supervisor, was diagnosed with a very serious medical condition that required expensive medical intervention. Former travelers donated just over \$3000 to help with treatment which enabled Javier to return to work and the building sites.

In mid April, a political crisis emerged in Nicaragua with student protests that have escalated to an unprecedented level of violence. Because of this, two immersion trips planned for May had to be cancelled and Ed and Barbara Dunsworth made the decision to leave the country

temporarily. Universities closed and grade schools suffered temporary closures but resumed regular classes after a couple of weeks. Although the Dunsworths were in Halifax for the summer months, they continued to administer the Program with regular electronic communication with staff and students. Sponsors have continued to receive regular updates on the progress of their designated students who are managing to perform well academically despite the difficult daily living conditions.

In anticipation of the May student service trips from Halifax, the footings for a small house had been put in place for building a home with a family in need. Though the students were unable to travel to Managua to do the work, P2P was able to provide the funds for completion of the house. Moises and Loredena Perez Silva and their three children now have a small, secure home of their own after living for years in one small room of Loredena's mother's home. The children are 5, 8 and 16 years old. Moises works as a mechanic and Loredena makes fruit and rice-milk drinks at home and sells them in the neighborhood.



For the sixth year, P2P entered the Charity Challenge with a team in the Bluenose Marathon. Again, our team had great success in their fundraising efforts and almost \$21,000 was raised in donations. As well, our team won the 2nd place prize of \$2500.00 for the Charity challenge category of the most funds raised per team runner. Well done, team captain, Sally Williams and the Pathway team!!



While there is great political uncertainty at the time of writing this report, P2P will continue its commitment to the students in the Pathway Program in Managua. Amid the daily chaos, the students are receiving an education that will help them break the cycle of poverty. They need us now more than ever.

Sincere thanks to the Board members and all of our donors who continue to assist the families in Nicaragua.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Comeau