



**Happy New Year** to all of our friends and supporters! We send our thanks to you and warm wishes for a happy, healthy 2019!

## News from Managua

We're back in Managua! And very glad to be here! This little 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Angelica, was a keen little "camper" in our back-to school camp two weeks ago. Camp consisted of art and oral story-telling, math games and fun English activities, all aimed at bringing the children together and re-energizing them for the new school year. The older kids, in grades 4-6, even got Carpentry Class with "Don Eduardo" and proudly made little step stools they took home at the end of the week. Angelica will get to do that next year!

Camp lasted for two weeks – the first week for our elementary school kids, and the second, for our high schoolers. After the upheaval of the last few months, it did our hearts good to see our Children's Center full of excited and engaged children.

Things are quieter now in Nicaragua and life, at least on the surface of things, has returned to normal. The new school year began at Loyola, where we have the majority of our children enrolled, on January 28 and the kids are definitely happy to be back. Tutoring is in full swing at our Children's Center, from 8 am to 5 pm with high school students coming in the morning and elementary school children in the afternoon. Each child comes twice a week from Monday to Thursday and we've decided to dedicate Fridays this year, to special fun - and educational! - activities. Could be anything from science experiments to baking bread to wood-working!

We are now turning our focus to getting all of our 14 high school graduates of 2018 settled in university or technical school. Several universities have suffered major budget cuts, and as a result, scholarships that were once available to first-year students have all but disappeared. Six of our students have secured placements, three have had to change their plans and are awaiting the results of their entrance exams to alternate programs, and we are still exploring options with the remaining five. Luckily most post-secondary institutions do not begin classes until March which buys us some time to help get these students settled.

We thank you all, our amazing supporters, for continuing to stand by us, and all of the children we together serve.

Barbara & Ed Dunsworth

January 31, 2019

## Breakfast of Hope



*Ashley del Carmen Castro traveled to Halifax in November 2018 to be the keynote speaker at Pathway to Progress Nicaragua's annual Breakfast of Hope. The Breakfast of Hope is P2P's biggest fundraiser and 16-year-old Ashley came prepared to deliver! Her warmth, her enthusiasm and her engaging personality shone through in every encounter she had in Halifax, from painting ceramics at the Clay Café to spending a day at Sacred Heart School, to seeing her first snowfall and eating pancakes with maple syrup, and speaking before an audience of 150 people at the Westin Hotel!*

*She writes:*

My experience in Canada was magical. I lived new things every day and met new people who were always attentive to me and taught me about their way of life. I feel grateful to have lived those beautiful moments with those great people.

I especially want to thank Dr. Peggy Yhap, whom I call "Miss Peggy" for her hospitality and for every moment when we laughed... and there were many! And of course the climate! I have to mention the climate because I was freezing!

Seriously though, the trip was an experience that opened my eyes to thinking about many things in a different way. It not only helped me to practice my English, but I learned, big time, that working hard pays off. Before I left Managua, I worked hard on memorizing my speech and on practicing my pronunciation. In the end, it was so worth it. I felt so blessed to share with other people about my life and my dreams for the future.

Last but not least, I want to thank Mr. Ed and Miss Barbara for this incredible experience because, without them, I would never have been able to live it.

With love, Ashley ❤️



Photo outside Pathway Children's Center, Managua 24-1-2019

## Bluenose Charity Challenge June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

**We Need You!!**

**The P2P Bluenose Marathon team** for the **Scotiabank Charity Challenge**, is looking for a few more fundraisers. Last year we raised over \$22,000 and we hope to top that this year. We encourage you to come out and join our team for this great Maritime event! You can run (or walk) any distance you choose and we will help you set up your fundraising account and get you started! So if you would like to tie up your sneakers and join us, please contact our Team Captain Sally Williams, at [sallyfwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:sallyfwilliams@gmail.com)

We welcome all donations on 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

**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.*

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