

NEWS FROM THE ROOFTOP



**THE TIN ROOF
FOUNDATION INC**

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... AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

by Charlene Meyer

Time and time again we are asked, "What made you decide to start the Tin Roof Foundation?" I admit, the first time I was asked that question my mind was racing with so many images I had seen in Nicaragua. Was it the thought of so many children forced to work to help feed the family? Was it the images of scores of sick children? Could it have been the thought of children not being able to attend school? Perhaps it was the memory of visiting a family on a rainy day. Their home was constructed of sticks, mud, and pieces of tin with a dirt floor. Their dirt floor was transformed into a mud floor as water poured through their home.



I'm sure these images were part of the reason for the birth of the Tin Roof Foundation. However, by far, the main reason was...I had fallen in love with the children and their families. Their eyes pierced my heart as only a child can do.

Our latest trip to Nicaragua was no different. My heart was overwhelmed with emotions as a child ran to greet me, held my hand, and guided me up the steep hill to her classroom. More emotions rushed in when a young boy gave me a bracelet he had made...a very special gift I will always cherish.

Yes, extreme poverty is a very complex issue. Do I have all the answers? No, I don't pretend to have all the answers. What I do know: one person can make a difference in this world. LOVE can conquer the most complex issues, even helping break the cycle of extreme poverty.

Won't you help us spread our love and compassion for the children through supporting education, meal programs and health-care? It truly is love for these children that makes the difference. From my heart to yours... Thank You!



BRINGING HOPE TO KIDS

JOB & ROSALINA – LIVES REFLECTING PERSEVERANCE AND UNFALTERING FAITH

by Peter Schaller, Executive Director of Rayo de Sol

Rosalina’s story personifies what it means for The Tin Roof Foundation to spread love and hope across Nicaragua.

As I read the book of Job I was reminded of Rosalina López, a humble woman who lives in a forgotten neighborhood in the city of Matagalpa with her three children.

Rosalina is a single mother and, unlike Job, she has never had much of anything in terms of material possessions and opportunities. Job had a large family, properties, livestock—all-in-all a very comfortable lifestyle, until all of that was taken from him.

But, much like Job, she has faced a lifetime of challenges and difficulties and she has persevered in her faith. Rosalina was born into poverty and was never sent to school. She grew up without a father and started working on a coffee plantation at a very young age probably 6 or 7 years old. She never went to school. Rosalina is 39 years old; she grew up in the 1980s. (This is not a story about a woman who was raised in the 17th century, when women had limited access to education.)

TRAPS OF POVERTY

Rosalina eventually started a family of her own and unfortunately, got into an abusive relationship. The father of her children left them and doesn’t provide any financial or emotional support for his children. She is a single mother, born into poverty, living in poverty and struggling with the challenges of raising three children in an environment laden with innumerable risks—drug traffic, prostitution, violence—all of the unfortunate traps that accompany chronic poverty.

Since Rosalina has no formal education or job training, finding ways to generate income is a constant challenge. She is also hesitant to look for a full-time job, because that would mean leaving her children alone, in a precarious situation, for many hours a day. The only option that Rosalina has is to wash and iron clothing for families in the city of Matagalpa. For washing or ironing a dozen pieces of clothing, she makes \$1.25. Just to give you an idea, to make enough to live in extreme poverty (\$1.25 per day per capita) she has to wash four dozen pieces of clothing a day by hand.

Your support and donations to The Tin Roof Foundation helps families like Rosalina’s break out of poverty. Tin Roof’s goal is to bring hope to kids, to change the lives of Rosalina’s daughters and others. One family at a time.



THANK YOU, YOU ARE A BLESSING!

by Sandy Price, Mulukukú, Nicaragua

Dear Tin Roofers,

You are certainly a blessing of life for so many, many people; young, old and in between. Thank you a million times for again supporting us and making health services, meds, exams, education in health, and above all giving hope to the poor here in the mountains of Mulukukú.

We received your generous check and it is already working to help people with their health care. We will continue to support the training of the health providers in 30 rural communities with bi-monthly training and follow-ups in each community.

Your donation makes the health system work for the poor. Many people need transportation

just to get to the hospital where most of the services are free although there often is a lack of technology, lab equipment etc. that modern hospitals have at their disposal. Then there is the situation of people being discharged from the hospital and unable to get home for lack of money to pay bus transportation.

Our biggest individual expenses are for CAT scans and magnetic resonances, which have to be paid in dollars. The bi-monthly workshops also are an expense that we couldn’t cover if it were not for your help. Through the health providers the benefits of all you do through your donations really multiply.

May you be blessed in every way in this New Year!

IMAGES OF LATRINES AND FLOWING WATER

by Kevin Russell

“All the money anyone needs is just enough to prevent one from being a burden on others.”—Milton Wright, The Wright Brothers

I read *The Wright Brothers* during a recent Tin Roof-sponsored trip to Nicaragua and was shadowed by Milton Wright’s (Wilbur and Orville’s father) thought about finance during my time there.

The trip itself was filled with a variety of images. Images of people, places, and projects. Images of hospitality. Images of children’s laughter and play and learning at school. Images of beans and rice. Images of seeing sewing micro-enterprise at work and water actually flowing where once there was none. Images of talking with prior-known friends and images of talking with newly met friends. Images of some things being the same as in years past, while for other things, a renewed sense of the path forward.

With all those images in mind, a specific one comes forward of a latrine. Yes, a latrine. In a small village in Matagalpa, Tin Roof is working with local folks to build individual latrines for families scattered around the area. Think about it—a latrine (bathroom) is an essential part of our daily lives. And it’s something, if you’re like me, you don’t spend a lot of time thinking about. Yet, latrines are something all of us have in common. They’re important and something that if you didn’t have, you’d miss. So maybe you can sense a bit of excitement that might come if suddenly you have a sanitary latrine to use rather than what existed before.

The latrine/water project is just a small part of Tin Roof Foundation’s investment in Nicaraguan lives. Tin Roof provides the opportunity for you and me to invest in people beyond ourselves.

It’s written, “If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?”

That’s the twinge I felt as I read Milton Wright’s take on finance. That’s the excitement I feel when I see firsthand the good that is done through our investment with Tin Roof.



THE TIN ROOF FOUNDATION WHO ARE WE?

The Tin Roof Foundation is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to “Bringing Hope to Kids” by providing educational opportunities, meal programs, healthcare to facilitate learning, and economic development assistance for their families, thereby enabling children to escape the spiral of poverty. There are no salaries. All administrative costs are funded by Tin Roof Foundation founders Al and Charlene Meyer and special designated gifts. The Tin Roof Foundation, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Ohio. It is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

NICA NOCHE 2015: A MONUMENTAL SUCCESS

by Cathy Rector
Nica Noche photos by Moreland Photography

Although this was one of several years I’ve been a Marketplace volunteer for Nica Noche, each year the celebration just keeps getting better. The 2015 Nica Noche, with Kim Vaught as our enthusiastic emcee, was an evening chalked full of giggles, great fun, good food, and generosity. Guests were greeted in the festive hall at Sharonville Convention Center by the vivacious Latin music of the award-winning Tropicoso band. This nine-piece ensemble of talented musicians set the



stage for a fun-filled evening through their spirited tunes. Throughout the evening, guests were encouraged to join the band on the dance floor to make a few Latin moves of their own. Karen

Turner and her dance instructors from Ritz Ballroom Dance Studio helped guests learn a few rumba moves. Even Tin Roof’s own Al Meyer got in on the action to learn some salsa steps. Watch out *Dancing with the Stars!* Not to be outdone by the great music was the split the pot team headed up by Linda Teasdale and Mary Jo Neville. Those ladies really know how to make the moves and worked the crowds raising \$355 for the evening and generating some great crowd participation leading up to the winner. Everyone—the youngest and most mature—got in on this action. Many thanks to Anita Richter for her generosity in donating the winnings to assist in medical expenses for Carlos in Guatemala.

RETAIL THERAPY

The Nica Marketplace was another great success and included merchandise from Nicaragua—from hand-made clothing, ornaments, and jewelry to freshly roasted, delicious coffee from the beautiful mountains of Nicaragua. Kudos to the team who designs and makes this pop-up market a success each year. What would Nica Noche be without the auctions? More than 20 tables lined the great hall for the silent auction. Hundreds of items were donated to make this part of the evening a great way to raise money for the programs supported by TRF. Many thanks to the donors as well as the team who organizes all the details and setup for this part of the event. And of course, the fun really started with the live auction, this year

headed up by Jim Poe, our guest auctioneer. He got the room buzzing on a couple of big-ticket items. After all, that’s what fundraising is all about—having fun in the spirit of giving for a great cause. Not only did we pull out all the stops for an evening full of fun, we were pleased to have a number of out-of-town guests and supporters this year around the tables. Special guest Jessica Espinoza—Tin Roof’s devoted volunteer translator and friend from Managua—spoke to everyone about the importance that Tin Roof plays in the country and the impact to the people in their daily lives. This was Jessica’s first time visiting the U.S. and we were thrilled TRF played a role in her adventure allowing her to share her beaming smile, kind heart, and unending devotion to the work of Tin Roof to the wider audience at Nica Noche. Our long-time friend Peter Schaller, executive director of Rayo Del Sol, blessed the audience with a sincere call to action and the importance of giving and how Tin Roof’s donations directly benefit families in Nicaragua. And in a most appropriate way, the kids from Melody Makers of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy shared their gift of music that echoed that sweet music and smiles of children are indeed gifts from God across the globe. It’s a privilege to work with such a devoted group of people who are passionate about showing their love for families in Nicaragua. This tireless devotion is what makes Nica Noche such an enjoyable, successful evening to celebrate and contribute to a great cause. Thank you for doing your part in that success and celebration.

THANK YOU to Friends of Nica Noche

“We could not have done it without your support!”

Total Raised: \$247,890.00

Matching Gift Challenge \$120,000
Atlanta Friends
Chicago Friends

Event Champion Sponsor (\$25,000)
Anonymous

Event Patron Sponsor (\$10,000)
Anonymous

Event Benefactor (\$5,000)
Anonymous
Laree Mugler
Don & Linda Teasdale

Event Donor (\$1,000 – \$4,999)
Anonymous
Wayne & Ann Barfels
Darryl & Sheilah Bashford
Mike & Nancy Conaton
Rick & Joan Dostal
Jack & Diane Douglass
Bob & Kathy Johnson
Barry & Kathy Lisner
Al & Charlene Meyer
Russ & Peggy Monjar
Jon & Danielle Quales
Bill & Nancy Tidd
JoAnn Withrow

Business Contributors

Archways McDonald’s
Bella Luna Restaurant
Bell’s House of Tobacco
Bluebird Bakery
Body Reflections
Buck’s Tavern
Camp Washington Chili
Chef’s Café
Deerfield Twp. Fire Rescue
DeSha’s
Dole Food Company, Inc.
Donato’s
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Gran Pacifica Resort
Grand Baymen Belize
Happy Chicks Bakery
Helen’s Fine Framing

Table Sponsors (\$600)
Highland United Methodist Church
Cathy Rector & Bob Anderson
Jack & Charlotte Schreckenhofer
Cheryl Wood

Highland United
Methodist Church
JETS Pizza Johnny Chan 2
Mariemont Players, Inc.
Mayorga Coffee
MCC Preschool Parents
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Moreland Photography
O’Bryan’s Wine
Poe Auctions, LLC
Ritz Ballroom
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Roney’s Restaurant
Rookwood Pottery
Silver Spring House
Sports Connections
Tony’s Steak & Seafood
Whit’s Frozen Custard



Shop & Earn Dollars for Tin Roof—at NO COST TO YOU! Kroger Community Rewards

Do you and your family shop at Kroger for your grocery or pharmacy needs? Now is the time to enroll (or re-enroll) in the Kroger Plus Community Rewards program to make sure Tin Roof Foundation receives your support. There is NO COST to you to enroll in this program—and Tin Roof will get a regular check towards our important programming! Please enroll today and choose Tin Roof:
www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3



A LOVE EXPERIENCE

PRAYER PARTNERS — JEANETTE & PEGGY

by Peggy Monjar

What I thought would be a visit showing our group how our partner, Familias Especiales, worked in the recycling area turned out to be an unforgettable experience. We were introduced to our “Prayer Partners” shortly after our arrival at the recycling facility.

Sister Becky asked each one of us to spend five minutes praying for his or her partner. One was seated, one stood with their hands on the shoulders or head of the other and silently prayed for that partner

for five minutes. No words were spoken; our love and prayers were conveyed through our touch. At the end of the five minutes, our roles were reversed. As I was praying for my partner, I could sense her receiving my love and prayers. In turn, when she was praying for me I felt her love through her touch as well as a closeness to God because of her prayers for me.

This experience reinforced the words of 1 John 4:16. . .



“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

MEMORIAL GIFTS. . . .HONOR GIFTS

DONATED BY:	IN MEMORY OF:
Tom & Jane Baker	Walter E. Reeder
Jim & Ellen Bell	Amanda Bell
John Brusegard	Vic Bjelde
Jack Bunnell	Peggy Bunnell
Toby Dominick	Don Potter
Earl & Dianne Edmonds	Carol Anne Blessing
Tom Evans	Nancy W. Evans
Kathy Farrell	My mom, Charlene Farrell
Ramona Gillock	Charlene Farrell
The Gillock Family	Charlene Farrell
Gary H. Goldschmidt	Howard & Ruth Goldschmidt
Jane Hoffman	Michael J. Hoffman
Kevin J. Hopper	George & Jessie Hopper
Laura Hovland	Parents
Peg & Charles Lenhart	Joseph Farrell
Rich Lohmueller	Ginny & Charley Lohmueller

DONATED BY:	IN MEMORY OF:
Keith & Marla McMannis	Sean Conner
Al & Charlene Meyer	Don Potter
	Mother of Barbara Collins
	Mother of Karen Schwarz
	James R. Murphy
	Sue Rice Wetenkamp
	My husband, Carl Shadix
	Donald Starr Potter

DONATED BY:	IN HONOR OF:
Mary Creelman	Don Creelman
Malcolm Douglas	Peter Schaller
Jack & Diane Douglass	Joan & Rick Dostal's
	36th Anniversary
	36th Anniversary
	of our First Date
	Brad Bowers' Birthday
	Our Family
	Diana Elliott
	Al & Charlene
	Al & Charlene
	Charlene's Birthday
	Reunion of Peter & Ximena
	Peter Schaller
	Jose Segundo

WHY GIVE TO THE TIN ROOF FOUNDATION?

- 100% of your gift goes directly to the project
- No salaries (all volunteers, all the time)
- No administrative costs paid from your donation

Note: We will never share your name or information with any other organization.

MAKING FRIENDS AND FEELING THE LOVE

A LESSON IN GIVING AND ACCEPTING

by Taylor Swank

I just want you and Al to know how truly thankful I am that I was able to go on this trip with you. I couldn't have spent a week with a better group of people. Thank you for the experience and privilege of being a part of the Tin Roof's mission.—Taylor



Seeing as I had only been out of the country once up to this point, my expectations of this journey were barely existent. I came into Nicaragua with the mindset that these people were poor and I, a privileged kid, was going to give them knowledge and guidance. That was a misconception. Little did I know I was not going to be the one giving charity, but rather receiving it.

THEY WERE THE SPECIAL ONES

Nor did I know that what I would be receiving would be greater than any knowledge. They gave me love. Here I am this blue-eyed, blonde girl, who is so pale you'd think Casper was my relative. And yet, the kids welcomed me to their schools with smiles and hugs. There was no judgment of my differences. I could have been blue, green, or orange and these kids would have still welcomed me.

I have never found that kind of immediate acceptance anywhere else. They just wanted affection and to give affection. As we walked in, these kids stared at us with an almost awe-like fashion and would just come up and hold our hands, like we were the special ones, like we were here to bring them joy.

I am here to tell you that they were the special ones. The poverty they lived in was heartbreaking, and knowing that I have so much and they have so little hardly seemed



fair. And yet they were the most passionate, selfless kids I'd met.

The United States is blessed with so many opportunities that these kids didn't have, but even in their extreme poverty these kids were rich with love. Never did they once complain about the conditions or lack of food, and never once did they ask for a handout. I've never felt such a bond in a community, and you could feel the love they had for their country. The best part about it was they shared that love with me.

I can't imagine a better mission to have been a part of, and I have so much appreciation for Charlene and Al for giving me the privilege of doing so.

I'd also like to thank Peter. I can't tell you how much of an inspiration you were to me. I can only hope that one day I can give the type of love I received on this trip, from not only the kids of Nicaragua, but also from the friends I went there with.

LOVE IN ACTION



Poverty is injustice in its most horrific disguise

But despite these enormous difficulties, Rosalina is unfaltering in her faith and in her commitment to creating a different future for her children. And that is the story of hope. Although she never went to school, she is convinced that through education, her children will have a better quality life. She is committed to providing them with every opportunity that she never had, but she can't do it alone.

As Nelson Mandela said, "Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice."

Please help us show our love by spreading hope across Nicaragua, not because you feel obligated, but because you are motivated by Rosalina's example of faith and perseverance. Your love, commitment and compassion have the power to change the world. Send your tax-deductible donation today.

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