



# PRONiCA

## News from Nicaragua

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*Quakers in Solidarity with Nicaraguans for 29 Years*

December 2016  
Vol 29, No 4

## Year-End Report from In-Country Director

By Bambi Griffin

It has truly been a privilege to help prepare this year-end report. I have been working with ProNica, and our project partners, for less than a year; compiling the reports that our partners submitted gave me the opportunity to read about their work on the community level that they had been engaged in long before I arrived.

After I accepted the position of In-country director, I moved to Nicaragua, while it was approaching the end of the fiscal year. As a result I was introduced briefly to our project partners before I started work on this report. Those first brief meetings could not teach me the depth, and history behind each project. Ideally I would have liked to visit each one at length, met the workers, and spent time in the communities they serve. Reading the project partner narratives helped me to learn more about each organization, and the people they work with.

I developed a greater understanding as to why ProNica, and our supporters, are committed to partnering with these groups in their work.

Every report shared a common thread: they all have a commitment to seeing more autonomy and dignity in the lives of the marginalized. The

reports are true, and honest accounts of their successes, as well as the obstacles they experienced. I came to understand that there is no quick fix to any one problem or issue, and when choosing to work in solidarity you are choosing a supportive role with the partner. This is long-term work, not short-term solutions. We are not applying figurative Band-Aids, we are standing with, and working with them through the successes and the challenges.

One thing that is true for all of us here in Nicaragua, and in the States, is that each day in a small organization there is a heavy workload. At times, while sitting behind a desk you can feel far away, or disconnected to what is happening out in the field of

solidarity. This time has allowed me to match the stories of our project partners to the requests that they made last year, and connect the dots between the paperwork and people. It has also given me a renewed energy and commitment to working with them in the coming year. I hope that you find their work as inspiring as I have. □



Bambi Griffin In-Country Director

## Annual Report 2016

## News from Nicaragua

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### ProNica Board

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ProNica's Vision is solidarity that empowers and educates North Americans and Nicaraguans.

ProNica's Mission is building sustainable cross-cultural relationships between the peoples of Nicaragua and North America using Quaker values.

ProNica assists in creating and sustaining programs by and for the Nicaraguan people. These projects hold promise for grassroots growth, arise from Nicaraguan needs and tradition, and provide not only survival but also empowerment.

ProNica's priorities are community cohesiveness and economic development, non-violence training, health, education, sustainable agriculture and women's empowerment. We seek to link Nicaraguan people with concerned individuals internationally to promote understanding and mutual action. We educate those who seek information or wish to serve.

Our work is accomplished by an international core of dedicated volunteers and staff who seek to embody Quaker principles of consensual decision making and action and respect for that of God in everyone. This service project arose from a deep concern over the international exploitation of the Nicaraguan people and resources and a wish to respond in practical and constructive ways.

ProNica, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation under the spiritual care of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with offices in St. Petersburg, Florida and Managua, Nicaragua. ProNica is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Nicaragua.

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## ProNica Project Partners

### Martin Centeno Community

Almost thirty years later the community of Martin Centeno still works to rebuild their lives after war. In **2016** ProNica was able to provide the community **\$3,700 USD**. They were able to use this funding to make building repairs on their community-meeting house, and construct two new homes for desperately poor families who were living in unsuitable conditions. In total they used \$1,500 to repair their community house and \$2,200 to build two different family homes for families in need. Community members matched this funding with their own labor to make the repairs, and build the homes.



This year the community is asking for **\$2,578 USD** to continue to improve their community, and to give back the dignity of the families who compose this remarkable example of solidarity and collaboration. The proposed funds would be used to construct more homes and make home improvements for the community members who are most in need as well as to make improvements on the school for the children's safety and security. □

### Casa del Nino

Casa del Nino provides a variety of enrichment activities that promote preventative healthcare through the use of natural medicines. They also run a mobile health clinic offering low cost pap smears for women.

In 2016, one of their goals was to strengthen their Credit Program. ProNica awarded them **\$3,000 USD** to strengthen this project. This allowed them to offer low-interest loans to community members. The revenue generated was used to cover some of the costs of their mobile health clinic. They had hoped to be able to cover



50% of the cost, but were unable to achieve this in the first year. However, they were able to cover a portion of the cost, and will be able to continue to increase the amount covered next year as loan repayments continue. In October, they met 80% of their goal for pap smears performed, and are hoping to reach 100% by the end of 2016. So far they have performed 268 pap smears, 30% of which were from women new to the program. Eight women tested positive for HPV and received treatment that may have saved their lives.



**For 2017, they are requesting \$3,000 USD** to continue to grow their micro-loan program, and use the income generated to cover the costs of the mobile clinic. □

## Rio Blanco

Rio Blanco Domestic Violence Network (COOMPRIO RL) COOMPRIO R. L. is a cooperative located in Rio Blanco composed of 60 members. It works with 120 different families primarily on food security projects in 8 different communities in the municipality.



In **2016**, ProNica provided **\$3,000 USD** to assist with several projects. Thanks to the funding, they built the first phase of an ongoing collection center project for the community. The collection center is for processing harvested rice grown by the community members. They collected over 110,000 pounds of rice to be sold by women who are survivors of violence to help them supplement their incomes. They were able to increase the income for the cooperative members with the collected rice, and use part of the revenue generated to help cover the costs of their violence prevention program. In addition, they offered on-going support to families who are growing their own gardens to help improve their families' nutrition, and revived their community herbal medicine--- garden growing a variety of plants that can be used as natural medicines in the communities.

**In 2017, they are requesting \$3,000 USD** in order to buy a rice sorter, and to provide for a community gardening advisor who will help with crop maintenance. □

## Alternatives to Violence Program

Fundación Somos Así por la Paz y la Vida (FUNSAPV) works to alleviate and heal the roots of violence in communities where violence is prevalent. It teaches community health workers in rural communities about the identification, prevention, and intervention of sexual and intrafamilial violence. It also provides training tools that can be used as alternatives to violence during workshops for the community workers.

In **2016**, ProNica was able to provide a total of **\$2,400 USD** toward this non-violence training. FUNSAPV's objective last fiscal year was to train forty promoters and they successfully trained thirty-eight.

In 2017, the objective is to work in the most isolated rural zones of northern Nicaragua to continue to reaffirm and develop skills that promote changes in behavior, leading to the prevention of violence, and fostering a culture of peace. The plan is to work toward this goal using methodologies and tools for the identification and prevention of violence, and offering assistance to survivors of violence. FUNSAPV is able to contribute \$2,000 USD to continue this project into the next year and requests **\$10,045 USD** from ProNica to continue and build this valuable program. □



# Partners in Culture and Literacy

## Esteli Library

The Library in Esteli received \$550 from ProNica in 2016. With this funding the library was able to expand their outreach and promotion of recreational reading. The program brought services to 320 children in two rural communities who live too far away to access the library. The youth participated in poetry contests, reading circles, and made arts and crafts to help promote, and advocate creative thinking. One of the goals of the library staff was to show youth that reading is not just a school activity, but something that can be done to enrich their lives and open the doors of opportunity for them.



In addition to the rural outreach, approximately 350 children and teens come every month to participate in a variety of library activities including: art projects, reading circles, and poetry contests. All of the services are free of charge and are open to every member of the community. For 2017, library staff want to increase this monthly number of participants to 430 youth. To help them reach this goal, they are requesting \$1,342.41 USD for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to help support their general budget and program outreach. □



## Library of Achuapa



The Library of Achuapa is located in the small community of Achuapa in Northern Nicaragua. The tiny two-roomed library is well known to community members because it serves as a vital resource for the town's children. With no computer, and a simple, but well-loved book collection, the library welcomes dozens of children daily to study, do homework, and use the Library's resources.

In 2016, the Library of Achuapa was awarded \$1000 by ProNica, and received several additional donations from visitors with ProNica. With this funding, they were able to buy new books to grow their collection, and art supplies so that youth can paint, and draw when they visit the library.

For 2017, the library is requesting \$1,200 to buy new books to add to the collection, especially textbooks because textbooks are not provided by the public school. Additionally, money would be used to purchase art supplies, and to make a modest improvement to the library by building a simple receptionist desk for the librarian. □

Librarian Rafaela showing one of the books purchased last year with support from ProNica





## Casa Materna

The mission of the Mary Ann Jackman Association (Casa Materna), founded in 1991, is to provide life-saving services to high risk pregnant women who live in remote areas, and who have scarce economic resources. Since 1991, Casa Materna has treated and cared for 17,660 women.



In **2016**, their goal was to serve 420 pregnant women and ProNica was able to support their vision by awarding them **\$2,600 USD** to contribute to reducing maternal mortality through family planning, and for follow-up care for new moms after delivery. With that funding, Casa Materna saw an increase from 60% to 75% of women seeking family planning, and as a result, they are starting to see child spacing between the pregnancies in women of childbearing age in the communities they serve.

In addition to offering family planning education and services, they offer tests to detect early cervical, uterine, and breast cancer in women and have saved lives by providing necessary medicine to a total of 20 women from five different communities.



For **2017**, Casa Materna is requesting support from ProNica in the amount of **\$5,000 USD** in order to continue their work in these important areas. □

## Los Quinchos

In Nicaragua, many children are forced to live on the streets due to poverty, some come from violent, and abusive homes and go to the streets for escape where they encounter drugs and alcohol, and often become victims of sexual abuse. Los Quinchos supports these children in getting off the streets and starting a new life with housing, education, health and job training programs.



In **2016** Los Quinchos received **\$5,000 USD** from ProNica this support was critical in buying food for the 35 girls at Las Yahoskas, and for the 30 children in the 'filter project' the first step in the program. Money was also used for educational materials and support for the 50 children living on the farm for boys as well as the 50 children who moved into Granada the final stage of the program. The Posetega school and its library which educates 120 children in the rural community also received assistance.

In **2017**, Los Quinchos would like increase the number of youth entering the program while implementing programs to enhance diet and wellbeing. To work toward achieving these goals, Los Quinchos is requesting **\$31,531.42 USD** from ProNica. □



## Achaulinca Women's Center

The Achaulinca Women's Center serves and empowers impoverished women of the Achaulinca neighborhood in Managua. The Clinic offers reliable and comprehensive health care.

In 2016, they provided 628 pap exams in their uterine/cervical cancer screening project which provides early diagnosis and treatment of these cancers. The clinic also provides breast exams, and preventive education and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. The clinic also opened a shelter for women and children seeking refuge from family violence.



### Achaulinca Beauty School

The Achaulinca Beauty School offers a beauty and cosmetology program for women which operates weekly classes from February through December. In Nicaraguan salons, most workers earn 10% of the total charge for the salon services. These graduates will be able to work from home, allowing them to earn the total charge for services, and thus make a good living providing for themselves and their children. In 2016, 35 women requested beauty school scholarships, and 28 women are to graduate from the program this December.

### Achaulinca Pre-School

The Achaulinca Pre-School gives a head-start to children whose families face many challenges due to poverty. Early childhood education prepares young children for success in school. In 2016, the Pre-School was thrilled to report a 90% retention rate for program youth, and was able to provide the youngsters with backpacks, school and art supplies.

In 2016, Achaulinca received \$15,400 from ProNica to support these programs.

In 2017, they are requesting \$11,184.30 to support the Women's Center, the Beauty School, the Children's Library, and the Pre-school. □

## El Limon

In the rural community of El Limon, families struggled during the rainy season. Heavy rains caused flooding and washed out a steep dirt road that connected the residents to the main road. This made leaving or entering the west side of the community impossible when it rained. In the spirit of solidarity, students from Washburn University worked alongside the community members and helped them raise \$2,000 USD for road repair.

Professor Rick Ellis sent the money to El Limon through ProNica. With the money, community members worked to make the needed repairs. These changes prevent the road from washing out when it rains. This allows children to attend school, families to get to work, and insure that if someone in the community needs access to emergency healthcare they will be able to get to a hospital. □



El Limon community leader  
Ismael

## Become a monthly donor

When you sign up as a monthly donor, you will join others reaching out with consistency and predictability to participate in the life-enriching work of the project partners in Nicaragua.

### How it works:

Donate online at [www.ProNica.org](http://www.ProNica.org).  
Choose the donation frequency option, "monthly."  
Complete process by pressing the "donate now" button.

### Monthly donations by mail:

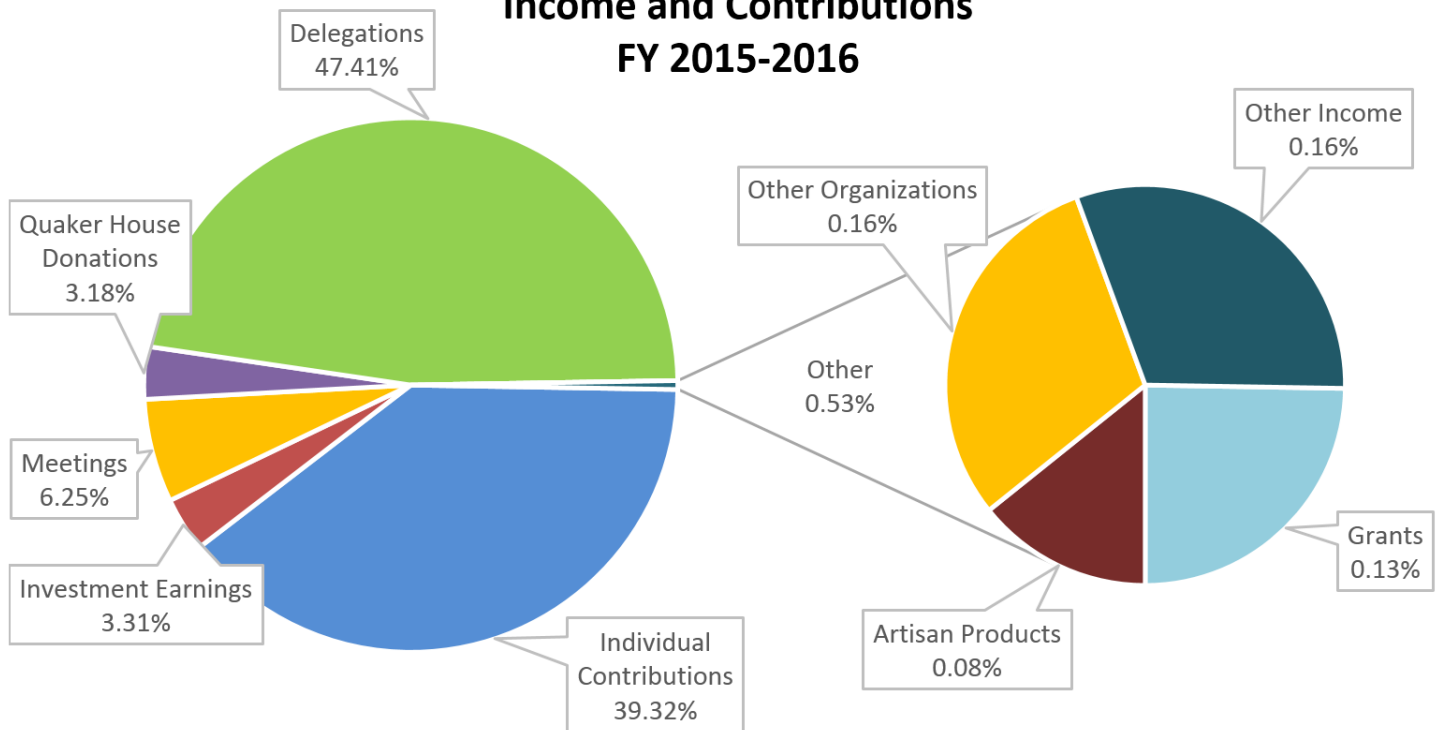
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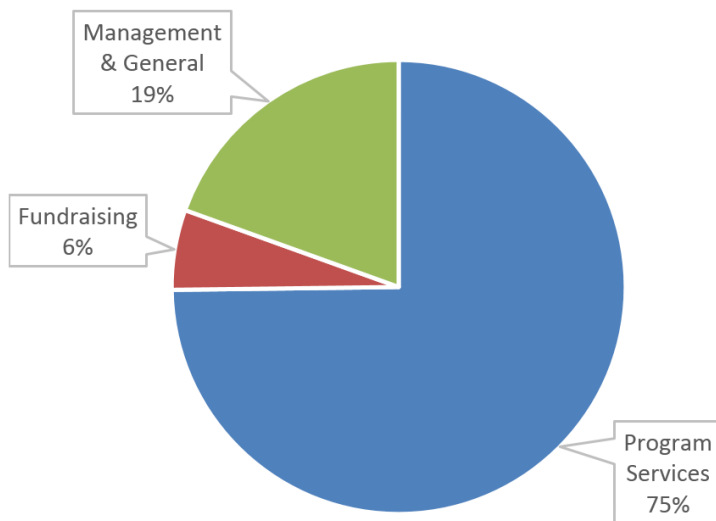


# Income and Expenses Fiscal Year 2015-2016

**Income and Contributions  
FY 2015-2016**



**Expenses  
FY 2015-2016**



Program Services	
Intercultural Exchange	22.9%
Total Health & Nutrition	15.1%
Nicaraguan Presence	14.8%
Social Services	9.2%
Program Information	2.7%
Community Development	2.3%
Libraries & Education	1.3%



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We invite you to stay at Casa Cuáquera on your next visit to Nicaragua



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