

Village Update

Norwich, Nicaragua



4528 8th Ave. NE Suite 1A, Seattle, WA 98105
[p] 206.528.1066 | www.agros.org

The family of Delia Marina Aguilar and Pedro Antonio Bobadía stands out as an inspiring example in the community of Norwich. Delia, wife and mother of two elementary school children, is currently involved in a sheep and livestock project with a group of women from the community. Because of the many obstacles facing her, like thousands of other Nicaraguan women, Delia fights daily to overcome poverty. Through everything, Delia gives thanks to God for the opportunity to belong to the Agros family and to own land to plant and raise animals. Likewise, Delia's husband Pedro, though working the bitter life of a day laborer in the compromising conditions of sugarcane fields, now says "I can not complain because now with the Lord and Agros I have a new opportunity to own land and live and work together with my family." Preparing for a good season of sesame, Pedro concludes "I have great hope that I will be able to pay for this land."

Community Organization

The families of Norwich play an important role in the organization of their community. The families, together with the members of the community's board of directors, have been very active in the organization process, as well as in the execution of community activities. The families participated in the planning and evaluation process of the 2007-2008 fiscal year Village Plan

by sharing their experiences with members of other Agros communities and analyzing their community's current situation.

Norwich's leadership recently participated in several important biblical discussions regarding themes such as personal gifts and talents, God's mercy and others, strengthening the interpersonal relations in the community and promoting service-oriented leadership.

Housing & Infrastructure

One challenge currently facing the families of Norwich is food security. The families established family gardens and have begun growing various crops to ensure a wider variety of vegetables in their diets. Even so, the effort has been difficult due to a lack of sufficient water. Despite the challenges, the families are continuing with the village's strategic plan focusing on the execution of productive economic activities while accounting for the region's harsh climate.

A water reservoir was recently constructed in the community as part of the irrigation project to provide a constant source of drinking water for the families and a year-round supply of water to irrigate crops. The community is hopeful that the new system

will work and provide them with this vital resource. There is still a need for at least one or two wells to supplement this system, and the plans are in the works to drill these wells. With this continuous availability of water for their fields, farmers will be able to diversify their crops and provide a more stable year round income for their families as well as repay their loans. The plantains, a dry season crop, are currently blooming and require a lot of water to ensure a productive harvest.

Sustainable Economic Growth

In relation to economic growth, families were given technical assistance and accompaniment for the various productive projects in which they are involved. During trainings, three farmers learned how to manage protein supplies for their sheep and cattle. Also the families received training in general animal management and planted 8.6 acres of plantains.

Community Education and Training

Ten girls in Norwich continue to learn the art of sewing; an alternative for youth that allows them to develop their abilities as well as earn an income for their families that will improve their living conditions.

Fourteen families received training in preventative health. With the new hygienic practices they learned, the community will be able to avoid infectious illnesses such as the common cold, diarrhea and dengue fever. Each family received a house visit and is teaching these new habits to their children.

The community's spiritual formation has been strengthening through regular meetings of reflection and biblical studies. Together the families are fortifying their personal and family values, in addition to improving relationships of trust and solidarity. Spirituality plays an essential role in community development as a change in one's outlook on life affects relationships, communal living dynamics and overall success. From these value-based workshops and Bible studies there has been an observable change in the families' attitudes shown in improved cohesion and teamwork during the communal activities.