



What Can You Do?

- Expand** your global vision.
- Learn** about our Partner country, its people, and its culture.
- Make** international friendships.
- Visit** this beautiful country.

Involve your organization—your church, club, school, hospital, or your union. You can select a project, adopt a library, or gather humanitarian supplies.

Share your expertise as a volunteer. When people care deeply enough to share what they've learned, they pave the way toward better living conditions and enhanced human dignity.

Please Join Us
 Become a member. Activities that make a difference need commitments of time, expertise, and technical assistance to succeed.

- I am especially interested in:**
- Volunteering my skills in a current project _____
 - Using my technical skills of _____
 - Hosting a visitor _____
 - Using my Spanish language skills to provide oral translation to assist a visitor _____
 - Written translation _____
 (newsletters, correspondence, etc)

Learning Center Trek

Each winter, Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners (W/NP) hosts a Learning Center Workshop which allows Wisconsin volunteers the opportunity to travel to Nicaragua. There, citizens of both countries get to know each other, work to find solutions to common problems, and leverage international and local resources while providing technical training. An average of 15-20 volunteers participate in the annual travel trek that features hands-on workshops. Translation is provided, although many find it unnecessary in the spontaneous "show and tell" environment.



The Beginning

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In 1979, two dynamic women, Ellen Maurer from Verona, Wisconsin and Doña Angélica Pavón from Los Cedros, Nicaragua had a vision. Rural Nicaraguan women were desperate for training to develop the skills that would provide meaningful income while enabling them to remain in their communities to care for their families. In 1981, Ellen and Doña Angélica secured resources from Wisconsin and volunteer trainers from Nicaragua to form a sewing center in rural Los Cedros, a small community outside Managua.

Classes Offered

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Since then, the sewing centers have broadened their focus and transitioned into Learning Centers. Vocational training includes:

- Cosmetology
- Baking
- Kitchen Gardening
- Sewing
- Small Business Management
- Woodworking
- Sewing Machine Repair
- Poultry Raising
- Music
- Youth Recreation Programs
- and more. . .

Participants:

- Acquire skills that give them a sense of dignity, independence, and purpose.
- Use a micro-lending program to buy the equipment and supplies to start their own small business.

Building individual skills shapes and fortifies the community as a whole.

Thousands of Nicaraguans have been mentored through the establishment of the Learning Centers. Since local women coordinate their own Center, they can tailor it to their community's needs.



Supporting The Learning Centers

Donation ideas

- Beauty equipment and supplies
- Tools for sewing machine repair
- Sewing machines, sergers, fabric and sewing supplies
- Knitting, embroidery, quilting and crocheting supplies
- Cake decorating tools, baking equipment
- Money for seeds for gardening in "tropical" Nicaragua
- Volunteer trainers in the identified areas
- Craft supplies
- Monetary donations
- Summer sports equipment
- Carpentry tools
- Books in Spanish
- Musical instruments & music
- Funds to start backyard poultry flocks
- Games & puzzles for the libraries

All materials, supplies, and equipment donated to W/NP will:

- Enhance Nicaragua Partners quality of life
- Contribute to their education
- Support current Partners activities



Learning Center TREK

Wisconsin assists by providing resources (sewing machines, equipment, supplies, etc.) as well as sharing new skills brought to Nicaragua during the Learning Center Treks. A wide variety of classes are taught and reflect the needs and requests of the community and the volunteers.

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc.
Room 129, Nelson Hall, UWSP, 1209 Fremont Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Fax _____
 email _____

Membership Desired:
 Family \$30 Student \$10 Individual \$25
 Corporate \$100 Life \$500

W/NP is incorporated in Wisconsin as a tax-exempt organization and as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit registered with the IRS. All cash and material donations are fully tax-deductible to extent allowed by law.

Please check area of interest:

Agriculture/Food/Natural Resources
 Health
 Youth Development
 Cultural Arts
 Women and Families
 Other _____
 Special Talents: _____

Come to Nicaragua

- ✧ Share ideas
 - ✧ Teach new techniques
 - ✧ Encourage and inspire each other
- If you have. . .**
- ✧ A commitment to service and cultural exchange
 - ✧ A desire to contribute and a willingness to learn
 - ✧ A taste for new adventure
 - ✧ A need to share knowledge and expertise

Then the Learning Center Trek may be for you!

Women and Families

Nicaragua and Wisconsin women play a vital role in the economic and social well-being of their communities. They assume major responsibility for the health, nutrition, and welfare of their families.



Community education is more than the act of teaching people practical skills. It is a process of bringing citizens together to solve local problems. Partners' belief is that no development project can be successful without the active involvement of citizens in shaping their future.

Learning Centers are part of the Women and Families component of the Partnership. They insure that women are fully integrated—both as practitioners and beneficiaries—in all aspects of partnership work.

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc.,

(W/NP) was founded in 1964 as a part of the people-to-people component of the "Alliance for Progress." Today, as a private, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, W/NP brings together volunteers—citizens of both countries getting to know each other, working to find solutions to common problems, leveraging international and local resources, and providing technical training.

Support comes from individuals, corporations, and foundations. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. law. The Partnership is open to all individuals and organizations willing to share their skills and to work together toward greater international cooperation among the peoples of the western hemisphere. To learn how to volunteer, contact:



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 website: <http://wnp.uwsp.edu>



Working Together, We Make A Difference

Learning Center Program

Lifting Up Through Learning

