



## **Your Generosity at Work**

*in providing land, hope, life to the 33 families  
in the village of Nueva Esperanza, Nicaragua*

### **PRESENTED TO**

Nueva Esperanza supporters

### **PRESENTED BY**

Agros International  
2225 4th Ave. 2nd Floor,  
Seattle, WA 98121

**"Thanks to God and  
Agros, I have a house  
and land. In the future,  
my children will have a  
place to work."**

**—Juana**

***Nueva Esperanza, Nicaragua***

***Village Update, Autumn 2011***

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of Nueva Esperanza and the hope and opportunity it brings to the families who live there.

As we begin a new year, we're happy to present our update in a new format, which integrates feedback we've received over the years about our village updates. Some of the changes we've made include providing an overall country update from Country Director Ricardo José Espinoza Bejerano as well as including more photos of the families you'll come to know through your support of Nueva Esperanza.

We hope you like this new update, and would welcome any feedback you may have. Thank you for your commitment to Nueva Esperanza!



*A new school, recently completed by the community, provides children a place to learn that's close to home.*

## From the Country Director . . .

Through the help of our faithful supporters, since Agros was launched in Nicaragua in 1998, nine villages have been established, and more than 2,100 people have been assisted. Three of the nine villages are now Agros "graduates." Six villages are currently supported, empowering 275 families to work their way out of poverty and achieve their dream of land ownership.

During this quarter, 299 families established 1,195 acres of crops, and 50 new beehives were started for the production of honey. Most exciting, during the quarter, families in Nicaragua earned a total of \$17,575 selling produce. This income allows them to repay their land loans and loans for various agricultural enterprises. Over the course of the whole year, 92% of all families in Nicaragua sold produce.

In the area of personal growth and life-skills development, 333 people participated in 25 workshops. These sessions were designed to help attendees identify their personal gifts and potential, and learn important practical skills like hygiene and proper food handling. We're also excited about a pilot program we launched called "growth groups," which aim to encourage individual, family and community spiritual nurture.

It was a busy quarter for the Agros team, but the results are worth the effort, as we see our villages steadily develop self-sustainability and hope for the future. Thank you for the important role you play in this!

**—Ricardo Espinoza**

## Nueva Esperanza Facts at a Glance

- ◆ Founded in 2008, Nueva Esperanza is in its fourth stage of development (of 10 stages).
- ◆ Families grow two different crops to sell for income, and 19 of the 33 families own livestock.
- ◆ All of the families successfully market their products.
- ◆ All families are up-to-date on repayment of enterprise loans.
- ◆ All of the families have ready access to clean water for home use.
- ◆ 86% of the school-aged children are attending school.
- ◆ 57% of the community's leadership positions are held by women.



*The community's young children are regularly monitored to ensure that they are on track in their physical development.*

## Autumn 2011 Village Highlights

### Community Organization

The families of Nueva Esperanza re-elected the community leadership. The re-elected leaders received training to reinforce their skills and understanding of the important role they play in the village's advancement.

### Housing and Infrastructure

Although the community is only three years old, all the families of Nueva Esperanza have houses with running water, electricity and latrines. The community also has its own elementary school, access roads and a truck for transporting supplies and harvested crops.

### Sustainable Economic Growth

The primary crop grown in Nueva Esperanza is coffee. This quarter, the families transplanted 80,000 coffee

seedlings into 34 acres of land. In total, the community has 136 acres of coffee under cultivation, an average of four acres per family.

The families continue to learn about coffee cultivation techniques from representatives of the Atlanti coffee exporting company.

Four field trips were taken by groups of community members to learn from each other about coffee cultivation by sharing experiences and best practices.

Samples of coffee leaves were collected to test for nutritional deficiencies. The soil is also being tested for its nutrient level. The results of these tests will help determine what type of fertilizers to use to improve future coffee production.

Three families planted passion fruit trees this quarter. Income from this enterprise will supplement their

earnings from coffee and help them pay off their loans from Agros.

### Community Education & Training

The community's adults, divided into four "growth groups," received training every 15 days in such topics as values, self-awareness and self-esteem.

These sessions encourage members to share their dreams and visualize the future they are working toward. Members are also encouraged to think about a plan for their lives and identify the values needed to reach their goals.

29 families participated in a workshop addressing gender equality and the issue of domestic violence.

The community's designated health promoters also received training from a local hospital in such topics as pregnancy risks, breastfeeding and birth control.

### Making a Difference...

Recalling the past, Ángela says that the job from which she made the most money was a coffee harvesting job. That job paid her \$109 per month—more than the typical \$60 per month that she made as a cook or in other farm labor jobs.

But that was the past. Now, Ángela and her husband, Ramón, are farming their own land in Nueva Esperanza, working for the day when they can finally call themselves "land owners." It is a long way from the days of scraping by, working for others in temporary jobs.

Ángela and Ramón are leaders in the community. Ramón manages the community warehouse, and Ángela is a health promoter. Their dream is to leave their land to their children so that they will never have to work for others.

