





The only handicap is a poor attitude

We are a social non-profit organization created in 1996 to support families with children, teens, and young adults with disABILITIES especially to low or no income families.



I am a star with FE

*Foundation Special Families  
of St Julie Billiart  
Matagalpa Nicaragua*

**The Foundation of Special Families (FE)** in Matagalpa serves over 900 families with a variety of community and social services in

4 centers:



Environment



Nutrition



Mobility



Recreation





# *Familias Especiales de Santa Julia Billiart*

## **Vision**

We actively work to build a society that is inclusive of People with disABILITIES and their families, supporting their development and opportunities for growth.



21 years of service

## **Mission**

**Special Families of St Julia Billiart** is a non-profit organization that promotes the development of children, teens, and young adults with disABILITIES and their families, identifying their abilities and needs for their entry into different programs that contribute towards the affirmation and recognition of their role and rights in society

# *Saint Julie Park of Stars*



Thousands of people have played in our accessible children's park.



**The first accessible park in Central America for people with disABILITIES.**

The park was the first project that the Special Mothers wanted because they needed a secure place where they could take their children and feel that they would belong. Through the park we can realize social integration since all kinds of people come to enjoy the park. Our special education school and integrated therapy and mothers programs are all within the Park of Stars



# Wheelchair Workshop



The workshop was created to increase mobility for children and adults who depend on aids. Their wheelchairs allow them to have a more independent life and mobility with dignity.





# ARTIESPECIAL

*Art made by Special Hands*



**ARTIESPECIAL** offers support for young adults with disabilities for painting and other art forms. They hone their skills by crafting piñatas, signs, paintings, games, and other handmade items, with environmental protection themes.



Animals in danger of extinction in Nica





# *Recycle Familias Especiales*



- We started recycling in Matagalpa in 1997 in order to provide employment opportunities for special young adults and mothers of disabled children.



Our main objective is to contribute to the conservation of the environment and create employment opportunities for those who cannot be employed elsewhere.



*Recycle Today For A Better Tomorrow*

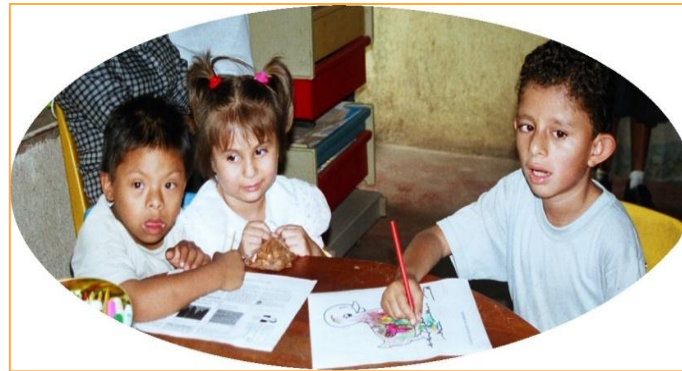




# *Rayitos Special Education*

An integrated center for special education that attends to the educational needs of children that do not have access to education.

The team is composed of a psychologist, three special education teachers, and various other assistants, and volunteers



We work with children with:

- Linguistic problems
- Down Syndrome
- Autism
- Physical disabilities
- Developmental delays
- Learning disorders







# *Smile Kitchen*



The “Smile” Kitchen was created to offer lunch to the children attending the Special Education Program Rayitos. Designed to help confront the problem of malnutrition that many of the children from the poorest families in the outskirts of the city suffer, which many times causes disABILITIES



# *Yogurt With Love*



We are making yogurt, cheese, granola and other natural products to support the Smile Kitchen. For 3 years in a row Yogurt with Love has won first place in the national Cheese Fair. This product is given to children in the therapy programs and others who need nutritional supplements. The yogurt and cheeses do not contain chemicals or preservatives--they are completely natural, and the granola is gluten free. We offer a wide variety of natural flavors





# *Horse Therapy*



- FE has a Nicaraguan therapist who we sent to study hippotherapy at the University of Gimberant in Barcelona.
- This therapy uses the harmonious movement of horses to treat certain physical and developmental disABILITIES



# *Physical Therapy*

Our physical therapists work with the mothers in the **Park of Stars** and also work with groups of volunteers from other countries to bring home therapy to children with more severe problems, who can't leave their house.







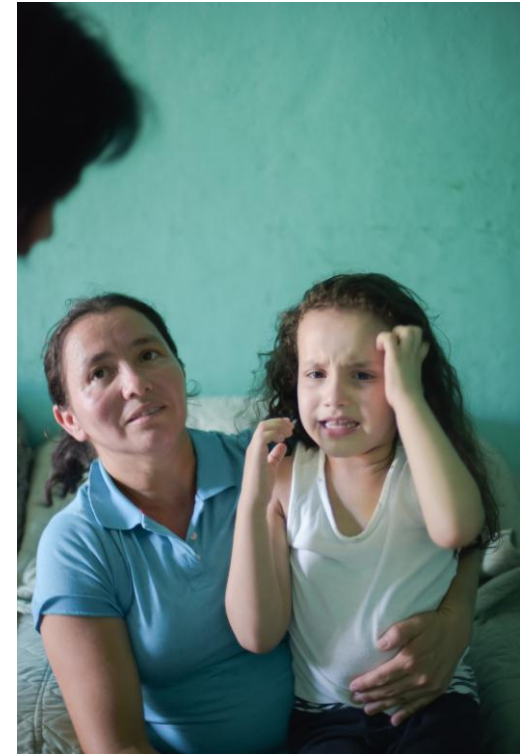
# *Mental Health*

We have a neurologist and a psychiatrist that help children, teens, and mothers. In Matagalpa, these specialties do not exist. They travel from Managua and help approximately 20 patients one Saturday per month. Two psychologists from FE are in charge of follow up visits for the recommended therapy . They also assist families to receive medication from government programs and supplement the medication with psychiatric and anti convulsion drugs which are not easily available.





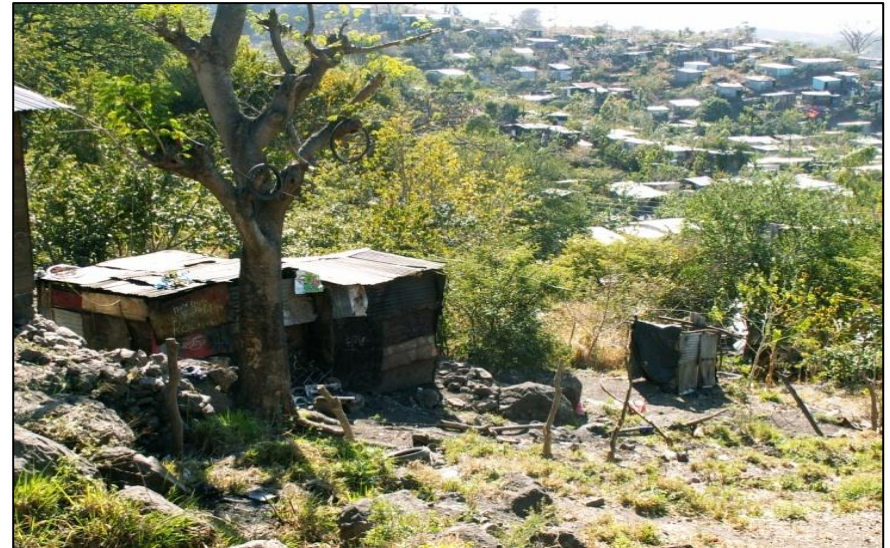
# Neighborhood Outreach



The work in the different neighborhoods of Matagalpa is the heart of FE.

Where we work with human development: to raise self-esteem, to share communication tools to prevent violence, and parenting classes

Our team is made up of a psychologist, a social worker who is a *Special Mother*, and three other mothers who act to inspire the mothers in their own homes.





# Community Education



Issues of accessibility, mobility education, health and more



We educate people in the community about the rights of people with disABILITIES

We do this by taking different actions to raise awareness in the community regarding the needs and abilities of someone with a disABILITY and their family.





Mother Leaders represent Special Families in each neighborhood. They act as advocates by identifying families that have children with disABILITIES in their neighborhoods

They meet once a month with a social worker and psychologist to coordinate activities in the different neighborhoods, and to share with each other and receive training.





Thank you!