**Welcome to The Lily Project!**

Executive Director Anielka Medina's mother, Azucena (‘Lily’), lived a life typical of women in rural Nicaragua - a mother raising 7 children on her own by the age of 25, the family living on less than $2 a day. Anielka experienced her 48-year-old mother’s excruciating battle and death from cervical cancer and founded The Lily Project in 2015 with Susan Cotton and Jonathan Butcher **because no woman should die from this preventable disease.**

**Cervical cancer, a sexually transmitted disease, is Nicaragua’s #1 cancer killer and leading cause of death for women of reproductive age.** Nicaragua has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer mortality in the world due to its inadequate health care system, where only 10% of women have access to preventive care; prevailing machismo culture which encourages sexual behaviors that spread HPV, the virus that causes cervical cancer; and lack of knowledge about fertility, reproduction and sexual health.

**The Lily Project, a women’s health NGO in Nicaragua,** improves the health and wellbeing of women and girls through a women-centered model of care and development. Lily’s mobile health clinics bring care to women and girls in rural villages where the need is greatest. Designed to serve the whole-health needs of women and girls, Lily provides cervical cancer screening and treatment, sexual and reproductive health education, trauma counseling, and community building.

**Building Leaders.** Lily's mobile health team is led by Executive Director Anielka Medina and staffed by young women, all recent graduates of the University of Nicaragua (UNAN). Lily’s paid interns spend a year serving rural communities throughout Nicaragua, and during this time they receive skill-based training, personal coaching and leadership development to empower their future success. We envision a better future for all women in Nicaragua with our interns leading the way!

**Scalable.** The organization is mobile and modular.Lily deploys 3-person teams that travel to remote villages, equipped with a 'pop-up' exam room, folding gynecological table and medical supplies. The clinic requires no electricity and is set up in minutes, typically in a school, church or home. Not only is the clinic designed to make examinations possible in difficult settings, it also offers women privacy and peace of mind during the exam - often her first health care experience.

**Simple.** In low resource countries, cervical cancer - a slow growing cancer - is prevented with a simple, cost-effective screen and treat procedure endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) incorporating VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid) and cryotherapy. VIA identifies pre-cancerous areas of the cervix by washing with simple distilled vinegar (acetic acid). When swabbed abnormal lesions become white and can be seen by the naked eye or with low magnification and treated immediately with cryotherapy. This overcomes the barriers of PAP and approaches appropriate in developed countries.

**Results: (as of 5/2017)**

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| - 5,124 Examinations | - 121 Villages Visited | - NGO status and MINSA service |
| - 189 Cryotherapy Treatments | - 6000+ girls educated | area approved in March, 2017. |
| - 3 Women lost to cervical cancer | - 8000+ Facebook community |  |

**2020 Commitments**

* 40,000 women screened; more than 1,600 treated for precancerous lesions; capacity to screen 18,000 women annually at a cost of less than $10/woman.
* Educate 250,000 girls through local events and social media to empower healthy behaviors.
* 6 Lily Health teams, employing 30+ young women and supporting 100+ local community partners.
* Sustainable revenue sources account for 25% of total operating budget.