SALUD PARA TODOS LOS NIÑOS
SPTLN

FNE INTERNATIONAL
PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

Salud para Todos los Niños

SPTLN

Bringing hope and healthcare to Nicaragua’s most vulnerable children

Health for all children

Program overview

In rural Nicaragua, too many children with severe congenital disabilities, such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy, are left without the care they desperately need. Their families face an impossible reality: a public healthcare system that cannot provide essential services like life-saving formula, mobility aids, or specialized treatment. Without support, these children suffer in silence.

RATIONALE AND GOALS

Founded in 2016 in response to the urgent need for care among children with genetic and chronic conditions, SPTLN began its work in the village of Chacraseca, just outside León, supporting a small number of families. Today, the program reaches 140 medically complex children, providing essential medical care and long-term, compassionate support.

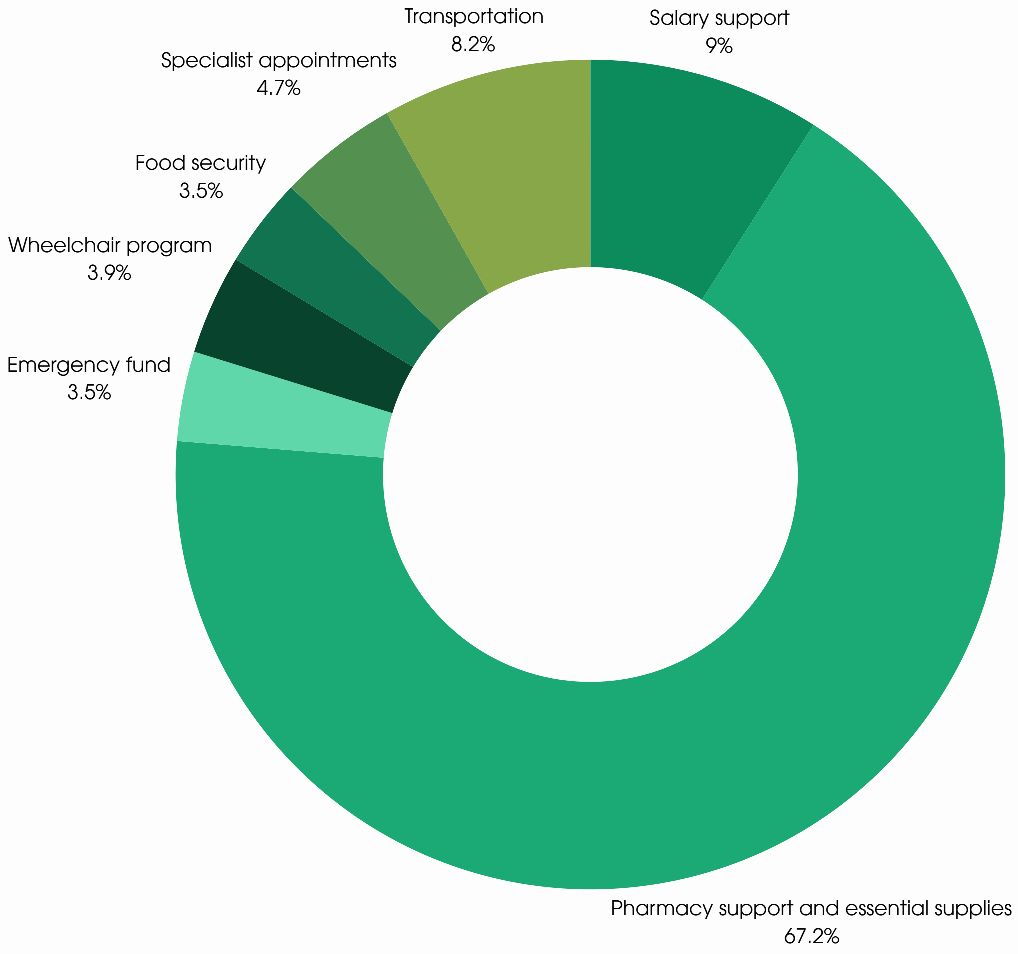
With a dedicated Field Coordinator and Program Supervisor, SPTLN helps families navigate Nicaragua's healthcare system while also stepping in with direct aid—medications, specialized equipment, and visits from international healthcare professionals. Our mission is simple but powerful: to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

SPTLN plays a vital role in bridging the gaps left by an under-resourced public healthcare system, ensuring that children with complex medical conditions receive consistent, compassionate care. Our support includes:

- Medication funding for families unable to afford prescriptions
- Emergency aid, including hospital stays, transportation, and lodging when public services fall short
- Continuity of care during political, economic, or systemic disruptions
- Regular visits from our US team of specialists who travel to Nicaragua 3–4 times per year to follow up with patients.

Program components and budget breakdown

Salary Support (Coordinator & Therapist)	$ 7,800
Medication & Pharmaceutical Support	$ 58,000
Emergency Fund	$ 3,000
Transportation	$ 7,000
Wheelchair Program	$ 1,000
Food Security	$ 3,000
Specialist appointments	$ 4,000
Yearly Total	**US$ 83,800**



From medications to mobility

The budget above clearly reflects SPTLN’s commitment to providing life-saving, consistent, and comprehensive care to children with complex medical needs. With nearly 70% of funds dedicated to medications and essential treatments (like formula for children who cannot swallow solid food), it’s evident that the greatest need (and impact) is in keeping children healthy, stable, and out of crisis. The remaining budget supports the critical systems around that care: transportation, access to specialists, emergency assistance, food security, and mobility.

Why transportation? For many families in the SPTLN program, accessing specialized pediatric care is a significant challenge. The only public children’s hospital is located over 100 kilometers (60+ miles) away, and the public transportation system is not a viable option for most, especially for children with complex medical needs. Marcela, a young girl who requires regular dialysis while she awaits for a transplant, is a clear example. Without reliable transportation, her life-saving treatment would be out of reach. SPTLN steps in to cover these costs, ensuring that children like her can get to their appointments safely and consistently. This is why transportation represents 8.2% of the program´s annual budget: it’s not just about getting there, it’s about access to survival.

Local roots, global reach

SPTLN maximizes its impact through strong partnerships with local healthcare providers. Clinica Alonso, a trusted medical facility, collaborates with the program to offer lab tests and appointments at reduced costs. Additionally, several local doctors generously provide discounted services for SPTLN families. This community-based support model not only increases access to essential care but also encourages shared responsibility: 98% of families contribute a 10% co-pay on medications and nutritional supplements like fortified milk. These collaborations ensure sustainability while maintaining dignity and engagement for the families we serve.

What happens when local care isn't enough?A team of U.S.-based volunteer specialists travels to Nicaragua up to four times a year to provide follow-up care for children in the SPTLN program. These visits give families access to experienced medical professionals and specialized care that would otherwise be unavailable. In exceptional cases, such as Luis Enrique, a young boy with craniosynostosis (a serious condition where the skull bones fuse too early) SPTLN's support has gone even further. With the help of SPTLN/FNE, Luis Enrique was able to travel to the United States for life-changing surgery, giving him a chance at a healthier future that would have been impossible without this collaboration.

By the numbers

- **400+** children supported since inception
- **140** actively followed patients
- **100+** received medications and specialized equipment
- **US$83,800** in annual program costs
- **3-4** specialist trips per year
- **2** permanent local staff members

COMMON CONDITIONS/DISEASES TREATED:

Cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, trisomy 21, epilepsy, autism, chronic kidney disease, hydrocephalus.

Consistent care

Adaptability

Essential support

SPOTLIGHT: WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM

One of SPTLN's most impactful initiatives is the provision and maintenance of custom wheelchairs. These are life-changing devices for our patients providing mobility, reducing health complications, and opening the door to education and community engagement.
With pediatric wheelchairs no longer being imported due to Nicaragua's political unrest, we've partnered with the Futuro Foundation to build and customize chairs locally. We also collaborate with a program that employs disabled adults, promoting inclusion and local ownership.

A Lifeline for Children with Complex Needs

Access to medications, nutritional supplements, and medical supplies is a core pillar of the SPTLN program. In rural Nicaragua, where even basic treatments are often out of reach, this support is essential for children with complex medical conditions.
SPTLN provides not only immediate relief but also long-term, reliable care. Families trust the program to help them navigate their child's health needs with dignity and compassion, bridging public health gaps so children can receive the treatment, nutrition, and support they need to thrive.

Pediatric Essentials

- Multivitamins (e.g., Multivitaminas, Ademar C Infantil, Cebion)
- Melatonin (used for sleep regulation)
- Omega 3 (regular and for kids)
- Vitamin C (powder and chewable)
- Vitamin ADK, Arginina, Immuvit, Neurofortan

Prescription Medications

- Risperidone (mental health)
- Captopril, Carvedidenk, Atemperator (cardiac meds)
- Valproic acid, Levetiracetam (neurological/epilepsy)
- Domperidone, Esomeprazol (digestive issues)
- Loratadine, Difenhidramine (allergies)
- Clonazepam, Psicodol (psychiatric use)
- Azitromicine, Ciprofloxacin (antibiotics)
- Zepol, Clotrimazol cream (topical meds)

Respiratory & Allergy

- Ventolin spray, Budena, Ipramist, oral saline Sterimar
- Bronchovaxom, Vertika, Lemovit

Supplements & Special Nutrition

- Fortidied powder milk/ formula (Ensure Advance, Nido, NAN, Enfagrow), Proteinex, barley malt syrup, Argesyl, Winvit
- Cereals, Gerber baby food

Infant and Childcare

- Diapers (various sizes), wet wipes, Sebamed liquid soap
- Oddent (oral care), Gynox, Triple A Plus

Dermatological and Hygiene Items

- Lubriderm, Dermacover, Uveblock spray, Alcohol gel, Blucaps shampoo
- Olive oil, liquid soap, Lid Clean

Other Medical Supplies

- Sterile gauze, tape, cotton, povidone-iodine, hydrogen peroxide, Aseptosan
- Therapeutic drops and gels (e.g., Clodex gotas, Acrylár gel, Diclofenac gel)

Stories of Impact

Monica, 16, lives with cerebral palsy. When we first met her, she was unable to hold up her head. Today, she attends school, sings, sends us cheerful voice messages, and colors beautiful pictures. Last year, she celebrated her 15th birthday with a full *quinceañera* celebration. Her transformation is a powerful testament to the impact of consistent care, encouragement, and community support.

Luis Gabriel, 3, has a smile that lights up every room. He lives with epidermolysis bullosa, a rare condition that makes his skin so fragile it blisters with even the slightest touch—leaving him vulnerable to painful wounds and serious infections. Despite these daily challenges, Luis's spirit is unshakable. He loves building towers and creating imaginary worlds, showing us that even in the face of adversity, joy and play can endure.

Luis Enrique, 8, is a boy with craniosynostosis, a condition where the skull bones fuse too early, causing serious complications. With support from SPTLN/FNE, he traveled to the U.S. for life-changing surgery. Today, he's in school, catching up with his peers, and communicates well despite a speech delay. He loves trucks, bikes, and anything that moves: his resilience is unwavering.

Monica

Luis Gabriel

Luis Enrique

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