



**Integrated Center of Development
(CID):
CORAZON CONTENTO
QUARTERLY REPORT
JANUARY-MARCH 2020**

Granada, Nicaragua

THE CURRENT SITUATION

It is difficult to express our emotions and feelings during this period of Pandemic and the Political/Economic chaos occurring in Nicaragua presently. COVID19, as in the rest of the world has, destabilized both the social and economic spheres and the emotional stability of our families and our beneficiaries.

We hope to get through this period together and be stronger and motivated to continue to accomplish our goals and objectives. Nicaragua has been struggling for two years with dictatorial leadership and now is facing the pandemic with no attempt by the Govt to help curtail the potential surge of this disease. So, our director Patricia Fernandez and the Board decided to close our facility on the 19th of March. We then took the necessary measures to continue to offer the care that our beneficiaries need in different ways utilizing new technologies. In these first three months of 2020, we achieved all our goals and even though we had to transform our procedures to protect the health and safety of our participants. We continue to fight for the rights of people with disabilities, improve their standard of living and help the integration into their families, community and the workforce. Our board has decided that, despite the physical closure of the facilities, to reduce the transmission of COVID19, services will continue to be offered to our participants. Our staff is developing programs so parents can participate with their children at home. Facebook, Zoom and WhatsApp allow us to work with the participants at home and we are seeing great support from the caregivers. Our organization has unified and are all fighting to accomplish our goals. We are incredibly pleased by the positive response from the parents! We pray that everyone at Corazon Contento and all of you will stay healthy!

William Ashman

OUR CURRENT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (EXCLUDING OUR PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS) IS 362. The programs are:

35

Occupational therapy

45

Language stimulation

216

Psychological evaluation

66

Physical therapy

PLANTING FOR THE EARTH (JANUARY 10TH)

Our young people with disabilities participated in this initiative. Together with other organizations they collected plants to take home so that they could promote the cultivation of gardens at their homes.

Our center provides, as part of occupational therapy, activities that promote the autonomy and independence of our young people with disabilities. This boosts their self-esteem and confidence.

This helps prepare our young people to enter the workforce in areas such as gardening, cooking, beauty, hospitality etc.

And finally, we raise awareness of employers and the society of the existence of law 763 on the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of hiring them.



ZUMBA WITH HEART (JANUARY 17TH)

In support of our friends at the Tio Antonio, center for the deaf, which was destroyed by fire, Corazon Contento organized a Zumba fundraising activity.

Our young people made bracelets to give to all participants. All that participated paid a fee and the proceeds were given in full to Antonio Prieto, director of the Center for the deaf.

Corazon Contento is always ready to collaborate with the other organizations in our city. We consider it essential to work with the different organizations in Granada in order to achieve our mutual goals. In addition, we helped clean up and then worked on the reconstruction caused by the fire.



OPENING A NEW SERVICE (FEBRUARY 26TH)

In February, a new specialized service for autism was established. This service consists of a committee which includes the psychologists Gabriela Sánchez and Magalis Diaz and by the Autism specialist Ivania Andrade. This committee has worked together forming a method for diagnosis and has created procedures for autism spectrum disorders. The creation of this initiative became extremely important since the number of families with autistic children requesting treatment increase by several times during 2019. Early evaluation, diagnosis, the process of assimilation and the understanding of parents of what is Autism are some of the important areas we are attending. Next, we work on therapies that these children need in terms of sensory stimulation, speech therapy, behavior, etc.

In addition, playful activities are offered and a sensory stimulation classroom was created to work on the sensory issues of these children. This type of space is unique in our city. Trainings are being given to the parents of these children so that they can continue to help their children at home. Our teachers have direct contact through WhatsApp, which the children love. This new commission has met the needs of the children with autism spectrum disorders. We have seen great results.



TELETON 2020 (MARCH 2ND)



Our art group Contentarte, was invited to The Teleton 2020, which took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Managua.

This activity is an annual fund raiser for Nicaraguan children with disabilities.

Our art group performed "VIVIR" on the televised gala. Annually our young people perform at this nationally televised charity gala.

OUR PARTICIPANTS ON NATIONAL TV

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF TAEKWONDO (MARCH 3RD)

Carolina Tercero, our taekwondo teacher, took our students to compete at the para- taekwondo tournament of the National Federation of Taekwondo. Two of our young people won awards and the other participants did very well. This activity has been in operation at our center for more than three years and includes both young people with intellectual disabilities and children with behavioral problems.

The well-being and self-esteem of the participants has seen a great improvement since participating in this activity. Projects like this help to break the barriers, myths and prejudices that encompass the lives of those with Autism.





APRIL, MONTH OF AUTISM





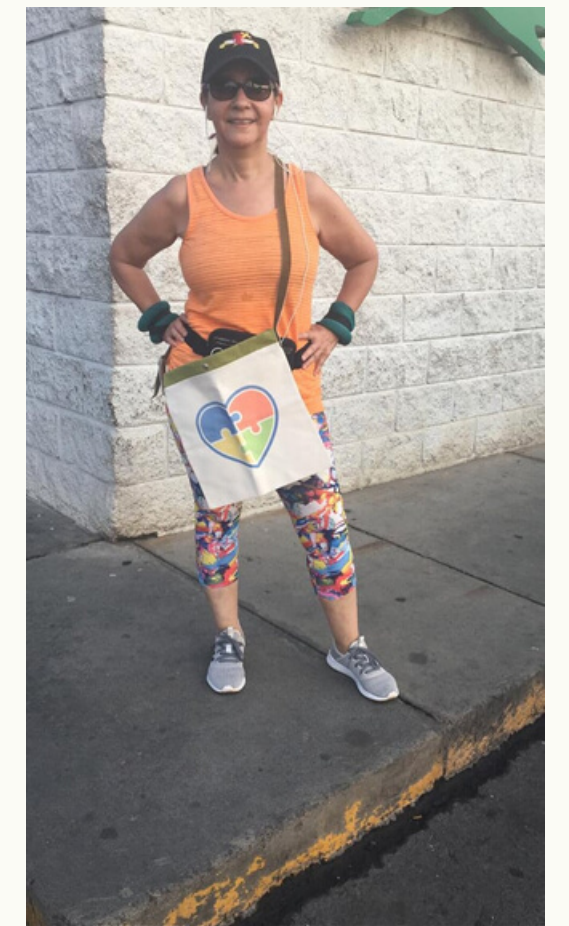
On April 2, we celebrated the international day for awareness of autism. With this celebration we want to make the community aware of the importance of knowing and respecting people with autism spectrum disorder. This year, we were unable to do any face-to-face activity due to COVID19, but we have carried out awareness-raising activities on the internet. "Azulon," a puppet Patricia created is used to convey the message of tolerance and inclusion through videos on youtube ("blue capsules"). These are short explanatory videos about autism in a humorous presentation Children also enjoy.

In addition, a beautiful video was released with images of all our families with autistic children. All dressed in blue (the color representing autism) showing their happiness, again trying to eliminate stereotypes and prejudices about autism.

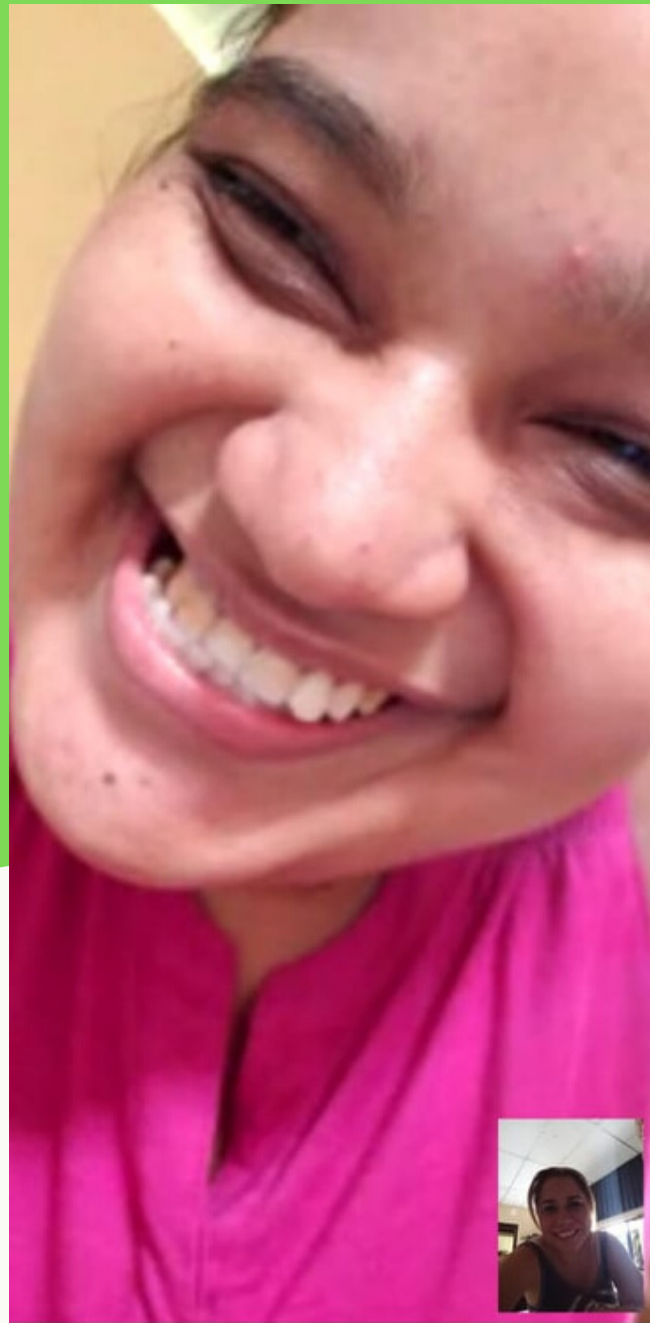
You can see all our videos in this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqq-x2au5s-nRUgCIP6JuVA?view_as=subscriber

We also have a fundraising campaign during April to sell large purses with the Autism logo inside the CC heart. This project has generated a lot of enthusiasm and has been successful in the awareness amongst the community.



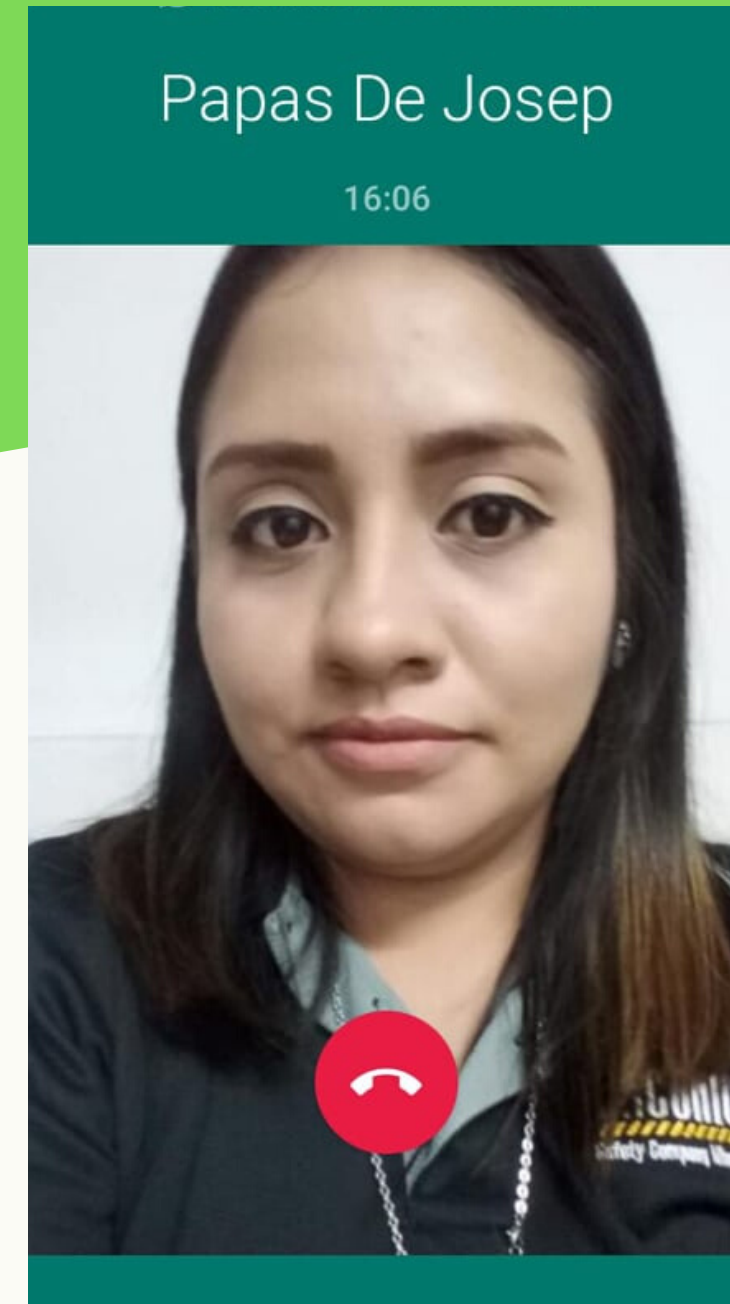
OUR CENTER ADAPTS TO THE EMERGENCY WHILE STILL ATTENDING TO THOSE WHO NEED IT IN THE WAY POSSIBLE.



Communication with our students



Work plans for parents at home



Communication with parents

Paul and Lesley Wyckoff

Susie Wyckoff

Ann Wyckoff

Brooks Smith

Ines Swanson Cloud 9 of Steven's Church

Asociación Amistad Frankfurt Granada

Nicholas Chalmers

Stephen Rich

Mandy Rich

CCEN

Scott and Lilly Vaughn

Skip and Barbara Vaughn

Barry Segal

Rick and Jan Kellogg

Rob and Monique van Deudekom

Gerard and Tilly van Rooijen

THANKS