

Quarterly Report: Corazon Contento June, 2019 Granada, Nicaragua





The political situation in Nicaragua since April 18, 2018 has negatively affected the Nicaraguan economy. Nicaragua had the fastest growing GDP in Latin America between 2010 -2017 of 5.2%. However, in 2018 it was reduced by 3.8 % and projections are that during 2019 it could reduce by double digits. It is now the second worst performing economy in Latin America only better than Venezuela. Even with this difficult situation The staff of Corazón Contento has worked tirelessly to continue the services, activities and inclusión with stellar results for our babies, children , young adults and families.

We want to thank everyone who has supported Corazón Contento not only in 2019 but from the very beginning. Without this support we could not continue to provide our services to the Special Needs Community in Granada. Unfortunately, due to the local situation our donations are down by 36% so it is even more important. With local donors facing financial problems we have lost supplies such as food, diapers, Wheel chairs, education materials, clothing and toys, So we intend to set up a fund to purchase these locally since the importation of such goods has become very difficult.

Every day we are looking for new ways to source resources to continue our services and to support the growing need . If any of you are Rotarians or have contacts with Rotary Clubs around the world, we are starting an International Global Grant and would really appreciate your support in finding clubs that would be interested to support Corazón Contento. So far the response by Rotarians that have visited our Center especially during the last 6 months has been very positive. I will be very happy to send the Global grant proposal to anyone who is interested. I hope you enjoy the report for I feel it represents the incredible job that Patricia and our Staff have accomplished.

With Prayers for Nicaragua and thanks to all of you,

William Ashman

Founder

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Physical Therapy

- ▶ Ligia and Pablo, our physical therapist continue working daily with the babies and the parents of the families to train them on the techniques necessary for them to utilize at home with their children.
- ▶ We have established a very productive agreement with the Nicaraguan Red Cross. The Red Cross is giving lectures to the families of Corazón Contento who have been been inflicted with Microcephaly caused by the Zika virus. Nicaragua was one of the countries most affected by the Zika Virus and we have been overwhelmed with babies born with this terrible disease. The lectures have helped to prepare the parents for what will occur and what needs to be done.



Physical Therapy

- ▶ We have also created an agreement with the UNAN University which sends Physical Therapy students to work with our participants gaining practical knowledge. This has been beneficial for the UNAN students, who have done an excellent job at our Center especially through the wonderful relationships the students built with the parents of our participants.
- ▶ For us the Project lets us help develop professionals that can provide service to the Special Needs community in the future.



Psychology

- ▶ We continue to have many more requests from the community , schools etc for our Psychological evaluations. Psychology section continues to be the most requested service. We do everything posible to meet the demand and attend to all of the children that show indications of problems such as: Learning disabilities, lack of language skills, behavioral and emotional problems. We are the only organization offering these services. Each patient receives personalized therapy after they have been evaluated.
- ▶ We are focussing more and more on Children with Autism and working with their family members. This year in April commemorating the international day of Autism We started the “Runway for Autism 2019”. Professional models paraded on the runway with our children with autism or behavioral problems. All dressed in Blue , the color of Autism. It was a big success and all family members were very proud.



Psychology

- Why does the color Blue represent Autism?

Blue represents “the Tempest of the Sea and the calm of Heaven.” This is in direct reference to the abrupt changes from their anxiety to relaxation which is what persons with Autism suffer.



Occupational Therapy

- Our youth, participating in Occupational Therapy, continues to learn different skills to help them eventually enter the work force. During the last quarter they worked in the garden and the kitchen. During the last month they received training to grow and sell cactus plants.



Occupational Therapy

- ▶ Every year we welcome summer with an outing to the beach for all of our youth.



Equine Therapy



- ▶ This program continues to have very positive results for those with physical disabilities and also those with Autism.
- ▶ It has become evident that we need donations for helmets for the participants and food for the horses. For those of you interested in Equine Therapy we have set up a fund to support this important activity.

Contentarte Project

Our newest edition of Contentarte (Happiness through Art.) started in June of last year. Contentarte has been a focal point of our goal to integrate Special Needs individuals into society. This Project unites 15 high school students without any handicap with 15 of our students. This group of Young people enabled all to see the artistic talents of our youth with disabilities along with the friendships that were made between both groups. In addition to the singing, dancing and art, in March we presented "Dreams", an adaptation of Alice in Wonderland, at the "National Festival of Theater at the University of Central America (UCA) Managua. It was a real success. In addition, we had a presentation in Granada and the theater was completely full!



Celebrations

- ▶ The celebration of “Children’s Day” and Mother’s Day, are of great importance to Corazón Contento in that we feel these events let the families celebrate and unify.
- ▶ During this semester we also celebrated the day of Down Syndrome and the International day of Cerebral Palsy. We feel that with local participation in these events there is much more awareness.





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Taekwondo

- ▶ Milagros Huerta our student with Down Syndrome participated in her first official competition of Taekwondo after participating in our classes at Corazón Contento.
- ▶ This competition enables some participants having disabilities or behavioral problems to participate.



Donations y volunteers

- ▶ We want to thank all those who donated to Corazón Contento during 2019. All donations are welcome whether it is financial, products, food or services. Everything is utilized to improve our operations as a result improving the quality of life of our participants. We also want to thank Emma and Lola who are volunteers and are doing a wonderful job! Our volunteers are fundamental to the successes of our center.



Future Needs

- ▶ Due to the situation in Nicaragua many of the local donors are unable to continue their support and we running short of the following supplies. Therefore, we have started a Fund to receive donations for these important materials.
- ▶ Education materials
- ▶ Food and Nutritional products
- ▶ Sanitary material especially Pampers for babies and adults
- ▶ Clothing and Toys
- ▶ Wheel Chairs

Thank You

- ▶ We invite you to take a look at our updated web page: www.corazoncontentogranada.org
- ▶ Also do not forget to check out our Facebook: (There are daily updates)

▶ Centro Integral de desarrollo Corazón Contento

