



Boulder Jalapa
Friendship City Projects

FCP December 2021 Newsletter

Friendship City Projects (FCP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to cooperative projects connecting Boulder, CO with our sister city, Jalapa, Nicaragua. Together we bring clean water to rural communities, support smallholder farmers in the face of a changing climate, foster educational and leadership opportunities for youth, and facilitate artistic and cultural exchange.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to affect communities in the Jalapa Valley over the past year, with a particularly acute outbreak caused by the delta virus in September and October of this year. Thankfully, vaccines became available in Jalapa in early October 2021, and we are grateful that coordinator Carla Pozo is now fully vaccinated. We will continue taking all COVID-related precautions in our operations heading into 2022 and remain vigilant regarding new information related to the omicron variant.



Donate now to provide access to clean water in Jalapa, Nicaragua.

Water Project Updates Following 2020 Hurricanes

In April 2020 after 18 months of planning and labor, FCP and the community of El Siuce completed water system improvements for the community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, the normal Community Water Dedication to celebrate and to acknowledge the hard work of the local “sustainable potable water committee” (CAPS), community labor and food support, Boulder Valley Rotary Club, Gaguine Foundation, Friendship City Projects and our local Coordinator Karla Pozo was postponed. Six months later, in November 2020, the Jalapa valley was hit by two back to back Category 4/5 hurricanes, Hurricane Eta and Hurrican Iota. Fortunately, the El Siuce system held up and, with a sedimentation tank and sand water filter, continued to provide clean drinking water to the community.

In early December 2020, Karla Pozo reached out to surrounding communities impacted by the hurricanes, finding that several communities had compromised water systems due to physical damage and highly contaminated water sources. With the help of the Boulder Valley Rotary Club, FCP provided 425 ceramic clay filters to households in Pasmata, El Trapiche, Talolinga, and Nuevo Amanecer, with each filter meeting the drinking water needs of one household. This was a vitally important hurricane recovery need for the people since roadways were blocked and going out to purchase or transport bottled water was impossible. Funding for this effort came from our FCP Emergency donation request, the Gaguine Foundation, and Boulder Valley Rotary Club.



Recipients of ceramic clay water filters.

Water Project Updates from 2021

During 2021, Friendship City Projects (FCP) has communicated and planned with the communities of El Trapiche and Pasmata, to determine what their needs are for bringing their water systems back to good working order. Both communities have a functional water storage tank and distribution system from FCP/Rotary projects completed in 2014 and 2018 but lack a sedimentation tank and a water filter. In the past, both communities had good quality source water from high up in the mountains to the north of each community. It appears that the watersheds providing this clean source water have been compromised by the hurricanes and now suffer runoff and heavily contaminated springs.

The communities of Pasmata and El Trapiche were badly affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota and are in need of new clean water system improvements. These two water projects will give over 2,000 people access to clean drinking water again. The goal of this project is to allow access to clean water for every family, a necessity we often take for granted. With your generous donations and support we will be able to complete the following:

- Evaluate and plan with each community to determine their needs;
- Possible addition of a sedimentation tank for filtering out large rock, sand, dirt and leaves;
- Possible addition of a slow sand filter or pressure filter for filtering out turbidity and biological contaminants;
- Determine the ability of the CAPS for each community to provide any needed land for the improvements and provide a labor commitment.

We are working with local project engineer, Mr. Johnny Rodriguez, for a pre-project analysis in the El Trapiche system to determine exact measurements and obtain quotes for all materials needed, as well as solidifying the total budget. Mr. Rodriguez has been hired by the El Trapiche CAPS for this design.

FCP is grateful to the communities of El Trapiche and Pasmata for their cooperation in on-site coordination with measurements and land ownership. The community CAPS will also oversee the ongoing maintenance of the systems once in place. FCP is so grateful to the Boulder and greater community for your support that have made many projects great successes and projects like this feasible. We can't thank you enough, and since we hope to continue and complete much of this work in 2022, FCP also asks you to work with us and stay informed on these future projects.



Members of El Trapiche CAPS visit with CAPS in another community to learn about their water filtration system as a possible design option for El Trapiche.

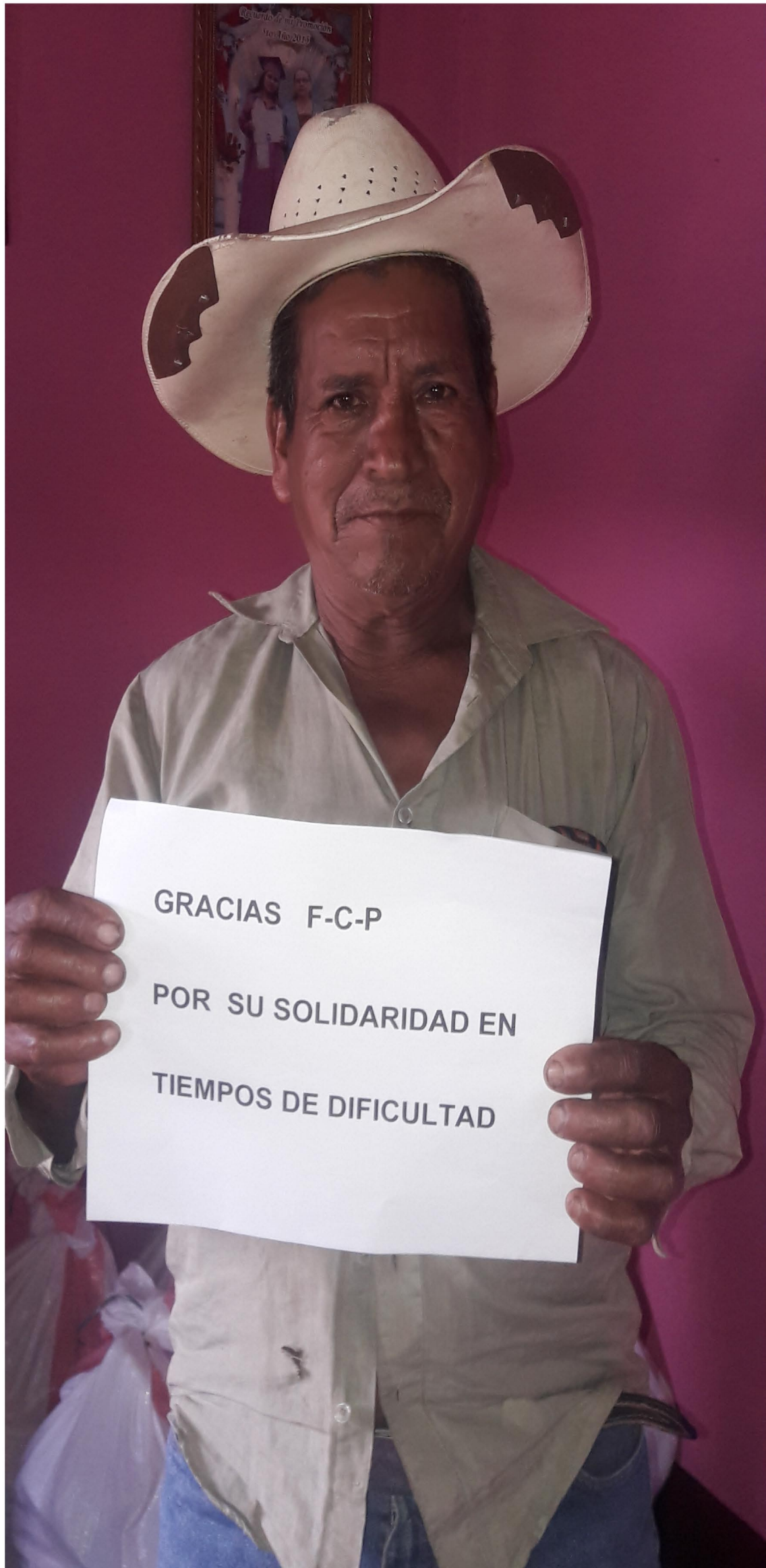
Help ensure access to clean water by making a donation today.

Agricultural Support & Community Bean Donations

In late 2020, FCP put out a call for emergency funding to support 100 smallholder farmers to replant their bean crop after it was wiped out by the hurricanes. Thanks to an outpouring of support and the hard work of Coordinator Carla Pozo, supplies were delivered in time to 100 farming families in 24 small communities in the Jalapa Valley, and they celebrated a successful harvest in 2021. Each participating farmer then donated 25 lbs of beans at the time of harvest to community programs in the Jalapa Valley. The harvested beans were donated over the course of 2021 to the following groups:

- **The Jalapan Women’s Foundation Against Cancer (FMJ)** On Mother’s Day, FMJ distributed bags of donated beans to women who were in treatment for breast cancer. This brought a bit of joy during a difficult time when the women were enduring chemotherapy.
- **Essential Food Support for Elders** Since 2020, FCP has supported a group of 20 elders in Jalapa with packages of food and essentials to help them weather the challenging times ushered in by the pandemic. Bags of locally harvested beans were included in the packages distributed in April and September of 2021. This project was a great support for the elders and they enjoyed the delicious beans harvested in the mountains of Jalapa.
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Teotecacinte** The donated beans were distributed by the parish to the homes of people recovering from COVID-19 in Teotecacinte, one of the communities hardest hit by the virus this past year.
- **Sun of Spring Infant Care Center of Jalapa** This center provides care for children from one month up to four years old.

Through these donations, we were able to connect our agricultural emergency response with efforts to promote food security in the context of the pandemic. This pay-it-forward model was envisioned by Carla, and participating farmers took pride in contributing a total of 2,500 lbs of beans to others in the Jalapa Valley struggling through hard times.



"Thank you FCP for your solidarity in difficult times"

Donate now to help a student in Jalapa complete their education.

Project FE: Fostering Education

The Project FE scholarship program currently supports ten students in the Jalapa Valley to pursue their education. Nine are college students and one is finishing high school. Four students will graduate in the near future:

- Fernando will graduate in December 2021 with a degree in chemical physics from FAREM Esteli.
- Katerin will complete all requirements for her nursing degree from UNAN Somoto in early 2022.
- Karla will finish her degree in Spanish at UNIVAL in early 2022.
- Osner will graduate from high school in December 2021 and plans to enroll next year at a university in Jalapa.

We are proud of these graduating students and can't wait to see what they do with their degrees in the future. All of the students at one point faced dropping out of school due to economic challenges; the support of our wonderful group of sponsors over the past 12 years has been instrumental in helping them continue forward and reach these important milestones.



Project FE student Katerin beams as she described the experience of helping deliver babies in her nursing practicum. She will complete her degree in 2022.

[Visit our website](#) and [like us on Facebook](#) to follow our projects and learn how you can get involved.

Thank You!

Once again, thank you to our incredible community of supporters. Without you, none of this work would be possible.



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