



# Esperanza

Newsletter

Fall 2020



## Our Mission

We are a team of dedicated volunteer doctors, nurses, medical professionals and individuals from Southwestern Ontario who have a love for helping the less fortunate in Nicaragua. We work under the umbrella of the Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation. Our team's mandate is to provide long-term commitment to a few communities by offering medical clinics, and other outreach services such as clean drinking water, sanitation, eco-friendly stoves, and sustainable agriculture in the form of family gardens, as well as educational and social support.

Yearly a team travels to Nicaragua to provide care out in some smaller communities as well as supporting the NPH orphanage where we stay. We work in close conjunction with the NPH Home for disadvantaged children, the international committee of the Rotary Club of Stratford and Granada, Nicaragua, healthcare workers in Nicaragua, and a network of organizations in Nicaragua including local government, and hospitals. COMMIT promotes microeconomics and we try to empower the local population to contribute to our projects, including some cost sharing endeavours.



***Our newsletter name  
Esperanza translated  
means "Hope"***

***We (COMMIT) have  
hope that our efforts  
will improve the lives  
of our friends in  
Nicaragua.***

**COMMIT Website:**

**[Click here](#)**

**Canadian Outreach Medical & Mission Team (COMMIT) is a project of the Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation and works in Partnership with NPH**

# Meet our Executive

**Doug Thompson**  
Co-Leader & COMMIT  
Founder



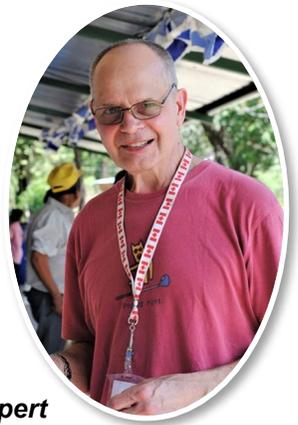
**Janice Rauser**  
Co-Leader & COMMIT  
Founder



**Bev Neeb**



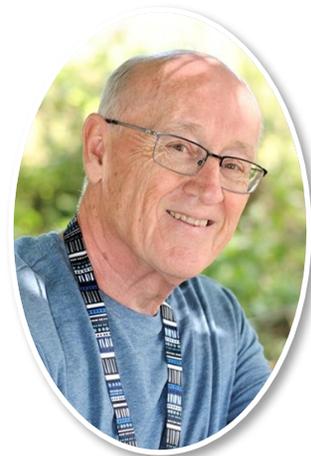
**Pat & Jane Feryn**



**David Knoppert**



**Mary O' Rourke**



**Mike Rosser**

## Dedicated Volunteers

### Building Team 2019



Our team of seven spent two weeks working with the farmers building composting worm boxes, working in the gardens and building an addition to the Community Centre in Nandarola, to house community computers and sewing machines.

We had an incredible experience building alongside the villagers and learning how to build an earthquake stable building. Close relationships were formed with the people as we worked alongside them and ate our lunches together. What an absolutely amazing mission for our Team.

COMMIT Team from right to left: Jane Feryn, Doug Thompson, Maever, Cosmo Paiu, Pat Feryn, Cody Brown, Tessa Feryn, Jimmy Espinoza, and kneeling Jhonny Flores & Janice Rauser

## Building Team Highlights



Completed Community Centre in Nandarola.



COMMIT Team worked alongside the villagers to complete the Community Centre addition.



Tessa with newly built worm composting boxes.



COMMIT volunteers working alongside local farmers in the gardens.

## Medical Team 2020



Included in this picture with our COMMIT Team are our fantastic translators, for which we are totally indebted for all their help and dedication to our projects.

COMMIT Team front row left to right: Edgar Avila, Maire Leddy, Camillia Bustard, Janice Rauser, Aman Rai, Jimmy Espinoza. Second row: Naomi Kuepfer, Eilis Weber, Makayla Meinen, Mike Rosser, and Larry Smith. Third row: Heather Nigh, Mary Honsinger, Chip Honsinger, Beverly Neeb, Jo-Anne Edlund. Back row: David Knoppert, Mark Edlund and Doug Thompson

## Mission Highlights

Our team of 17 accomplished many important tasks this trip. We unloaded and distributed equipment and supplies from a stuffed 40 foot container which included maternity beds, an ECG machine, defibrillators, wheel chairs, walkers, clothing, shoes, school supplies and much more. Our team held medical clinics in 6 villages and held a fun carnival day in Nandarola. We worked alongside the farmers in Nandarola and learned how hard they work to sustain their successful gardens. Many meetings were held in conjunction with our water project plans and for the stove project. School tables and a physiotherapy treatment table were built for the NPH Orphanage. All in all a successful, fun and life changing trip for all.



Bev, Heather, Mary and Chip serve hot dogs on carnival day in Nandarola.



Jo-Anne dispensing deworming medication to hundreds of children.

Aman treating a patient in one of our medical clinics, helping some of the poorest villages in Nicaragua.



Life savings medical supplies, a wheelchair and blender delivered to a 11-year-old girl shown here with her Mother.



Chip our oldest volunteer made 12 school tables and a physiotherapy table for the NPH orphanage. COMMIT donor also provided chairs.



COMMIT supplied first aid and training by Camillia in 7 villages.



Grateful village community in La Piedra greeted our Team for clinic day.



Adidas provided 2,500 pairs of shoes, soccer balls and clothing. Bev & translator fitted diabetic patients with new shoes.

## Project Updates

### Hospital Support

Our team feels blessed to be able to give support to the Nandaime and Rivas hospitals through donations of medical equipment, supplies and funding. This year much needed labour and delivery beds, an ECG machine, defibrillators, blood pressure machines, a patient monitor and so much more were donated. We would like to extend a very special thank you to all our generous donors in Canada. Recently money was sent to the Nandaime hospital to purchase masks and other supplies to help protect the staff and patients from the COVID19 virus.



Janice training hospital staff to use new birthing beds donated by Hill-Rom Canada.



ECG machine donated to the hospital.

## Stove Project

Imagine cooking on a cement block with an open flame inside your own home. Imagine the smoke and potential danger, especially to your children. This is what happens virtually in all of the remote villages where we work. A pilot project with 6 villagers in Nandarola using eco-friendly stoves has been so successful our goal now is to provide new stoves for all 110 families in this village. For this project, our funding raising goal is \$50,000 US.



New stoves are properly vented and easy to use.



Old wood burning stove shown above has no ventilation and is a serious health hazard for families, especially children

Innovated design of this stove manufactured by a supplier in Nicaragua uses approximately 30 % less wood and better for the environment.

For more information and photos:

[click here](#)



## Garden Project

This January the medical team had the honour of working with the farmers of Nandarola. They proudly showed us their gardens, which were producing produce and flourishing. Nine more members were added to the project and the first 9 farmers will mentor them. The worm compost project is going well and they will soon have enough to sell. Our team members learned that working the gardens and fields here in Nicaragua is back breaking work.

A few months ago our farmers started a bean project. Every grower grew approximately an area of 1.7 acres or its equivalent to one manzana in Nicaragua standard measurements. The crops are flourishing and growing well. This will provide the people with enough beans for their families, enough to pay for the rental of the land, and enough to save for planting the next bean crop. The farmers of Nandarola are truly becoming more and more self-sufficient.

For more information [click here](#)



Composting in Nandarola



COMMIT Team: Larry, Aman, Mark, Maire and Naomi working on the farm.



COMMIT delivers supplies, equipment and funds for the farmers in Nandarola.

## COVID Relief

Sewing Project - In order to promote proper mask wearing, COMMIT recently paid to have all sewing machines serviced and funded the cost of material and other supplies to make masks. Villagers are paid \$1 per 5 masks to make the masks and these are distributed free of charge to local residents. Extra masks are being sold in larger cities and the proceeds used to purchase additional supplies.



COMMIT recently funded the purchase of water pails with spigots and soap to promote proper hand washing. These have been distributed to villages with instructions and teaching, primarily in schools.



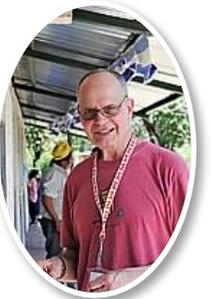
## COMMIT Fundraisers



**Janice Rauser**

Janice is running and walking 939 virtual kilometers from El Salvador to Costa Rica along the coast of Nicaragua, raising funds for COMMIT.

To donate to Janice’s fundraising goal please contact her at [Janice.e.rauser@gmail.com](mailto:Janice.e.rauser@gmail.com)



**David Knoppert**

David began his virtual 7600 km trek across Canada on October 1st, 2020 from Victoria St. John’s, raising funds for COMMIT.

To donate to David’s fundraising goal please email him at: [davidknoppert@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidknoppert@sympatico.ca)



**Beverly Neeb**

Bev is riding 500 virtual kilometres to raise funds for COMMIT.

To donate to Bev’s fundraising goal please email:

[bev.tavistock@gmail.com](mailto:bev.tavistock@gmail.com)



**Doug Thompson**

Doug is biking from Wawa to Stratford, Ontario a distance of 925 virtual kilometers raising funds for COMMIT.

To donate to Doug’s fundraising goal please email: [douglas.john186681@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.john186681@gmail.com)



**Mary O'Rourke**

Mary is riding her stationary bike from Stratford, Ontario to Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, a distance of 6,680 km. Mary currently has 61 sponsors and her goal is 100 to raise \$6,680 for COMMIT.

To donate to Mary’s fundraising goal email her at: [patandmaryorourke@gmail.com](mailto:patandmaryorourke@gmail.com)

## COMMIT Projects

Over the past eight years, COMMIT has delivered more than \$300,000 in supplies, equipment and financial support to several remote villages and hospitals in Nicaragua. Even with the challenges created by the COVID pandemic, we are committed to continue our work and support in Nicaragua. Our focus over the next 3 to 5 years is to:

- Provide COVID relief in the way of financial support for supplies and education at a cost of \$3,000 US
- Drill 4 new fresh water wells in 4 new communities at a cost of \$10,000 US each
- Further development of the water system in Nandarola and upgrades on other wells at a cost of \$20,000 US
- Expand our Garden Project at a cost of \$10,000 US
- Expand our Stove Project to the 110 remaining families in the village of Nandarola at a cost of \$50,000 US
- Upgrade another village Community Centre at a cost of \$10,000 US
- Continue to collect and ship supplies and equipment to Nicaragua at a cost of \$12000 per container

We very much appreciate the support of our donors and through your ongoing generosity we can continue to help the truly unfortunate people of Nicaragua.

Thank you!



**To donate  
please click  
here**

### For more information or questions contact:

**Doug Thompson at [Douglas.john186681@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.john186681@gmail.com) or 519-949-1634**

**Janice Rauser at [Janice.e.rauser@gmail.com](mailto:Janice.e.rauser@gmail.com) or 226-880-1712**

**COMMIT Website: <http://commitwithnphnicaragua.simplesite.com/>**