



Esperanza

Newsletter
Spring 2021



Our Mission

COMMIT is a team of dedicated volunteers from Southwestern Ontario working under the umbrella of the Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation. Our team's mandate is to provide long-term support to some of the poorest villages in Nicaragua. Our focus is to provide medical clinics and other outreach services such as clean drinking water, sanitation, eco-friendly stoves, sustainable agriculture as well as educational and social support.



Fresh water project update included in this edition

***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](#)

Rotary 
Club of Stratford
Charitable Foundation

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



Fresh Water Project Update

ACCESS to Clean Water Saves Lives with Global Grant

In many Nicaraguan villages, there is a severe lack of access to safe, clean drinking water. People often rely on rivers that frequently slow to a trickle or dry out entirely or shallow wells that become contaminated and also dry up in the dry season. Some communities rely on tanker trucks to deliver water twice per week with a ration of 2 or 3 buckets for each home. The lack of access to potable water is not only detrimental to health, especially that of children, it also impedes economic and social development. Women and children spend a considerable portion of each day seeking fresh water, which takes time away from other important activities such as school, work, and time with family.

COMMIT under the umbrella of the Rotary Club of Stratford, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Granada Nicaragua, are pleased to report that we have recently received a \$100,000 CDN Water Global Grant from Rotary International. This grant will provide for the drilling of new fresh water wells in four of the poorest villages in Nicaragua and the upgrading of two existing wells. This work will include education on the wise use of water and the ongoing management of their new community water projects. Drilling has started in a race to get as much done as possible before the rainy season starts in May. Villagers are excited and optimistic that these fresh water wells will open up new opportunities for their communities. Villages have already established water committees to oversee the community wells and raised contingency funds to manage the ongoing operating costs including electricity.

This project perfectly follows the Rotary motto of “**Service Above Self**” and every part of the Rotary 4- way test: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Thank you Rotary International!



Fresh Water Flowing!



Drilling started in village of la Viga



Drilling started in village of El Javillo



Our Contribution to Global Warming & Climate Change

Doug Thompson, Co-Founder COMMIT

Although COVID is in our faces at the moment as the most immediate crisis, Global Warming is rotting our body as the most urgent crisis. Although 3 million deaths have been caused by COVID and it has devastated our lives and in some cases brought out the best and worst in humanity, Global Warming will have an effect many times greater and is by far the greatest challenge to mankind and yet it has taken a backseat to COVID. We know but do we believe or out of fear is it easier to deny or live in the moment.

COMMIT realizes that until we deal with the poverty, inequality and injustice in developing countries we will never conquer COVID, Global Warming or have peace in our time. Repressive regimes maintain their hold by instilling fear and depriving their people of hope.

Our work in Nicaragua helps to reverse that unfortunate scenario. Our projects provide hope and a hand up, not a handout. Our water project is opening up all sorts of health and economic opportunities. Our garden and composting effort is restoring soil and sequestering carbon as well as improving health. Our eco-friendly Stove and Reforestation Project is also impacting climate change and helping us educate our population around conservation measures.

We have called our Stove Project an electric car for \$300. You can buy an electric car in 10 years when the technology warrants for \$60,000 or two eco-friendly stoves now for \$300 with equal carbon and pollution savings and have an immediate impact and positive consequences that extend much further. Technology in developed countries on its own is not going to save us and the so called tipping point is irrelevant when climate change, disasters, and loss of habitat and species is happening every day we delay. You can have a major impact by investing and working in developing countries now.



Stove Project Update

Thick toxic smoke rising from stoves and fires inside homes is associated with approximately 4 million deaths per year in developing countries, like Nicaragua. Another 4 million people, mainly women and children, suffer from severe burns associated with open fire burning. More than 3 billion people cook with solid fuels such as dung, wood, agricultural residues and coal without proper ventilation. Smoke from burning these fuels gives off poisonous chemicals that cause respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia. The effects of smoke from stoves in developing countries contribute significantly to the global greenhouse effect. Almost all of the people in the villages we help are susceptible to the toxic effects of smoke in their homes.

COMMIT initiated a pilot project almost two years ago with six families in the village of Nandarola each receiving an eco and health friendly steel or concrete stove. The results after one year found:

- Little or no toxic smoke in their home;
- Decreased respiratory issues (difficulty breathing) and eye irritations;
- Increased heat efficiency with 40% less wood required, which has a positive effect on reforestation efforts and decreases Global Warming;
- Decreased fear of burns and improved safety;
- Pride of ownership.



Stove installed as part of the pilot project in Nandarola



Reforestation

COMMIT's Garden Project started two years ago in the village of Nandarola, working with local farmers to establish sustainable agricultural practices. Significant wood is used in open fire stoves, which is a major contributor to deforestation and global warming.

Our Garden Project has focused on the planting of new trees, trying to offset the devastating effects of deforestation.

Replacing current open fire stoves with eco-friendly ones will reduce the use of wood by approximately 40% and contribute to global efforts of reforestation.

You Can Sponsor a Stove

\$150 Canadian will purchase a new family stove

Your name, the name of a loved one, or your Rotary Club will be appropriately recognized.

For further information and to donate please contact:
davidknoppert@sympatico.ca



COMMIT Team with local farmers in Nandarola



Families planting trees from homegrown seedlings



COMMIT Team Members have been walking, running and riding for the past six months, raising funds to support our villages in Nicaragua.

David Knoppert and Doug Thompson will have virtually met with 55 Rotary Clubs across Canada by April 23, 2021, presenting the Mission of COMMIT and in particular reviewing our goals and objectives for the Stove Project. Collectively Rotary has stepped up and showed fantastic interest and support. **STAYED TUNED**, our next newsletter will highlight the progress of the Stove Project and recognize the significant support we have received from our donors.

Thank you Rotary & all our Supporters!

New Rotarian



The Rotary Club of Stratford welcomes a new member Janice Rauser. Janice is a Registered Nurse at the Stratford General Hospital and Co-Founder of COMMIT. She is a dedicated humanitarian with a passion for helping the people of Nicaragua.

Welcome Janice!



Golf Tournaments

Saturday, June 5, 2021

River Valley Golf Course

St. Marys

\$110

**Includes \$40 Tax Receipt
Scramble format with staggered
tee times starting at 9:00am**

Both Tournaments Include:

18 holes of golf with cart, lunch,
prizes, ball toss and silent auction

Additional meals can also be
purchased

**To register for both tournaments
contact:**

Janice Rauser

Janice.e.rauser@gmail.com

Saturday, Sept 4, 2021

Mitchell Golf & Country Club

\$110

**Includes \$30 Tax Receipt
Scramble format with staggered
tee times starting at 10:00am**

A Special Gift For

Mother's Day

Gift Idea!

Millions of women and children in poor countries die or suffer devastating health effects of toxic smoke and flames from open fire cook stoves.

Sponsoring an eco-friendly stove in your Mother's name will be a special gift she will appreciate and cherish forever!

This Mother's Day help your Mom save the planet by donating an eco-friendly cook stove that is safer and 50% more efficient to help a needy family in Nicaragua.

Please help!

\$150

To Donate Contact:

David Knoppert

davidknoppert@sympatico.ca

Janice Rauser

Janice.e.rauser@gmail.com

Doug Thompson

Douglas.john186681@gmail.com

Tax Receipts will be issued



Eco-friendly Justa Stove

Coffee & Tea Fundraiser

COMMIT has partnered with Patrick's Beans in London to sell fresh hand roasted coffee and tea, with all proceeds going to purchase eco-friendly stoves in Nicaragua.



\$16.00 per lb

HAND ROASTED SIGNATURE
BLENDS

Buy 10 bags of coffee or
tea and get one **FREE**



\$8.00 per 50 grams

To Order Contact:

Joanne or Mark Edmond at:
Jmedlund85@gmail.com

Kim Neeb at:
kim.neeb58@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 which includes microeconomic start up support. Even with the challenges created by the COVID pandemic and difficult political times, we are committed to continue our work and support in Nicaragua. Our focus over the next 3 to 5 years is to:

- Continue our various projects as outlined on our Web page at cost of \$10,000US
- Start up our eco-friendly stove project in two villages (250 stoves) with accompanying reforestation project (3000 trees) and related environmental spinoffs and if able to obtain a global grant triple that endeavour at cost of \$50,000 US.
- Expand our very successful composting and Garden Project to other villages at cost of \$3000US
- Explore other microeconomic projects with loans to villages that through good planning can demonstrate sustainability and scalability (expand) and a way forward to decrease poverty at cost of \$10,000US
- Continue to send containers annually with medical and other humanitarian supplies at cost of \$8000US

We very much appreciate the support of our donors and COMMIT needs your help so that we can continue our Mission work in Nicaragua.


Remember our community is the world and we will never be out from under Global Warming, COVID, or Conflict in our time until we deal with poverty, inequality and injustice in developing countries. Hope brings about change.

Thank you.

For more information please email:

commitnphnicaragua@gmail.com

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



**To donate
please click
here**