

## FROM OUR OFFICE

2020 WHAT A YEAR ..... This is a year that will live in our minds for a very long time.

When COVID-19 hit and all non essential businesses closed in March we closed our office and had staff working remotely. While things got done, it was certainly an adjustment. By the beginning of September, we were back in full force and what a pleasure it has been to be back in the office full time. As I write this in preparation for this newsletter, we have no idea what these next weeks might bring.

This causes me to think of what life must have been like for the more than 3,000 children in the care of our Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos homes prior to that girl or boy being brought to be part of the family. A childhood filled with struggle to just survive and an uncertain future.

Yes, we have an uncertain future during this time but we live in a country filled with tremendous blessings. Having the opportunity to speak with many donors over these past months has been a blessing. I have shared with you how thankful we are for the sacrifice made by all of you to make sure that the future is bright for each of these children. You have made their uncertain future one of possibility and brightness.

We feel honoured here in the office when we get a phone call or email to ask how things are at the homes but also here in the office as well. We are grateful for all of the care shown.

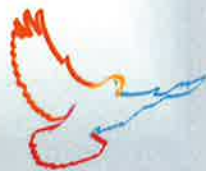
The coming months will continue to be filled with stress and anxiety for those involved in the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos decision making and financial planning for the coming months through 2021. We humbly ask that, as we celebrate Christmas in any way we can in this country, if at all possible, we reach out and help our homes and children.

Thank you for your continued support, as it is appreciated so very much. May you find much to be thankful for this Christmas Season

Have a very blessed Christmas,

*Margaret to Blair*

Executive Director



**A huge shout out and thank you to Lancaster Canada for their recent donation of various paint brushes for our teams to use for projects in our Nicaragua home.**

**Here, Steve Eckenswiller, team leader accepts the donation from Lancaster Canada representative, Sarah Cuthbert in February in Walkerton.**



### President's Message

A quick moment to thank all of our regular sponsors and also the onetime contributors. Whether you sponsor a particular child monthly or if you participated in a volunteer project, you are part of the engine that turns these at-risk children into responsible citizens of their countries. Consider what you are part of. Here are some numbers from last year alone:

- 3,308 children fully supported in nine countries
- 2,849 community children supported through education and other programs
- 101,749 services provided through outreach programs
- 51 University graduates
- 2,093 local people employed
- 2,477 vaccines administered

Congratulations to you for being part of such a wonderful family that transforms the lives of so many young people.

Andy



"After a long plane ride, a very positive moment for me was seeing our God child Tatiana, with a big welcome sign on the other side of the glass at the airport in Managua. It was a great beginning and spending time with Tatiana on this trip was exceptional. She is a wonderful loving and caring young lady who is on her way to becoming an asset to her country.

Many new friendships were made on this trip with both the folks who travelled to Nicaragua and with the children and adults at NPH. Our cook was awesome and the two young ladies who helped her were exceptional in their duties and how they interacted with us.

There was a satisfaction in completing jobs, such as getting muddy with planting some new plants, painting walls and rooms, and painting murals in the kinder room hoping we were making life a little better for these people. I especially loved being in the English classrooms with the students.

Before we left, I had the opportunity to make a connection and sponsor an other little child. Looking forward to watching her grow up.

One detriment for this Canadian was the heat and humidity, but all in all, it was a great experience!"

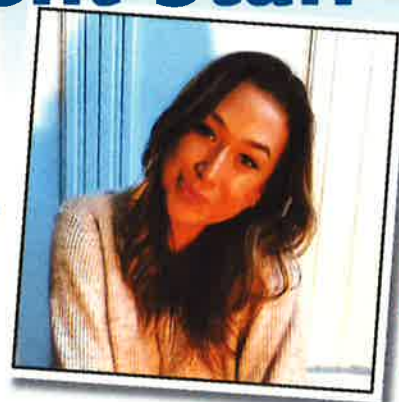
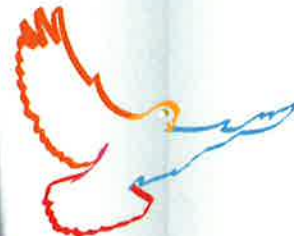
by Shirley Wright

Check out our new YouTube channel!



# Summer Student Staff

What a great summer for FOTOCAN and four students who assisted us with promoting our brand and some fundraising on the side!



- III. online contests to raise awareness with people donating small gifts - FOTOCAN bling; bracelet;
- IV. Random Act of Kindness challenge
- V. website update

With the assistance of some generous donors, FOTOCAN secured the help of (clockwise from top left) Mickayla Christie, Gillian King, Katelyn Blair and Jose Blass. The talent and time shared with our office and three board members was most impressive. Here's what the four of them managed to do.



- VI. wing and trivia nite in Mildmay
- VII. interview with Eric Bolan and other former pequeños now living in Canada



VIII. yard sale which raised over \$1,500.00

- I. YouTube account opened and LIVE in July 2020
- II. Instagram active and gathering followers - over 150 new followers



Thank you from all of us at FOTOCAN for the hard work and dedication in promoting FOTOCAN during the COVID summer! Good luck in your next adventures in school and work!

# Nicaragua 2020 - Just Before the Pandemic Hit!

Eleven lucky Canadians got to visit Nicaragua one month before all travel was canceled indefinitely. These are some of the activities and tasks we managed to accomplish while there for two weeks

- purchased four new tires for the tractor at Casa Padre Wasson
- purchased a new hydraulic pump for same tractor



- cleaned, painted and furnished the new kindergarten class to operate for the home and children in the local area (new books, rug, paints, mattresses, play toys)
- purchased a camera and therapeutic equipment for Casa Samaritano on Ometepe Island as well as the new branch at the newly-added office of Casa Padre Wasson

## Covid Christmas 2020

Not able to visit with the family due to COVID? Can't send gifts to grandchildren? Make Christmas special with a donation to FOTOCAN for less fortunate children in Latin America and the Caribbean. There are many ways to donate:

- On our web site - [www.fotocan.org](http://www.fotocan.org)
- On Instagram - [fotocanorg](https://www.instagram.com/fotocanorg)
- On Facebook - [Friends of the Orphans Canada](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheOrphansCanada)
- On YouTube - [Friends of the Orphans Canada](https://www.youtube.com/FriendsOfTheOrphansCanada)
- On phone - 1-844-393-FOTO (3686)
- On eTransfer - [info@fotocan.org](mailto:info@fotocan.org)

