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Two important links on our website!

Just a reminder that APLV is registered with the Amazon Smile program. Amazon will donate 0.5% of purchases made through the smile.amazon.com site to APLV on qualified purchases. Their contribution may be small, but Amazon is very big. Check out the link on our website, www.aplv.org/donate. **Every little bit helps.**

[Guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com), a clearing house for transparent evaluation of non-profits, has given APLV a GOLD rating. For those interested, Guidestar presents an easy way to see our status. which includes balance sheets and assets.



Agua Para La Vida
2311 Webster Street
Berkeley, CA 94705

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

get involved

I would like to support APLV in bringing clean drinking water to the people of Nicaragua.

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

- \$50 – material cost for drinking water for one person
- \$100 – material cost for 500 seedlings for reforestation
- \$200 – material cost for a latrine for one family
- \$250 – sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
- \$500 – material cost for drinking water for one family
- \$1000 – cost of drinking water, latrine, and health education for one family

Agua Para La Vida is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Agua Para La Vida (APLV). Donations can also be made online at: www.aplv.org



December 2016 Board of Directors:

Bruce Britton
Anne Corcos
Gilles Corcos
Tom Cunningham
Charlie Huizenga
Bill McQueeney
Joe Ramrath

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF

Agua Para La Vida

a successful 2016

The people in the communities of Wany (219 families), Boca de Poteca (35 families) and Las Maderas (30 families) had a lot to celebrate this year with the arrival of clean water and sanitation to their homes and schools. These were the sites of APLV projects this year, which included a gravity flow water system, latrines for each household and school, health and hygiene education and watershed conservation.

We are gearing up for as many as six water projects in 2017, starting in January with the community of La Esperanza. We currently have good prospects for the funding of two additional projects in the communities of Ocotal and El Cedro. Our goal is to complete three additional projects - the communities are ready, we just need the funding!



Celebration of the completed project in Wany, Nicaragua



A community meeting in Boca de Poteca (L) and the arrival of water for the first time in Las Maderas (R)

ETAP updates

Our technical school, ETAP, has begun recruiting new students for the next cycle of the two-and-a-half-year program. High school graduates from rural communities apply to the program and must pass a rigorous entrance exam in order to be considered for the new class. The school is accredited by the National Vocational Technology Institute and graduates receive a degree as a Hydraulic Technician. Many of our technical staff are graduates of our program, including our current instructor, Francisco Romero.

project JES (*Youth, Entrepreneurship and Sanitation*)



Projet JES volunteers

APLV is partnering this year with Raleigh International to provide volunteers in communities where APLV has worked in the past. The program pairs young volunteers ages 17 to 25 from the UK, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Small groups of volunteers spend 10 weeks in a community working on community projects such as home vegetable gardens, developing recycling centers, providing health and hygiene education, and improving sanitation systems. It has been a great opportunity to involve young adults in our work and both the communities and the volunteers have benefited tremendously from the program.

One thing we don't often talk about are the outcomes in the communities we work with beyond clean water, improved health and sanitation, and protected watersheds. A key part of building a water system involves community organization - building a gravity flow water system is no small task. Often our water project is transformational with respect to developing community leadership and organizational strength.

These changes in the community often lead to community development beyond APLV's primary goals. A great example of this could be seen when Raleigh International visited some APLV communities to select a location for volunteers. One community they visited was Martin Centeno, where APLV worked in the early 1990's to build a water system. Raleigh staff decided that this community was too well-organized to benefit from their program!



Visiting communities to select a location for Raleigh International volunteers to conduct projects.

Adios y Gracias to Pedro and Lilian

This month will be the last for two long-time members of the APLV staff in Rio Blanco. Pedro Zamoro and Lilian Obando will both be retiring after a combined 44 years on the APLV staff!

Pedro's connection began when APLV worked with his community of Martin Centeno in 1992. His skills as a mason were immediately obvious and he joined the staff the following year as our first full-time mason. Pedro is immensely respected by all who have worked with him not just for his dedication and skill, but also for his leadership and dignity.

Lilian joined APLV in 1996 as our first health and hygiene educator. She helped create our community health education program and made countless visits to homes and schools across rural Nicaragua. Our sincerest thanks go out to both of them for their years of dedicated service.

in memoriam



Deborah Parducci

Debbie Parducci, a long-time supporter and Board member of APLV, passed away earlier this year after a long illness. Debbie was passionate about APLV's mission and has played a key role in our annual newsletter for the past several years. We will greatly miss her enthusiasm, hard work and friendship.

From Gilles:

"I met her as undergraduates at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1947. At the time we were members of "Student Federalists", a large movement, 300 campus chapters, 10,000 members, (see "One Shining Moment" by Gilbert Jonas, 2001, iUniverse): We were both passionately trying to prevent another use of the atomic bomb. Later we became more conscious of the concrete issues which made our early dream unrealistic. Debbie got married to another U of M student and raised a numerous and very diverse family. But she remained profoundly committed to social justice and immediately after the first initiatives that led to Agua para La Vida she became a fervent supporter. Living near Santa Monica, CA she organized a group of elder women and worked hard and imaginatively to find funds for APLV. She was also a poet and a folk singer. She suffered courageously for many months from a form of blood cancer and died last summer."