

SU|NICA

2020

Annual Report



# Vision

We envision disciples making disciples in Nicaragua — impacting families, churches, communities, and businesses.

# Mission

We exist to make disciples of Jesus in Nicaragua through clean water, education, and mentorship.



# **There are thousands of vulnerable children in Nicaragua. Discipleship creates a different story.**

In Nicaragua, the Western Hemisphere's third poorest nation, only one in five students graduate high school, over 90% of girls will become pregnant by age 19, and nearly half of rural Nicaraguans live without an improved water source. Despite the educational and public health burdens these statistics demonstrate, the need for the Gospel of Jesus in Nicaragua is perhaps even greater.

Every project we take on is all about making disciples of Jesus. Our Discipleship staff serves hundreds of children in three different communities, acting as much-needed role models, providing love and encouragement, and demonstrating the transformative power of the Gospel.

# Our Model

## Water & Sanitation

It is a two-year process to provide this basic need that is vital to human flourishing. Once clean water is flowing, a modern bathroom project follows.

## Education & Mentorship

We engage the staff in spiritual direction, the staff conducts the same with their volunteer leaders, and they facilitate spiritual direction for future leaders.

## Community Centers

The epicenter of our Mentorship/Discipleship programming — where children and parents can safely gather to have fun, learn, and grow in their faith.

## A Letter From Our Executive Director

2020 was an important year for SuNica. And I dare say even a good one. Don't get me wrong - we don't want another 2020 for a long, long time - if ever. Yet despite a total disruption in the world, we saw good things emerge from the swamps of Covid.

The growth that SuNica experienced was profound, yet it was not a financial growth. We had to pause a water project and postpone a community center in Salinas Grande. That never feels good in the moment, but the SuNica Staff are not the same as they were a few years ago. They are men and women bearing the scars and maturity of an 'almost civil war' and now a pandemic to boot. We haven't had a "normal" year since 2017.

The staff has not only taken leaps in their ability to execute the technical aspects of their work, but many have also leaned in closer to the Lord. We can see it in the way they love each other. And if this organization is about making disciples of Jesus, then we had better see it at the staff level.

The Lord will fund these waylaid projects through the SuNica faithful when the time is right. And when He does, we'll go after them with the best team we've ever had.

I'm excited.

Alan Wilser  
Executive Director

## A Quote From A Board Member

I have a small painted rock from my trip to Nicaragua with SuNica that sits next to my bathroom sink, so I see it every morning. On the back, it has 2 Corinthians 1:4 "***He comforts us in our times of trouble so that we can comfort others.***" This summarizes why I support SuNica. I have been blessed for reasons that I don't understand, and I feel that I am called to steward that in a way to help bring both humanitarian aid and the Gospel to the most vulnerable.

Jon Harol  
Board Member



# COVID-19 Response

Our staff's response to COVID-19 was one of both innovation and creativity. Within the first week of cases appearing in Nicaragua, our team was delivering bags of hygienic supplies and educational materials to every single family across the four communities we work in.



Our staff then created a survey that we gave to all of the parents of the kids in our program, that helped us gauge their comfort levels with reintroducing in-person Discipleship with their kids. After several weeks of meeting with families, it was determined that the best way to safely reach the most kids would be to host multiple days of Discipleship in each community so as to keep the groups small. During this time, we were so encouraged by the flexibility of our staff and volunteers! They continued to show up week after week and they kept both our kids and their families safe. Even the security guards at the Community Center helped play a major role in this by doing temperature checks and having the handwashing station ready to go!



Over the course of the pandemic, we delivered over 1,000 bars of soap to families and even implemented some new safety precautions for our kids during Discipleship. Initially, every kid in our Discipleship program had a Discipleship packet that was made by our staff and filled with weekly devotionals, scriptures, and logic puzzles delivered to their homes. This way, families could do Discipleship together while we were eagerly awaiting the day we could meet again in person.





Prior to the pandemic, we projected that we would be finished with the Salinas Water Project in 2020. However, in order to keep everyone in the community as safe as possible, we had to stop digging for several months. In response, our Water and Sanitation Team took this unique opportunity to equip and empower the builders in El Porvenir to finish constructing all of the remaining Modern Bathrooms. And they did just that!



One of the biggest wins we experienced on the Discipleship side of things during this time was how our leaders from all four communities connected over WhatsApp to share encouraging devotionals with one another. Every week leaders from one community would send out a video of something that God was teaching them at the time, and it was so incredible to see these high school and college students reach out and support each other in this way!



# Where We Work



- 1. Sacred Forest
- 2. El Limonal
- 3. El Porvenir
- 4. San Carlos
- 5. SuNica HQ
- 6. Salinas Grande

# Community Engagement Strategy

	Water	Sanitation	Education	Mentorship	Community Centers
<b>El Limonal</b>	Provided by City of Chinendega	Provided by Others	Since 2010	Since 2013	Complete
<b>El Porvenir</b>	Completed in 2016	In Process (90/120)	Since 2019	Since 2017	To Be Determined
<b>Salinas Grande</b>	Projected Finish Summer 2021	To Be Determined	Since 2015	Since 2015	\$60k of \$200k Funded
<b>San Carlos</b>	Completed in 2018	To Be Determined	Beginning in 2021	Since 2020	To Be Determined (land purchased by residents)
<b>Los Ranchos</b>	Beginning Summer 2021				
<b>La Leona</b>				Beginning Spring 2021	



# 2020 Highlights

## January

- Started well digging in Salinas Grande
- Discipleship with potential leaders in San Carlos
- Delivery of school supplies and uniforms in Salinas Grande

## February

- Start of discipleship with possible leaders in la Leona
- Layed 7 Kilometers of pipe in Salinas
- Hosted workshop for leaders in El Limonal on emotions and trauma
- Began the 2nd stage of construction of modern bathrooms in El Porvenir
- Completed 7.5 kilometers of digging in Salinas

## March

- Tutoring kickstarts in El Porvenir and El Limonal
- Hosted workshop on “The power of our words” for parents in El Limonal
- Held first in-person meeting with all the SuNica staff since COVID began.
- Art workshop for El Porvenir and El Limonal leaders
- Staff started taking precautions for COVID-19 including working from home
- Delivered masks to SuNica workers

## April

- Delivered materials in El Porvenir to continue modern bathroom work
- Virtual meetings with SuNica team
- Virtual meetings with mentorship leaders and pre-leaders
- Delivery of soap and COVID-19 information to all community members
- Virtual meetings to discuss a game plan for water and sanitation work and discipleship program



## May

- Continued to work online
- Eight modern bathrooms completed in El Porvenir
- Topographic survey in Salinas for the drilling of the well

## June

- Continued working online
- Held meetings with the CAPS
- Discussed program numbers and data

## July

- Continued construction of bathrooms in El Porvenir
- Held first in-person meeting with all of the SuNica staff since COVID began
- Started conversation with strategic partners

## August

- Sacred Forest retreat
- Delivered masks to all SuNica staff and leaders in each of the communities we work in
- Began weekly in-person meetings with SuNica staff since COVID started
- Reintegrated mentorship program and water in the communities
- Held in-person meeting with the CAPS with the necessary safety measures
- Negotiated for land for the new well in Salinas
- Started building a new tree-house in the Sacred Forest
- Sacred Forest retreat with Salinas leaders
- Salinas well-drilling
- 35 bathrooms built in El Porvenir
- Meeting with Doña Rosita for the strategic partnership
- Re-established the SuNica values



## September

- Re-started digging in Salinas
- Well drilling in Salinas, 71 gallons per liter - aka GREAT news!
- Sacred Forest retreat with leaders in El Limonal
- Recorded scenes for the SuNica virtual trip
- Sacred Forest Retreat for leaders in El Porvenir

## October

- Sacred Forest retreat with pre-leader ladies in San Carlos
- Sacred Forest retreat with pre-leader men in San Carlos
- Trip to the Sacred Forest with Josh, Erick, Chino, and five community members from El Limonal
- Started planning the “leveling for future” court in Sacred Forest
- Continued digging in Salinas



## November

- Sacred Forest retreat with the pre-leader ladies in Salinas
- Sacred Forest retreat with the pre-leader men in Salinas
- End of the year party in El Limonal and El Porvenir

## December

- End of the year party in San Carlos
- Retreat hosted for the CAPS
- Finished building 90 modern bathrooms

# What the SuNica Family Has to Say

## Rachel French and her daughter Cami

Oh my gosh....where do I even begin? God showed me that I don't need things in life. It is the relationships that bring joy to my life, not the stuff. Thank you Nicaraguan people for showing me this!

### **Some highlights from my trip in April 2018:**

Meeting Armando (my family sponsors him) and seeing him with Cami (my daughter who came with me on this trip) was SO great. It is one thing to send a check to sponsor a child every month but it is another to see where he lives and meet his family. Experiencing the trip with Cami was phenomenal! We often revisit experiences and lessons from Nicaragua.

It was really cool to watch all of the kids play. It was nothing like in America. They could be playing one Jenga game and have 15 kids standing around. No one was fighting over whose turn it was or anything. They were all just laughing and having fun being together!

Watching Cami try and crank the well to get water was impactful. It just showed us how hard other people work for dirty water when we take for granted immediate access to an abundance of clean water.

Seeing how SuNica has raised up leaders and staff that truly care about the communities and who want these communities to know Jesus has been awesome. Whether it was political conflict or Covid, the leaders stepped up and did what needed to be done to keep programs going as best they could. They didn't rely on outsiders to run things for them.





## Shaun Sullivan and his son Seth

Seeing teammates step up to lead devotions was fantastic. It brought Bible stories to life and you could see the connection the kids and teens made with God.

The SuNica team sharing their testimonies with us was powerful.

The heart that the SuNica team has to make disciples in their own country was compelling. The way they go about pursuing the communities around them with a steady presence is surely glorifying Jesus.

Staff invested time with the young men in the community (including my son), formally challenging and encouraging them to make a difference in the world. This kind of thing I cannot repay.

## Jack Jones

My first trip to Nicaragua was my first time traveling outside of the US. We spent the week helping to construct a community center for the kids. We also got to meet numerous people from the community.

I was able to spend time with one family in particular. We shared a meal together and I got to know them. It was a special time. Before leaving their home I told the lady of the family (Fatima) that I would be back and she told me that they would be waiting. To this day, every time I think of that moment, I get chills.

I was able to travel again in 2018 and this time our goal was to install an irrigation system on a multi-purpose field.

On my second trip I was able to connect again with the family I had met on my first trip (Fatima and her family) and after we visited together and were saying our goodbyes they asked if we could take a picture together. I was happy to do so. As I was shaking hands with Fatima's husband (Noe) he said to me: WE ARE BROTHERS FOREVER!

That experience with Fatima, Noe, and their family made me realize this... that's what it's all about! Spending time getting to know them and others in the community is something that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Seeing what SuNica is doing in the various communities was so rewarding.

My time in Nicaragua changed my outlook on life. I learned to put God first and to trust him in everything I do.



# What Community Members in Nicaragua Have to Say

## Ronaldo, a dad in the Salinas community

I'm a father and the pastor of a small church in Salinas Grande. I have lived in this community for more than 15 years and during all this time we have always suffered from needing clean water for our families. Over the years there have been ways to get water for our household needs and to drink. A few years back my whole family and I went to a river that's only a few kilometers away from our house and we went to bathe and wash our clothes in the river. In my family, there are five of us. During the rainy season, we built a canal that brings rainwater to the well that's by our house. The well dried up soon after being built, that's why we collect the rainwater with this canal and in the summer we use it to do our chores in the house. Many times our drinking water was donated by a business that works in the community.



## Interview with El Porvenir community member

### *How is it now that you have a modern bathroom in your house?*

It feels so great now that I have this bathroom in my house. It's something that we have been waiting for for a while and it's such a blessing for the families in this community. I believe that it's practically given to you for a small fee. As soon as they mentioned this project, I didn't think - I just had to jump on it.

### *What differences have you noticed between having a modern bathroom and a pit latrine?*

The difference is that now I don't have to walk far to the latrine. The latrine was high up and was difficult for me to access, but now I have the bathroom close. Also, during the rainy season, the water rose in the latrines and a bunch of animals would crawl out of it like cockroaches, snakes, frogs, and flies. Now everything has changed with these bathrooms. Now I don't have to risk going to the latrine at night or when it rains and I don't have to worry about my two small kids when they go to the bathroom because many times we'd find snakes in the latrines at night.

### *Do you believe that it's important that every family has a modern bathroom in their home? If so, why?*

It's super important that every family has a modern bathroom now that I can see how it helps improve the health and well-being of my family. As women, we can also feel the important piece of having a hygienic and dignified place to go because when we are on our periods it is so much easier and cleaner to sit on a clean toilet. With the modern bathroom, there's no open hole that we're exposed to germs and illnesses because of lack of hygiene. It's very important because now we have our health. Now we have a new and better way to live.

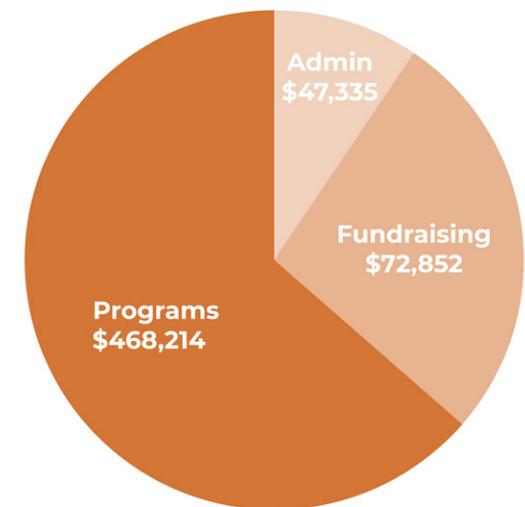


# Financials

FUND	2020 INCOME	2020 EXPENSES
Water & Sanitation	\$27,626.81	\$178,146.86
- Salinas Grande Water		\$80,220.00
- El Porvenir Modern Bathrooms		\$92,690.00
- Misc.		\$5,236.86
Education & Discipleship Sponsorships	\$57,775.49	\$88,821.93
Staff Support	\$92,215.74	\$110,830.89
SuNica Trips	\$3,703.56	\$9,292.12
The Curiosity Circle	\$18,210.66	\$15,025.53
El Limonal Fund	\$10,050.00	\$10,569.84
Sacred Forest Fund	\$4,898.05	\$27,752.71
General (Unrestricted)	\$366,237.24	\$146,373.82
Salinas Community Center	\$47,066.18	\$3,146.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$627,783.73</b>	<b>\$589,960.25</b>



## Expense Distribution



# Looking Ahead in 2021

## - Adding TWO new communities

A new clean water project - Los Ranchos

A new Discipleship Program - La Leona

## - Finishing Salinas Grande water project

400 homes

6 sub-communities

11km of pipe

3 tanks (existing)

2 wells (1 existing)

## - Sacred Forest

30+ trips planned to the Sacred Forest

Planting new coffee trees in the Sacred Forest

## - San Carlos

One year of leadership training will be completed

Launch of community-wide programming in 2021



# Our Team

## Staff

**Alan Wilser**, Director

**Josh Pease**, Local Director

**Betty Pease**, Local Director

**Casey Wilser**, Admin Specialist

**Hope Khamis**, Admin Specialist

**Megan Dionne**, Social Media Director

**Enyi Molina**, Office Manager

**Wilfredo Ramirez**, Water & Sanitation

**Jose Antonio Flores**, Water & Sanitation

Team Leader and Engineer

**Yamil Fuentes**, Water & Sanitation

**Roger Ramírez**, Water & Sanitation

**Carlos Soza**, Water & Sanitation

**Hazel Alvarado**, Water & Sanitation

**Darwing Roque**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Erick Luna**, Discipleship Team Leader

**Hector Rodriguez**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Esmirna Sosa**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Leo Mungia**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Johania López**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Bryroth Palma**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Jhonny Narvaez**, Maintenance Coordinator

**Regina Areas**, Office Custodian

**Zorayda Rodríguez**, Head Chef

**Benelip Nuñez**, Accounting

**Edgar Ramirez**, Guard

**Daniel Gonzalez**, Guard

**Ramón Gonzalez**, Guard

**Darlina Pavón**, Discipleship Coordinator

**Huberth Sánchez**, Sacred Forest Caretaker

**Reynaldo Mendoza**, Guard

**Nain Useda**, Custodian at the  
Limonal Community Center

**Yolanda Lazo**, Admin Assistant

**José Luis Paniagua**, Discipleship Coordinator



## Board of Directors

**Nicole Nemmers**, Board Chair

**Denver Caldwell**, Board Member

**Mike Newman**, Board Treasurer

**Jon Harol**, Board Member

**Rosalie Simcoe**, Board Member

**Bryan Ball**, Board Secretary

**Alan Wilser**, Board Member

**Josh Pease**, Board Member

# SU|NICA

410 Lord Berkley Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27610

[sunica.org](http://sunica.org)

