



# AWAKEN!

**SU|NICA**

2022 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.





On a recent trip, we were digging trenches alongside the good people of Los Ranchos. I noticed an older gentleman with a back brace, steadily working like a well-oiled machine. One of our H2O Staff (Hazel) said, "Alan, you see that guy? That's Pastor Trinity. He always brings his family out to dig and rarely misses a day."

I asked Pastor Trinity if he'd lead us in a prayer at the end of the workday, and of course, he was up for it. I thought it would be the perfect close to the day, reminding locals and visitors alike that **Jesus is at the center of this work.**

As we continued to dig, I remembered my group had a dinner meeting to attend that evening. But, the middle of the road was exposed and it was critical to complete that day. As daylight was fading, we faced a crucial choice: either interrupt everything to hold a prayer meeting, requiring the Los Ranchos locals to work late into the night, or continue pushing forward to complete the remaining section of the road while our trip-goers departed for their appointment. Ultimately, we chose the latter.

Trinity saw me leaving and put his hands up as if to say, "What about the prayer?" I ran back to explain. He nodded in

understanding and said, "We had a church service that I was supposed to preach at today, but I asked my wife to cover for me because there was something special going on here that I just couldn't miss." He went on to say how encouraged he was by us. That our presence was a reminder of clean water coming soon. And that they were not alone. He said to me, **"My body is 'rendido' [very tired], but my spirit is awakened."**

I believe the Kingdom of God was at hand right there in the middle of the dusty road. We didn't have a tidy and buttoned-up ending to the day, but I did have a moment with Pastor Trinity. And this old back-braced man from Los Ranchos reminded me why we do what we do.

**May the Kingdom of Jesus awaken hearts and souls, on dusty roads and to the ends of the earth.** We invite you to celebrate another year of God's faithfulness to SuNica and another year of the Kingdom of Jesus showing up in the most unlikely places — all because we are ready to receive it.

Amen,

Alan Wilser, Co-Founder and Director



# TRANSFORMING LIVES

Clean water has the power to transform a person's life. Pastor Rey Maldonado and Claudia Torres from El Porvenir are perfect examples of this truth. Their lives look drastically different today than they did six years ago. And it's all because of the Lord's faithfulness through clean water. As they reflected on their experience, here's what they had to say:

"Prior to having clean water in our homes, our family endured immense physical, emotional, and mental hardships. Our health was plagued by countless issues, our marriage was put through the wringer, and our children lacked proper education and safety. We were in great need.

But thanks be to God, that story is now in the past! Thanks to the water project, we no longer have to wait in line all day just to obtain a bucket of water. We can send our kids to school in peace, knowing they are well-bathed and in their clean uniforms. We have enough water to drink and stay clean, avoiding infectious diseases. Praise be to God!"

## CLEAN WATER IN EL PORVENIR







# THE LAUNCH OF **THRIVE**

## Discipleship & Education Program

Over the past year, God has taken *Mentoring at SuNica* to new heights, marked by the exciting introduction of THRIVE, our official Discipleship & Education Program.

As part of this growth, we equipped our staff for the expansion on the rise. We promoted Erick Luna to the head of operations at the Sacred Forest. Esmirna Soza began leading parent discipleship, and Darwing became our Mentoring leader. We brought on new hires like Sergio, Helen, and Nathalia, and raised strong leaders ready to train disciple-makers. Discipleship coordinators in each community (Darliana in Salinas Grandes, Helen in San Carlos, and Nathalia in El Limonal) continue to live out our values. Every morning the Mentoring Team gathers together to read a devotional, an invaluable start to each work day.

What once was a dream grew THRIVE into the answered prayer it is today! We're achieving our goal of cultivating effective discipleship and education to empower individuals from every community to take leadership roles. On top of that, our local volunteers understand and embrace our mission and vision, which makes all the difference.

And the dreaming doesn't stop here! Actually, **we believe the Lord is just getting started**. Take the community of Salinas Grande for instance. Our aspiration is to build a community center, similar to the one in El Limonal. Additionally, in El Limonal, our efforts are focused on expanding educational opportunities by offering school reinforcement for adults and children facing learning difficulties. We're also dedicated to beautifying the small property located there. We're excited for you to join us on this incredible journey. Because only together can we help more kids thrive!

Through THRIVE we can reach more kids in Nicaragua.  
In 2022 we had a total of:

**8**

staff

**16**

leaders

**62**

pre-leaders

**90**

THRIVE donors

**173**

students

DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION PROGRAM



# WELCOME OUR *NEWEST* TEAM MEMBERS

## Helen Janixia Ovando Espinoza

Discipleship Coordinator  
San Carlos

*Helen*

*I began as a pre-leader, and now I'm a coordinator. It's been a dream and a personal challenge, but I love it!*



## Sergio Erick Cabrera Barilla

Discipleship Coordinator  
San Carlos

*Cheyo*

*Working at SuNica is a new and interesting experience. I feel blessed from God for letting me be part of this family.*



## Nathalia Marbellis Sanchez Davila

Discipleship Coordinator  
El Limonal and El Porvenir

*Naty*

*I just really love what I do. I thank God for this opportunity because I'm able to serve in my own community.*



## Gladys Samirli Romero Linarte

Water Team  
Los Ranchos

*Gladys*

*I feel lucky... through SuNica I have a connection with God. I'm happy I have a new family and good friends.*





*Esmirna*

**Esmirna Sosa**

*Psychologist and Staff Coordinator*

*6+ years with SuNica*

*Now, by the grace of God, I can say that I love myself and my relationship with the Lord.*

My name is Esmirna. I'm an older sister to three brothers and an aunt to three precious nephews. I come from a dysfunctional family with separated parents. During my senior year, I suffered a lot of pain, abuse, and depression, leaving me completely heartbroken. I felt alone, without friends, finding it hard to believe that God could love someone like me.

But while I was in the pits, God miraculously sent two angels into my life, Josh and Betty. They empathized with me and helped heal my heart, pointing me to the gracious and compassionate love of God. Josh and Betty invited me to live with them in the city of León. It was a monumental shift in my life. Now, by the grace of God, I can say that I love myself and my relationship with the Lord. God also led me to my husband, Elton – we got married last December! I feel grateful for all the new opportunities.

I went on to university to study clinical psychology. A year later, I went to the El Limonal community to do discipleship, and again God surprised me. I found immense joy in conversing, playing, and reading the Bible with the children. I realized that many of their histories were similar to mine, which grew my passion to advance the Kingdom of God even more!

I became a part of the Discipleship team in Salinas Grandes, and after two years of volunteering with SuNica, I officially became part of the staff as a discipleship coordinator in the communities of Salinas Grandes and San Carlos. This year, I'm looking forward to working in the area of psychology and leading the women's staff. As I reminisce on what Christ has done for me, **I'm reminded that God loves me and that's enough.** There's nothing else to do, just experience his love and grace day by day.



# GROWTH IN THE *SACRED FOREST*

In February of 2022, a significant development took place for the Sacred Forest staff: the introduction of weekly spiritual direction. Erick Luna began leading weekly meetings for the staff to recognize and discuss how their work and spiritual lives were intertwined. To start, he led the men on staff through the Gospel of John as well as a book called *Leading on an Empty Tank*. And Sarah Spradlin led the women on staff through a couple of books too! Through fellowship and great conversation, the team grew spiritually beyond what they could imagine, filling their hearts with truth and their minds with encouragement.

In addition to discipleship, the staff worked on two large projects during the year:

1

## Building the Sacred Forest's third treehouse

The treehouses are destination sleeping quarters nestled underneath the towering jungle canopy. They stoke that childlike sense of adventure and wonder to enhance the Sacred Forest Experience for our visitors.

2

## Designing a rainwater collection system

The Sacred Forest is a primitive retreat experience without electricity. This means that pumping water from deep below ground as we do with a SuNica Water project is not possible. At the Sacred Forest, we collect water from natural springs on the mountainside, however, the springs we have access to are often insufficient for hosting 30+ groups per year as well as meeting our agricultural needs. For this reason we've created a system for capturing the rainwater from atop our buildings.

## 2022 IMPACT

206

people impacted  
via SuNica  
retreats

80

people impacted  
via other ministries'  
retreats

37

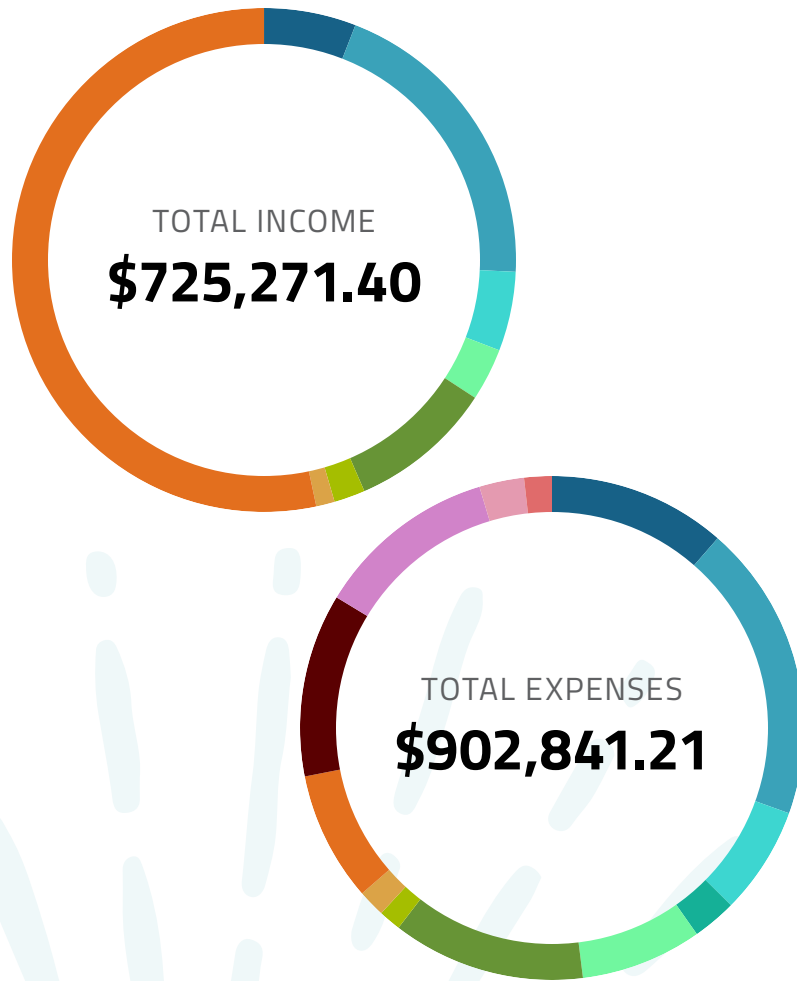
total  
retreats







# 2022 FINANCIALS



SuNica believes in being transparent and straightforward about monies received and spent by the organization. We continue to maintain our commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability by providing updated data and information to GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

	INCOME	EXPENSES
<b>Nicaragua Based</b>		
● Water & Sanitation	\$42,615.18	\$103,125.77
Salinas Grande Water	—	\$20,625.15
Los Ranchos Water	—	\$82,500.62
● THRIVE – Education & Discipleship	\$144,172.40	\$172,222.45
● Staff Support	\$37,058.84	\$62,500.31
● El Limonal Center		\$25,529.17
● Sacred Forest Fund	\$24,550.00	\$70,318.90
● SuNica Trips	\$67,202.83	\$111,867.89
● SF Coffee	\$14,447.81	\$12,897.06
● The Curiosity Circle	\$8,571.50	\$15,707.08
● General ( <i>Unrestricted</i> )	\$386,652.84	\$75,120.21
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>\$725,271.40</b>	<b>\$649,288.84</b>
<b>USA Based</b>		
● Fundraising	—	\$106,173.52
● US Staff ( <i>CEO, Admin, Dev. Director, etc</i> )	—	\$105,386.21
● US Operations ( <i>Rent, Int'l Travel, Accounting</i> )	—	\$25,985.27
● Travel to Nicaragua	—	\$16,007.37
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$253,552.37</b>
<b>2022 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$725,271.40</b>	<b>\$902,841.21</b>





## WE'RE MAKING A SPLASH IN 2023!

Dirty water kills more people annually than all forms of violence — including war. *Only 56% of Nicaraguans have access to safe drinking water!* It is our goal to help them manage their own water systems in a responsible and sustainable manner.

For as little as \$14 per month one person in Nicaragua can have clean water *for life!* Tap in at [sunica.org/pipeline](https://sunica.org/pipeline) and stay tuned as we share more exciting news and developments!

A stylized graphic of a water tap with three vertical lines representing water flowing out. Below the tap, the word "pipeline" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The "i" in "pipeline" is replaced by the three vertical lines from the tap. Below the word, the text "Monthly giving community for clean water!" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

pipeline

Monthly giving community  
for clean water!





# SU|NICA

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