



THE POWER OF  
*PLACE*









## 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.

Father Abraham (yes, the guy from the Old Testament) was somewhat of a nomad, but his story involved a *strong pull toward a new land*. Despite Abraham and his sons' wanderings, the undercurrent of **an ultimate destination** was always there.

**Today, we still feel a pull to the idea of place** – it's what shapes us. Take for example my parents' old home. I'm often drawn to bringing my children to the place where my family's memories were made inside the walls my grandfather built.

The human connection to place is underrated. Many young people prefer to keep their roots loose, always ready to move across the country or the globe. I felt that too until I became more aware of my longing for **home** – for places and relationships that feel like forever.

SuNica turned 14 years old in 2023. And despite the many places where we have active discipleship programming or completed water projects, we only have deeded property in a few spots. And yet there is one special place where we hope never to move out. It serves as a great anchor point – not only for retreats but for the heart of the organization.

If you know SuNica, you know the Sacred Forest.

The Sacred Forest is one of those locations that has a place in everyone's heart. It's the place where multiple young people tell us they became followers of Jesus. A trip here mirrors one of those great pauses in a Psalm. **This place embodies the 'selah' of life** (meaning a place to "stop and listen" or pause).

Our goal is to be a "selah" both in the places where God would have us and in the lives of His people. SuNica gets to be a part of His provision through ministry and vocation and His sustenance in strong relationships.

The commitment to maintain a place over time transcends mere obligation – rather, it's a profound act of love and service. Because after all, **buildings rise and fall, but the place (and the people within it) matters**. So this year as we reflect on the power of places that make SuNica special, we invite you to come alongside us to celebrate all that God is doing, both now and for years to come.

With gratitude,



**Alan Wilser**, Co-Founder and Director



# OUR *FOCUS AREAS*



## **CLEAN WATER**

*A place to quench thirst.*

We provide full-scale clean water systems within communities. Throughout the construction process, we keep making disciples of Jesus top of mind as our ultimate mission. Uniquely, we collaborate closely with community members, working side-by-side on tasks such as digging ditches and connecting pipes, in an effort to provide 24/7 access to clean water.

**Our Monthly Giving Program for Clean Water**

**pipeline**





## EDUCATION

*A place to learn.*

We provide assistance with school supplies, uniforms, and scholarships. By motivating students toward academic improvement in areas prone to high dropout rates, we're working to cultivate a new generation of ethical and Christ-following professionals in Nicaragua.



## DISCIPLESHIP

*A place to grow.*

We believe that an individual's success is not solely determined by academic or professional achievements, but also by spiritual development and personal relationships with Jesus and one another. Through discipleship, we offer guidance and support to children, fostering an older sibling-like relationship to embody the love of God, thereby creating a safe environment where they can turn to Jesus and deepen their knowledge of Him.

Our Discipleship & Education Program

# THRIVE



# THE *PLACES* THAT SHAPE US

1

## *EL LIMONAL CENTRO*

This was the first piece of dirt we ever purchased making it the “OG SuNica property”. In the early days, having a community center in a place like El Limonal felt like a wild dream just beyond our reach. But YOU, the SuNica Faithful believed and made it happen! We can always look at the Community Center in El Limonal and be encouraged that God will answer big prayers. This space is paramount for the kids in the community – where they can come and play, feel safe, and know that the people there are for them and want to see them grow closer to God!



2

## *THE SACRED FOREST*

The Sacred Forest is THE gift we didn't know we needed! Founder Josh Pease spent his college summers discipling young men through camps. He realized his passion was to re-create a similar experience for the young Nicaraguans we serve through SuNica. One day, Josh met Jim and Sarah Hornsby who vowed to bestow upon the organization this wonderful gift – a 200-acre piece of rainforest property with the makings of a camp experience. In 2023, SuNica took on the full responsibility of Sacred Forest staffing – integrating the original staff with the new SuNica staff. This special place is near and dear to our hearts – it's a place where many people find or are reminded of their sense of belonging through Christ. There were a total of 42 trips and 252 visitors to the Sacred Forest in the last year alone!



3

## *SUNICA HQ*

We don't actually own this space, but the continuous operation of an office space over the last 12 years has created a working “home base” for our staff. This is a place where the SuNica Family gathers every Monday for a 3-hour meeting. We play a game, share prayer requests, and go through a devotional to kick off the work week. This has been key in our strategy to congeal the team, be on mission together, and create a familial environment where each person is valued!







**SACRED FOREST** ②

**EL LIMONAL** ①

**EL PORVENIR**

**SAN CARLOS**

**SUNICA HQ** ③

**LOS RANCHOS**

**SALINAS GRANDE**

**LA LEONA**

- ESTELI
- MATAGALPA
- CHINANDEGA
- LEÓN
- MANAGUA
- MASAYA
- GRANADA
- JINOTEPE
- JUIGALPA
- RIVAS



# NICARAGUA

# 2023 MILESTONES

2023 was a great year of “newness” for SuNica – we celebrated new programs, new spaces, and new faces! Here are a few notable highlights:



Our team grew and we arrived at **45 total staff!**



We bought the land for the **Salinas Community Center** in Salinas Grande (a long time coming!).



We moved into a **NEW SuNica office** after being in the same office for 6 years (we were about to burst at the seams!).



We **launched Pipeline** – our monthly giving community for clean water. And **more than 80 people** joined to support our mission consistently!

## CLEAN WATER ACHIEVEMENTS

### IN EL PORVENIR

SuNica has made great progress in empowering the local water committees in El Porvenir. They've expanded from serving 115 families to **193 families** with clean water! This influx of new families highlights the importance of having 24/7 piped-on-premises clean water. The community has also built significant financial reserves, enabling them to fix almost any system failure. With their current savings rate, they'll be ready to replace major components well ahead of schedule – a huge win! This financial stability sets the stage for future projects over the next 20 years.

### IN SAN CARLOS

SuNica remains dedicated to supporting the Water & Sanitation Committee (CAPS) of San Carlos through our ongoing monitoring of their water project. We've grown from serving 126 families to **162 families**, thanks to the continuous availability of clean water. This essential amenity has attracted many new families to the area. San Carlos has also built up enough financial reserves to handle any potential system damage, ensuring long-term sustainability. The annual household growth rate of 5.3% is a direct testament to the project's success.



# NATY'S POINT OF VIEW

*A place to reclaim dreams.*

My name is Nathalia (Naty) Sanchez, and I've had the privilege of working at SuNica since 2022. I'm from the El Limonal community, where I've lived for 21 years, witnessing its development firsthand. I want to share what God has done through SuNica in my community and the incredible transformation I've seen through THRIVE. Many children and young adults have been empowered to pursue their education, thanks to God's work through SuNica. Families have been touched by His grace, and now, many children who once neglected their studies are filled with a newfound determination to succeed.

**SuNica has played a pivotal role in nurturing their aspirations for a brighter future and professional success.**

Reflecting on the past decade, I recall a time when very few people had aspirations for higher education. Poverty and a lack of opportunities cast a shadow over their hopes.

Today, I can rejoice in the fact that closer to **9 in 10 young people in my community have a desire for higher education!** Each child who once felt resigned to a life defined by working in the garbage dump now envisions a future beyond its confines. Many have found employment beyond the community, breaking free from the cycle of despair that once defined their existence. SuNica has breathed new life into their dreams, reclaiming their childhood from the clutches of adversity.

*Naty*

– Naty Sanchez, Discipleship Coordinator



## THRIVE MILESTONES

*Reaching more kids in Nicaragua.*

*In 2023, we distributed:*

**168**

school  
uniform  
shirts

**121**

school  
uniform  
shoes

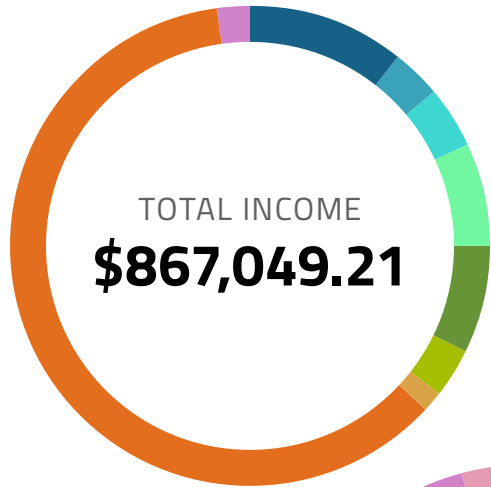
**121**

backpacks

**106**

school  
uniform  
pants

# 2023 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	\$97,619.08	\$146,080.48
> Salinas Grande Water	—	\$31,202.00
> Los Ranchos Water	—	\$114,878.48
● THRIVE – Education & Discipleship	\$29,580.89	\$108,278.70
● Staff Support	\$38,533.99	\$61,736.51
● El Limal Center	—	\$2,443.61
● Salinas Community Center	—	\$9,228.01
● Sacred Forest Fund	\$62,900.00	\$50,732.46
● SuNica Trips	\$64,308.65	\$56,176.05
● SF Coffee	\$30,397.90	\$9,898.28
● The Curiosity Circle	\$13,674.77	\$8,159.22
● General ( <i>Unrestricted</i> )	\$510,607.92	\$110,151.26
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>\$847,623.20</b>	<b>\$562,884.58</b>
<b>USA Based</b>		
● Fundraising	—	\$129,467.08
● US Staff ( <i>CEO, Admin, Dev. Director, etc.</i> )	\$19,426.01	\$109,199.59
● US Operations ( <i>Rent, Int'l Travel, Accounting</i> )	—	\$30,556.97
● US Staff Travel to Nicaragua	—	\$8,557.56
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>\$19,426.01</b>	<b>\$277,781.20</b>
<b>2023 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$867,049.21</b>	<b>\$840,665.78</b>





# SNEAK PEEK INTO 2024



## *Introducing the new H2O project!*

If you receive our Pipeline e-newsletters, you may have read the exciting news about the location of SuNica's latest water project. Please welcome the community of **Ameya!** This water project will bring water to the entire community, which includes **90 total households!** Follow SuNica on social for more details in the coming months.



## *Our 15<sup>th</sup> birthday!*



It's hard to believe 2024 will mark SuNica's 15th Anniversary! We're blown away by what God has done in and through our organization over the years – the places we've served and the people we've met have been nothing short of life-changing. We hope you'll join us as we continue our mission and celebrate big in 2024!



# OUR *BOARD*

Christopher Walker (Board Chair)

Rosalie Simcoe

Johnny Hindman

Bryan Ball

Stephen McFadden

Josh Pease

Alan Wilser

# SU|NICA

410 LORD BERKLEY ROAD, RALEIGH, NC 27610

SUNICA.ORG  