



December 2021 Newsletter



Community Activities in Nicaragua

As we look forward to 2022 there will be community-wide gatherings to start the year. The directing representatives in San Carlos and La Gallina will review successes, get feedback from the residents, and have some games for everyone to enjoy.

A number of women who have passed three levels of baking classes will teach new students. Some of the more accomplished bakers will get one-on-one expert training to advance their skills.

More individuals will participate in the revolving small business loan fund. These loans have had a near-perfect rate of return and have stimulated the local economy.

As youth move on to the university and other commitments, they are passing the torch to other teens to administrate the pizza business. The new ice cream parlor has a location and will be opening soon, run by a different group of young entrepreneurs.

Also on the horizon is the inauguration of a community pharmacy that will provide services like blood pressure monitoring as well as economical products close to home. Various residents have been trained and the Health Department needs to give final approval.

Finally, director of Community Development Rosa Lira will begin an evaluation to determine the viability of expanding the community process to a new location. Because PML's role is so highly regarded in the area, leadership from other villages have expressed interest in participating. This move will require an assessment of our staffing needs in León.

PML is so grateful for the support of our friends. Not only have we weathered social political upheaval and the pandemic, the communities of San Carlos and La Gallina have flourished over the past few years.



The Newest Youth Enterprise - an ice cream shop!

PML Community Comes Together for Virtual Fiesta



Director of Community Development
Rosa Lira Ulloa

Undaunted by the pandemic, PML supporters met online for our second virtual Fiesta and participated in a week-long fund-a-need appeal and silent auction. At the November 6 Fiesta, viewers learned about the ongoing work in León and showed generous support for the community development that continues as a joint effort of people in León and Minnesota.

The evening included introductions of the board and staff and an update by Director of Community Development Rosa Lira Ulloa and Executive Director Elizabeth Moreira. A new 10-minute video by Nicaraguan videographer Marlon Moreno focused on two women in rural La Gallina who have taken vocational courses and received micro loans through the PML community process. It also covers other initiatives. You can watch the video [here](#). Additionally, you can watch Marlon Moreno's video of folkloric dancing by Youth Cultural Exchange participant Alaniz Alfaro and other youth from San Carlos [here](#).

Thanks to everyone who participated in the virtual event and donated online or sent checks. Special thanks to Rosanne Fischer and her husband for a matching grant and to Edge Home Finance for a sponsorship of the event.

PML fiesta video direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bz0eSBG-Ohw>
Little Bird of Peace video direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHQD2ozwTBE>

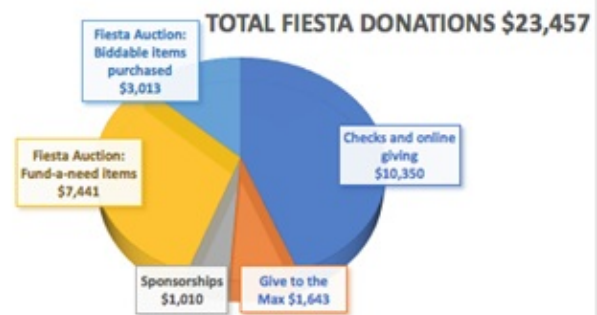
The Fiesta Was a Financial Success!

The goal for the 2021 Fiesta was to raise \$15,000. Instead, our supporters' generosity surpassed our goal to raise a total of \$23,457!! With some additional large donations that came in this fall, we have netted almost \$35,000 to help fund projects in San Carlos and La Gallina, as well as staff time for Rosa and Gabriela and support for our aging truck.



Forty-five people attended the Zoom Fiesta, including a few who had not attended any previous PML events. A total of 65 people purchased biddable or fund-a-need items, including 7 people who are new to PML.

About half of the donations were raised directly by the event itself, with the other half coming from checks, online giving and donations to PML through Give to the Max Minnesota.



We are grateful for all your support in this difficult pandemic year! With your faithfulness, support and encouragement, PML has made some real progress in Leon as partnerships are formed, community is strengthened, and people believe they can be successful in business with just a little capital and guidance.

If you would like to make a year-end donation to help us get the new year off with a strong start please press on the button below. We thank you and Happy Holidays!

[Donate](#)

Our Mission

**A SISTER STATE ORGANIZATION
THAT STRENGTHENS HUMAN AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF
PEOPLE AND IDEAS BETWEEN
MINNESOTA AND LEÓN,**

NICARAGUA

<https://www.mn-leon.org>

