



Hola amigos de la Clinica Roberto Clemente Nicaragua:

There have been many positive changes for the Roberto Clemente Clinic in the past year. The theme for this update is **progress**.

Since mid-2007 **laboratory services** were provided one day a week at the Clinic. Eduardo Bello, a registered lab technician performs routine blood and urine tests including blood chemistry exams.



This service is especially good for the people of the area since many of them would travel to Tola or Rivas for these tests. **A Clinic**

goal for 2008 is to acquire a gynecology exam table through donations so that Pap tests can be performed.



Eduardo was recently sponsored to obtain Extra Medicare. He suffers from lack of nutrition, partial cerebral paralysis, and cerebral disritmia. Help other kid with **the Program El Padrino**. **Click Here** <http://www.nicaclinic.org/donations.php>

Gustavo Ibarra, a registered pharmacist from Rivas, came to work at the Clinic as the result of a mandate by SILAIS. Because the Clinic has a pharmacy that receives donated medicines and purchases and sells medicines, SILAIS demanded that the Clinic hire a registered pharmacist. Hence Gustavo began his work at the Clinic in late January, 2008. Gustavo's first days at the Clinic were spent in the **small farmacia** stepping over the four crates of supplies that I brought to the Clinic two days earlier. Gustavo has been flexible in not only putting up with the organization of donated and purchased medicines but also with implementing new documentation. Organization and detailed documentation by Gustavo and our Comptroller Juan Vargas took the clinic to a higher level of progress this year.



As a result of meetings in February, 2008, wholesale medicines are both donated and purchased through Juan XXIII University in Managua. In order to become a recipient of this opportunity, the Clinic had to pass inspections and rigorous scrutiny of documentation.



In the past, I have spoken of progress “grain by grain”. As the Clinic grew and appropriate administrative processes ensued under the guidance of Juan Vargas and his staff, and Juan Munoz, the Clinic Operations Manager, policies and oversight were instituted. These policies and procedures have made it possible to apply for and receive the first major philanthropic organization donations—**JUAN XXIII University**

and **Orden de Malta medications**. In the past, the **American Nicaragua Foundation (AMF)** was the solo in country donor. AMF continues to donate used chairs, and some office items.

A further indicator of Clinic **progress** is the increase in clinical volunteers over the past year. **Dr. Matt Hicks, a dentist from Portland, OR** visited the Clinic twice providing dental care. His success with the patients opened discussions to contract with **Reina Ortiz a dentist from Rivas** to provide dental services at the Clinic one day a month.



We recently joined efforts with **Dr. Vikram Bakhru of the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC)**, who chose the Clinic as one of the organization’s volunteer sites. The Clinic hosted the first FIMRC volunteers this spring. Photos of their visit are present in our website <http://www.nicaclinic.org/photo-gallery/> under Photo Gallery. Another FIMRC visit will take place in Fall, 2008.



As more volunteers desire to work at the Clinic, it is evident that our little facility needs to grow in size to accommodate patients and services. New services require more and larger equipment than we can hold in our existing building. We have accomplished the building of a battery backup system and a room extension to house the Clinic administrative staff and cocina area for staff. **This addition was fully sponsored by the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC).**

In late 2007, the Clinic received a donation of architectural drawings from a retired California hospital architect, Rich Hoisington, who worked with Margie Fincham to design a structure that would complement the existing building and provide appropriate new rooms for birthing and surgery, dentistry and ophthalmology, and more office and storage space for supplies. As you can imagine, all that is needed now is the funding for this new addition. To contribute for this program or any other program please visit <http://www.nicaclinic.org/>

The Clinic Padrino Project Up and Running

Jesus Adrian Gazo and his family have been lucky enough to live close to the Roberto Clemente – Santa Ana Health Clinic. There, he has been able to receive vital medical attention to help his various handicaps including lack of good nutrition, convulsions, and slow psychomotor development.

Unfortunately, Jesus needs more help than the clinic can provide for one individual, which is why we have created **El Padrino Project**. El Padrino (Spanish for Godfather) Project, gives you the opportunity to make a difference in the life of one child. For just \$50 a month, you can help change his life and offer Jesus the opportunity for a healthier future.

Your monthly donation will provide Jesus with the necessary medicine and treatments to help him maintain a stable and healthier life. As a Padrino sponsor, you will receive updates and photos as well.



To contribute to these programs please visit <http://www.nicaclinic.org/donations.php>

The census at the Clinic is growing slowly and steadily. **In 2007, over 10,500 patients were seen at the Clinic.** Dr. Flores, the nurses, and volunteers have worked diligently with SILAIS to provide the surrounding communities education regarding clean water usage and vector eradication education as well as provided a vaccination clinic for the Tola area. In addition, Juan Vargas and the Clinic Board are developing public relations opportunities in the area. Surfing camps and property owners utilize the Clinic and recognize the quality medical care that is available to them locally.

Please visit our recent two minutes video clip that one of our Surfer's volunteer created for us at <http://www.nicaclinic.org/volunteers>

More Clinic progress is forthcoming in the Fall 2008 Newsletter.

Margie Fincham, R.N., MSN

Margie Fincham RN, MSN
Health Care Director
The Roberto Clemente Clinic

P.S. As I write this, we are hosting a big event in Rivas, Nicaragua to give away 110 wheelchairs to the local hospitals, clinics, and those in need. This is in collaboration with the Wheelchair Foundation, the Rotary Club of Sacramento, Rancho Santana, and our Clinic. More details on this project, our big fundraising party in Managua in January 2009, and some exciting things we are doing with the international surf community -- in the next issue.

P.P.S. Please **save the day** for our next big fundraising party on January 16 2009 in Managua. More details coming soon.