

FOUNDER'S STORY

July 2007



I traveled to Nicaragua as a student leader with my church. I had just gotten the director of development position with Stop Hunger Now, a hunger relief organization. During our time there we witnessed the work ORPHANetwork, a non profit working in impoverished Nicaraguan communities, was doing and became determined to make the connection between Stop Hunger Now and ORPHANetwork. The goal was to get rice/soy fortified meals shipped to Nicaragua to provide food for the feeding centers ORPHANetwork sponsored in the community of Nueva Vida. Jonathan was my first friend in Nicaragua, he had grown up at Casa Bernebe, the orphanage where our team stayed. He welcomed me into his life with open arms and inspired me to return to Nicaragua to serve those most in need.

November 2012

Six months after I had my aortic valve replaced which resulted in complications including a stroke, I returned to Nicaragua. At this point I had been coming to Nicaragua for 5 years, I started to lead vision trips to Nicaragua with Stop Hunger Now and I continued to serve as a team leader with my church. ORPHANetwork had been receiving meals from Stop Hunger Now since 2009 and were growing dramatically. I met Suopa (Sue-op-a) on my first trip to Nica in 2007, she lives at Casa Bernebe. Here in 2012 she has become a teenager and trusts me as a friend. As she rested on my shoulder, I reflected on my purpose to serve in Nicaragua and the individuals our work impacts.



March 2015

I meet Dulce (which means sweet in Spanish), a girl from a feeding center in Managua. I have not met her before, however she comes over and shares a very "sweet" smile and lifts her arms for a snuggle. After overcoming the medical challenges and PTSD symptoms related to my aortic valve replacement in 2012, God provides me comfort again. This time in the arms of a young Nicaraguan girl who just needed a little snuggle time too. While leading this Stop Hunger Now team including staff and board members, the depth of my roots in Nica become more and more obvious to me.



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