



Dec. 21, 2011: Newsletter 1

March 2012 Service Program to Nicaragua

Welcome

Hola YASC Nicaragua team!! We are so pleased that you are going to join us in Nicaragua for this excellent adventure in March 2012!! The trip was sold out almost within a couple weeks so we are thrilled that it is so popular!

Now we do have people on the waiting list so if you find out that you cannot attend then let us know immediately. Also we want to offer an alternate experience as well. We are looking for a few people who would like to work with the Yale School of Nursing students and facility in Managua instead of going on to Matagalpa. The nursing group will be working at La Escuelita, the small school in Managua doing a medical clinic and health education for over 100 students. We would be able to offer this program at a considerably reduced rate as well since the group will be staying at the CEPAD compound in dormitory styled housing instead of a hotel. Let me know if you are interested.

What's Next

We will soon be organizing our individual volunteers into their requested project areas or placing them in groups depending on the community needs. We will send all of you this list once it has been finalized and participants have completed their final payment. The project groups allow us to assess manpower but it may be possible for volunteers to change groups or work with several, depending on the situation in the field.

Documents Required

Now it is time to talk about the documents that you will need. The first one is the Liability Waiver that Yale requires of all participating adults and children. Please fill out the enclosed waiver for each volunteer and send it in as per the instructions.

Next, everyone will have to have a passport that has an expiry date at least to the date of your departure from Nicaragua. There is a \$10 tourist card required that can be bought at the airport and a \$32 departure tax that may be included in your air line ticket. If the tax is not included,

you can pay that at the airline counter upon departure. If you have a passport from a country other than the United States you should check whether you are required to get a visa to enter Nicaragua. The number to call the Embassy of Nicaragua in the United States is 202-939-6570.

Scholarship Information

During the next period, we will also be assessing scholarship applications, which will include current Yale students. If you have requested a scholarship please make sure that you download an application from the YASC website and get it in to Joao by Jan. 15th. We want all the students and young alumni that we can get to join us if funding is available. Dwight Hall has been especially helpful in the past and they will be working with the YASC volunteer scholarship committee for selection.

Planning Flights

The next step is for you to plan your flights and **make sure that your flight arrives before 1pm on Saturday, March 10th, 2012.** As mentioned in the itinerary, we have a pick up for our orientation at 3:30pm on Saturday March 10th at the Best Western Mercedes in Managua across from the Augusto C. Sandino International Airport. Flights can be late and you need time to clear customs, get your bags and check in at the hotel. If you give us your flight numbers then the hotel will send a van to pick you up, otherwise you can just roll your bags across the street to the hotel. You are welcome to fly in a day early and we can assist with booking the hotel for you, if you didn't indicate this on registration already. But let us know right away – hotels are booking up!

Final Payment

Please also pay the remainder of your trip fee by Jan. 15th, 2012 – don't forget!

For those of you who have paid the initial deposit using a credit card and would like to use the same card to pay for the remaining balance, please send an email to Joao Aleixo (joao.aleixo@yale.edu) of the AYA to authorize the transaction or use the link below.



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

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[https://alumni.yale.edu/registration/yasc/nica12/pa
yment2.php](https://alumni.yale.edu/registration/yasc/nica12/pa
yment2.php)

If you prefer to pay for the remaining balance by check, please make your check payable to Yale University and mail to: Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Alumni Service Corps - Nicaragua, Betts House, 393 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511. Please include a printed copy of the Confirmation page you received at the end of the registration process along with your check.

Donations

We will be doing a book and computer drive for the school as well! They do not have any literary resources so if everyone could contribute at least one Spanish elementary level book (some English ones would be good too) then we can begin a nice library for them. If you have a used laptop and would like a good home for it just let us know!!!

Once again we want to express our appreciation for your generosity of spirit. We look forward to meeting all of you soon, and we wish you a wonderful Holiday Season!!

*Constance Spencer 82'MArch
Nicaragua Co-Producer*



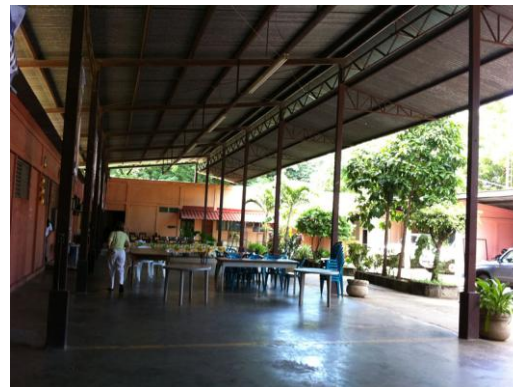
Nursing student at La Escuelita



Health Fair in Matagalpa



Two room school house in El Castillo



CEPAD compound in Managua