



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE AT PODCASTS FOR PEACE

Casa - Pueblito has partnered with Podcasts for Peace for the past five years. Part of the programming that we support at this community centre in Managua is a young mothers' support group. We interviewed Jaime Torres (JT), the coordinator at Podcasts for Peace, about their work in Acahualinca.



Gender equality and women's empowerment is at the forefront of your programming. How have the women of the community changed through access to these programs?

JT: We've witnessed the empowerment of the women who participate in different classes, such as our vocational sewing course, which has allowed women to develop skills and confidence in themselves, and allows them to do work that generates an income. They can then use this income in the way that they see fit.



We've also seen empowerment through the participation of women in the young mothers' support group. They've made comments about their personal growth, empowerment, and self-confidence because of their participation in this program. Our partnership with Casa - Pueblito has allowed us to hire a professional psychologist to facilitate and work with the women, lead the group sessions, and give individual therapy to these women as well as the wider community -- this has been key.

Why do you think that a community centre like Podcasts for Peace has been such an important space for the community?

JT: We live with the community and they live with us; they feel like we listen to their needs we respond in ways that align with what they communicate to us. It's an important space that's by and for the community, focused on equality, and belonging to everybody.

The young mothers' group feels like it's a space where they can express themselves, where they feel like they can get stronger and grow. Podcasts for Peace has been a space where Doña Isabel, an elderly woman who now comes to individual appointments with the psychologist, has been able to manage her grief from the loss of her husband. At the beginning, she was always crying in her sessions, now she laughs.

What have been the biggest benefits of the relationship between Podcasts for Peace and Casa - Pueblito?

JT: The relationship with Casa - Pueblito has allowed us to promote respect for children and create spaces for a healthier, more meaningful childhood for kids. We are always focusing on gender equality for our beneficiaries, as well as respecting the environment and living alongside mother earth. All of this is done from our community centre with the direct participation of the community, and the **main direct financial support** for the projects is coming from Casa - Pueblito.

What is your dream for the future of Podcasts for Peace? For Acahualinca?

JT: My dream for the future of Podcasts for Peace would be **to have more resources to be able to respond to the many more necessities within this community in Managua**, as Acahualinca is a community with many problems in terms of equality of opportunity, families living in extreme poverty, and with many limitations. My dream, alongside that of all of the other collaborators here at Podcasts is to leave footprints of justice and positive change in the lives of community members.



2019 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The political crisis in Nicaragua that began over one year ago means that our community development work is crucial, we remain committed to supporting marginalized communities who have been impacted by the crisis in all facets of life. These are our 2019 community development projects:

SANTA JULIA Construction of five community collection sinks to preserve water in Santa Julia - in partnership with the Gloria Quintanilla Women's Cooperative

JÍÑOCUAO Construction of latrines and deepening of artisanal wells in the community of Jiñocua

ESTELÍ Organic community gardens for 60 vulnerable children & adolescents in Estelí - in partnership with Mujeres Organizadas Emprendedoras de Esteli (MOES)

ESTELÍ Construction of a front wall for christine king cooperative - Estelí

MANAGUA Through art we educate, learn, and express gender equality, care for the environment, and innovation through creativity for community development - Podcasts for Peace (now to be called Huellas de Paz)

LA CALERA Constructing an artisanal well in La Calera - in partnership with UCA Tierra y Agua

CAMOAPA Strengthening the integral assistance program at Hogar Luceros del Amanecer

SOLALÁ Education project that supports Mayan youth by providing a low cost middle school education to students who may not otherwise be attending classes

For more information on our community development projects this year, check out www.casapueblito.org/current-projects

NICARAGUA



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11 - 3 pm
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 @ LITHUANIAN HOUSE,
1573 BLOOR ST W, TORONTO, ON

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE COMPASSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
ACROSS BORDERS!



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