



## GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING.....NADINE JUBB, PROJECT ASSISTANT

Let me introduce you to Bertha and Rosa, two women who met at the Christine King Multiple Services Cooperative in Estelí. Casa-Pueblito has had, and continues to have, a long-standing partnership with this dynamic organization.

Bertha and Rosa had not seen each other in quite a long time. Bertha, a member of the Board of Directors, went to the hospital in Estelí with her daughter last year during the pandemic. She was surprised (and delighted) to see Rosa there. Rosa is one of the hundreds of women who completed their high school diplomas through the night school program operated by the Cooperative. In 2022 alone, more than 200 women are enrolled, 60 of whom are on scholarships. Almost all the women are poor and many are single mothers; some are domestic workers or workers at a tobacco factory. Rosa went on to university after completing her high school diploma and is now a surgical assistant at the regional hospital. And that is how the two women reconnected!

The Cooperative provides many educational programmes, including formal education, vocational training and arts education. It offers vocational training for women and men in baking and pastry making, shoemaking, ceramics and sewing. Children can learn folk-dancing, singing, drawing and painting, and



orchestra in the “Sounds of Segovia” program. The programs are integral because they offer participants health check-ups, preventative medicine, pharmaceuticals and natural remedies from their pharmacy. Women who attend the night school also receive ob-gyn care and transportation services. And everyone involved in the Cooperative’s activities also participates in talks on a wide variety of subjects, from women’s rights and gender equality to how to care for the environment. The Cooperative also has a women’s shelter and an outreach program to prevent violence against women and girls.

Gladys Ruiz, director of Health Services at the Cooperative, speaks in glowing terms of Casa-Pueblito’s 12-year association with Christine King, noting the following highlights:

- The construction and installation of ecological latrines
- Educational & learning materials for the night school program
- Development of music & arts programs

- Medical examining table for doctor consultations
- Bakery and pastry making workshops & equipment
- Fond memories of the numerous Casa-Pueblito high school delegations

Gladys and Bertha both emphasize that each time Casa-Pueblito funds a project, the Cooperative keeps on implementing it for years to come. It’s as if the Cooperative finds ways for Casa-Pueblito’s gifts to keep on giving.

Your donations over the years have fuelled these possibilities, dreams really, that now have become day-to-day realities in the lives of so many women. We see it in Bertha and Rosa’s chance meeting, and in the many diverse programs and activities being offered at the Christine King Cooperative (or COSERMULCK R.L. as it is known locally).

Casa-Pueblito looks forward to many more years of partnership and solidarity with the Christine King Cooperative.





**GREETINGS FROM MANAGUA!**

As I write this, we are heading into “Semana Santa” or Holy Week, popularly known as the hottest week of the year in Nicaragua. Schools are closed for the week and the activities that Nicaraguans most enjoy are: going to the beach or somewhere else to keep cool; staying at home and enjoying fish, “almibar” (a dessert made of stewed fruit), and other traditional Easter foods; or participating in religious activities.

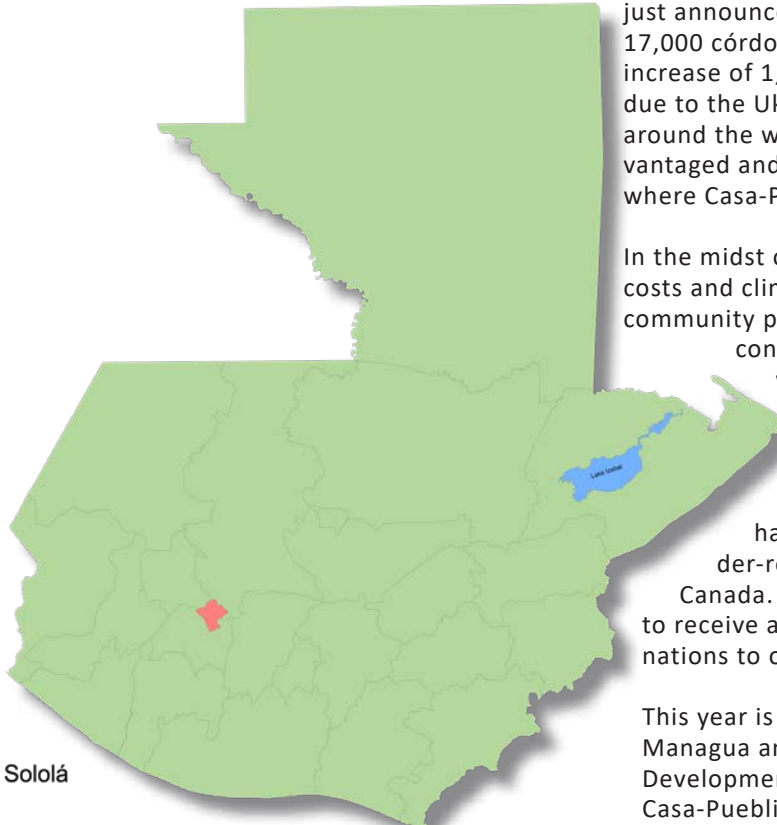
**GUATEMALA**

It seems that the hottest week of the year keeps getting hotter as our world races from climate change to climate crisis. Added to this, the Nicaraguan Statistics Institute (INIDE) just announced that the basic basket of goods and services now costs 17,000 córdobas per month, or about 600 Canadian dollars. That’s an increase of 1,000 córdobas from last December. Fuel costs are rising due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, which affects people’s daily lives around the world, especially women who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and single mothers. This is equally true for the communities where Casa-Pueblito works in solidarity.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing difficulties, and rising costs and climate effects, I am honoured to work with Casa-Pueblito’s community partners to support their efforts to improve their living conditions, whether its access to clean water and sanitation; women’s rights; academic and arts education for children, teens and adults; or climate-smart agriculture practices.

We have a larger portfolio of our small, grassroots projects this year than we have had in the past, and we have just completed one year of our climate-smart gender-responsive agriculture project sponsored by Global Affairs Canada. Also Casa-Pueblito was recently selected by Canada Helps to receive and distribute a portion of its international COVID-19 donations to our community partners.

This year is the 30th Anniversary of the purchase of “the Casa” in Managua and the creation of the Casa Canadiense Community and Development Centre. We continue to make our mission a reality as Casa-Pueblito by facilitating locally driven development and social justice endeavors with our partners. We could not have done this at all without your loyal and consistent support! ¡Muchas Gracias!



 Sololá



**Organized Community of Paso Hondo**  
Santo Tomás del Norte (Paso Hondo)

Well and piping



**MOES**  
Estelí

Income-generation alternatives for women using recycled materials collected from the municipal landfill



**El Triunfo**  
Sololá

Middle school education for Mayan children



**Hogar Luceros del Amanecer**  
Camoapa

Integral assistance program for children



**Christine King Cooperative**  
Estelí

Building a multi-purpose auditorium and  
Alternative medicine projects



**Huellas de Paz**  
Managua

Art, gender equality and community  
development



**Gloria Quintanilla Cooperative**  
El Crucero (Santa Julia)

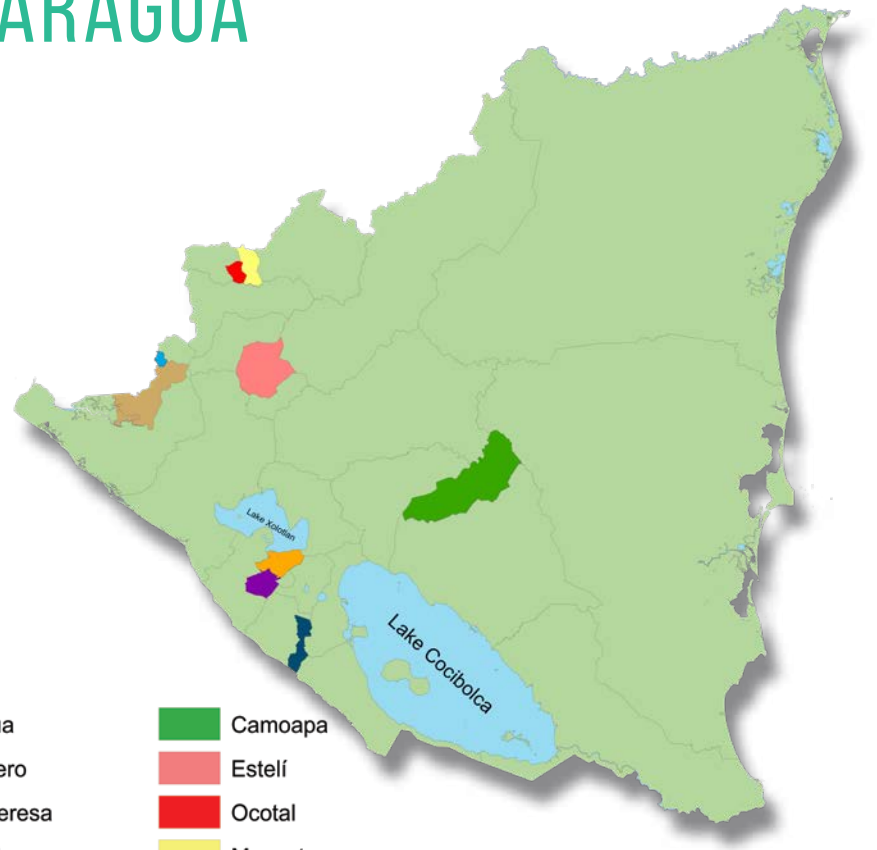
Agroecological production and marketing for  
women farmers project; GRCSA project



**Daukaia**  
Ocotal

Education and personal development for children

# NICARAGUA



- Managua
- Camoapa
- El Crucero
- Estelí
- Santa Teresa
- Ocotal
- Somotillo
- Mozonte
- Santo Tomas del Norte



**Organized Community of Jiñocua**  
Somotillo (Jiñocua)

School renovations and GRCSA project



**Gaspar García Laviana Collective**  
Santa Teresa

GRCSA project (Gender Responsive Climate-Smart  
Agriculture with Global Affairs Canada)



**Indigenous People of Mozonte**  
Mozonte

Community participation and strengthened  
institutions

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Heffernan | Vice President  
Catherine Walker | Secretary  
Daniel Wong | Treasurer  
Michael O'Sullivan | Staff Liaison  
Ken McGuffin | Board member  
Kathleen Ware | Board member  
Almicar Kraudie | Board member

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Samantha Torres | Program Manager  
Emieke Geldof | Bookkeeper

### Managua

Jasson Garcia | Country Director  
Walter González | Accountant  
Darling Huerta | House & Office Attendant  
Nadine Jubb | Project Assistant  
Fide Ávalos | Gender Coordinator  
Daniel Paredes | Agricultural Coordinator

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# COMINGS & GOINGS

## BOARD MEMBERS HIT THE ROAD

The global pandemic put a damper on travelling for everybody and it certainly derailed planned trips of Casa-Pueblito Board Members to visit project sites and to meet with our Community partners in various locations. Well, thankfully that is changing, with long time serving Board Member Ken McGuffin just back from Guatemala. He reports on continued successes and graduations from the Middle School Program in Solola, known as the El Triunfo Project, with over 50 students enrolled. Ken noted the passion and creativity of both teachers and students despite the challenges of a hybrid structure necessary for delivery in these pandemic times.



And President Carl Melvin and Vice President / Co-Founder Bill Heffernan are off to Nicaragua on Easter Monday for a visit to the Casa-Pueblito Centre in Managua to meet with our 5 new hires from last summer. It's a long overdue trip, as it's been over 3 years now since the last one. We are very much looking forward to that visit. We'll also be travelling to project sites in El Crucero / Santa Julia and Estelí. Stay tuned for updates...



This year marks a very important achievement for Casa-Pueblito, as we have accomplished the first year of our Gender Responsive Climate Smart Agriculture Project in Nicaragua. We are thrilled to share with our donors and supporters that the staff in Managua have been working in the field alongside our partners, from planting seeds to harvesting crops. In addition, our community Promoters are being trained in gender and agriculture and then are reproducing their new knowledge and skills in workshops with their respective communities.

In the coming year, we will be sharing many more practices with our partners, such as composting and vermicomposting methods, building greenhouses, and drip irrigation systems for gardens. We want to thank all of you who have helped with your generous donations to ensure that we can continue to support our community members living in drought challenging environmental pockets of Nicaragua.



## ADIOS Y GRACIAS LUCERO

Four years ago, Lucero Tsui joined the Casa-Pueblito team as our Fundraising and Administrative Assistant. Almost immediately, the day-to-day operations in the office took on a whole new level of efficiency. Lucero also became a vital participant in the preparation for and execution of our fundraising events, whatever the time of day or evening. Her skills on the job were equally matched by her passion for the work we do. Not surprisingly, a wonderful opportunity presented itself and Lucero is now working much closer to her new home putting her skills and passion to more good work. She will always be a part of the Casa-Pueblito family. We will miss her dearly.



**CASA  
PUEBLITO**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

HELP FUNDRAISE FOR CASA-PUEBLITO TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN NICARAGUA.



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