

HIM Update

Newsletter of Humanitarian Interfaith Ministries

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A Dream Growing in Nicaragua

In 1989, a small community of Nicaraguan nuns was founded by Mother Teresa Ortez. The community called Servants of the Divine Face is based in the town of El Crucero outside of Managua, the capital city of Nicaragua. The 14 sisters of the community dedicate themselves to caring for homeless children that they find living on the streets of Nicaragua. On a piece of land donated by the Nicaraguan government, they have constructed an orphanage which is now a permanent home to 28 girls from the streets of Nicaragua. Some of the girls they find living alone on the streets are as young as four years.

According to Mother Teresa, everyday is a struggle for survival at the orphanage. Although they have a home, they have no reliable source of funds to feed, clothe and educate the 28 girls. They receive no financial assistance from the Nicaraguan government or the local Catholic church. They depend on the generosity of local individual donors many of whom are struggling themselves to survive. Recently, the sisters have begun to receive monthly support from HIM child sponsors. This has already begun to improve the quality of life for the girls.



The Sisters of El Hogar del Nino orphanage in El Crucero, Nicaragua along with the young girls that they have rescued from the streets.

To ensure that they will continue to be able to care for the girls, Mother Teresa envisions a day when they will become 80 percent self-sufficient by growing all of their own food. Any extra food that they grow can be sold in the local street markets to raise enough money to help with other expenses. They now operate a small farm near the orphanage where they grow beans and vegetables. This provides most of the girl's diet.

The sisters claim that for years they have dreamed of adding a fruit tree orchard to help the girls have a healthier diet. It has remained a dream since they lack the financial resources to make it happen.

On November 3, 2008, Mother Teresa and the sisters received a grant from HIM to begin the orchard project. The day after receiving the grant, the sisters purchased the trees and hired laborers to begin the work. In time, they hope not only to offer the girls a healthier diet but to also have a source of income to continue to improve the quality of life for children who have no one else to care for them.

Mother Teresa said that God has answered her prayers through the generous donors of HIM.



One of the nuns gives a tour of the plot of land that will someday produce fruit and help to ensure that the sisters will continue to be able to care for homeless girls they find on the streets of Nicaragua.