DEAR AMIGOS FAMILY,

In the pages that follow, you will see a lot of progress. 2017 was awesome! We love progress, but we love people even more. Why? Because behind every bit of progress is a person that God created in His image. For this reason, Jesus asked us to love one another and to look out for each other.

That is why we love the Spanish word JUNTOS (together) so much. It describes how you have come alongside to help Doña Liliam and her great-great grandchildren taste clean water for the first time. It explains why a ditch-witch can’t replace the time spent digging a water line with her, and learning what it is like to be in her shoes. Juntos is a theme at the center of the Lopez Family story (page 8), who are experiencing transformation through Plan 7, our community development model.

You have loved people well in 2017. This is why so much progress has been made. The future is bright in Nicaragua, and in our world. As you read through this annual report, enjoy the good that you made happen, and know that, juntos, we have shined our lights so that our Father in Heaven will be glorified.

Thanks for being part of our family,

John Bland
Chief Executive Officer
1,630 volunteers served alongside their Nicaraguan brothers and sisters. A collective 3,892,440 feet were climbed to the beautiful summit of Cerro Negro volcano. Approximately 16,300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were consumed at local worksites. 245 evenings were spent in the peaceful rancho, reflecting on and worshiping a God who loves us more than we can imagine. COUNTLESS friendships made that endure thousands of miles and awkward language barriers. JUNTOS, a mantra meaning “together,” united the greater Amigos Family consisting of 24,857 supporters, 8,634 community members, and 108 Amigos Team members. CHARITY NAVIGATOR awarded Amigos for Christ with 4 Stars, a Perfect 100 in Financial Health and Accountability and Transparency, and a spot in the Top 10 List of Highly Rated Charities Relying on Private Contributions. Our Georgia Office moved into a NEW HOME OFFICE. 2017 HIGHLIGHTS 265 community leaders were trained, equipped, and encouraged to lead 18 communities in life transformation. Community leaders received regular TRAINING on water system maintenance, finances, leadership & motivation, and community development. 110,247,217 gallons of clean water flowed to 1200 families. 2 water systems were completed in Las Torres and Matilde, serving 109 families. 113 Modern Bathrooms were built with rural families A NEW MODERN BATHROOM DESIGN was developed by our infrastructure team to make the construction process more efficient and the structure safer. A landmark agreement was forged with the NICARAGUAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH. The partnership will test for and educate families on 3 easily preventable diseases: intestinal parasites, kidney disease, and respiratory disease due to smoke inhalation while cooking. The ultimate goal is disease eradication. 2,645 urine and stool samples were collected to diagnose, treat, and further prevent kidney disease and parasites. 28 CLEAN AIR KITCHENS were constructed with rural families. 637 HOME VISITS were made to destroy disease-ridden latrines and promote bathroom cleanliness and personal hygiene. CREATION CLUB, an after school program, was launched to serve 500 children in reading comprehension. 135 STUDENTS received scholarships to attend high school and university and served their local communities by completing 8,420 service hours. 216,000 healthy meals were served to more than 600 students in 4 primary schools. 2 NEW SCHOOLS opened their doors in La Chuscada and San Marcos. 6 additional CLASSROOMS were built in El Chonco to accommodate the increased attendance. 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Plan 7 is Amigos for Christ’s community development model. The focus of this model is long-term, sustainable growth in rural Nicaraguan communities. Plan 7 is broken down into five project areas: Leadership, Water & Sanitation, Health, Education, and Economic Development. Each project area has tango lists (listed below) that we are committed to completing within 7 years. This is Plan 7.

**Leadership**
- 1 Plan 7 Presented
- 2 Community Leadership Identified
- 3 Water & Sanitation Committee (CAPS) Organized
- 4 CAPS Trained
- 5 CAPS Organized
- 6 Community Development Committee Organized
- 7 Community Development Committee Trained in Leadership and Sustainability
- 8 CAPS and Community Development Committee are Functioning
- 9 CAPS and Community Development Committee are Operating all Projects
- 10 The Community Leads, Owns, and Operates Every Project

**Health**
- 1 70% of Individuals have been Examined for Disease
- 2 100% of Individuals have been Treated for Intestinal Parasites
- 3 70% of Individuals Completed Hygiene Training
- 4 100% of Individuals Treated for Kidney Disease
- 5 10% of Families Trained and Utilizing Clean Air Kitchens
- 6 30% of Families Trained and Utilizing Clean Air Kitchens
- 7 40% of Families Trained and Utilizing Clean Air Kitchens
- 8 50% of Families Trained and Utilizing Clean Air Kitchens & 50% of Families have Eliminated their Latrines
- 9 60% of Families Trained and Utilizing Clean Air Kitchens & 60% of Families have Eliminated their Latrines
- 10 All Families Trained and Utilizing Clean Air Kitchens & All Families have Eliminated their Latrines

**Education**
- 1 Agreement with Ministry of Education Coordinated & Signed
- 2 MINED Teachers Receiving Continued Education Training
- 3 30% of Children* Attending School
- 4 40% of Children* Attending School
- 5 50% of Children* Attending School
- 6 60% of Children* Attending School
- 7 70% of Children* Attending School
- 8 80% of Children* Attending School

**Economic Development**
- 1 10% > $15/Day
- 2 20% > $15/Day
- 3 30% > $15/Day
- 4 40% > $15/Day
- 5 50% > $15/Day
- 6 60% > $15/Day
- 7 70% > $15/Day
- 8 80% > $15/Day
- 9 90% > $15/Day
- 10 100% > $15/Day

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### Plan 7 Progress Key
- 
- **Completed**
- **2017 Progress**
- **Not Started**

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The Life-Changing Effects of Plan 7 on a Family

Cristobal Lopez has been a leader in the small, remote community of La Coyotera for over 20 years where he shares a modest home, constructed of blocks and sticks, with his wife and four school-aged children. Cristobal has worked all his life as a small-scale farmer, a livelihood which can be very unstable in the harsh terrain of northern Nicaragua. In the past, he barely made ends meet due to the exorbitant interest rate he was paying on bank loans (up to 50%). For Cristobal’s family, their only access to water was a shallow, hand-dug well in their yard. His family suffered from chronic diarrhea, parasites, and severe dehydration. Life had one basic focus: survival.

Cristobal’s story took a dramatic turn in 2014 when his community forged a partnership with Amigos for Christ. This partnership, centered on Plan 7, Amigos’ community development model, is a seven year commitment during which Amigos for Christ will provide the materials and technical expertise to install much-needed infrastructure including a clean water system, Modern Bathrooms, and Clean Air Kitchens. The families of La Coyotera have agreed to provide the labor required to complete these projects, as well as a 10% financial buy-in. But, there is much more to this partnership than infrastructure improvements.

Over the course of nearly two decades, Amigos for Christ has learned that the key to overcoming poverty is empowerment. When people have a vision for what they can become, and someone cheering them on, there is no limit to what God will do. For Cristobal and the community of La Coyotera, Plan 7 provided a vision for what the community could become.

This vision is transforming Cristobal’s family. From their own hard work and sacrifice, clean water now flows to their home, and their Modern Bathroom protects them from disease. All of Cristobal’s children are healthy enough to attend school - the younger ones at a primary school in La Coyotera, the older at a secondary school about 3 km away - and all aspire to attend university.

Cristobal bears when he explains the most transforming aspect of the Amigos partnership: investment in his farming business. He is part of a cooperative with ten other farmers in his community, and they enjoy a 1.6% interest rate through the microloan program. The interest they pay goes into a savings account for each farmer that, after five years, will become theirs to use as capital. This microloan effectively breaks the cycle of dependence and poverty while allowing farmers, like Cristobal and the others in his cooperative, to experience dignity and independence while earning a living.

Cristobal’s story is one of thousands being infused with hope in the rural communities that Amigos serves in the Chinandega Department. We want every family to thrive, and - after his experience with Plan 7 - Cristobal has agreed to serve as an advocate for families who desperately need vision and empowerment.

When asked what he tells communities who are new to the Amigos Plan 7 model, Cristobal replies “I tell them to pray! Pray that you can take hold of this opportunity! Amigos works with you. They teach you to believe in yourself and in God’s providence. They have taught me so much. La Coyotera is proof that this works. It is not symbolic help, but real, personal help,” and, with an unmistakable confidence in himself and his future, Cristobal proclaims, “We have water, bathrooms, and soon my family will be financially independent!”

Cristobal Lopez has been a leader in the small, remote community of La Coyotera for over 20 years where he shares a modest home, constructed of blocks and sticks, with his wife and four school-aged children. Cristobal has worked all his life as a small-scale farmer, a livelihood which can be very unstable in the harsh terrain of northern Nicaragua. In the past, he barely made ends meet due to the exorbitant interest rate he was paying on bank loans (up to 50%). For Cristobal’s family, their only access to water was a shallow, hand-dug well in their yard. His family suffered from chronic diarrhea, parasites, and severe dehydration. Life had one basic focus: survival.
This year, with a selection of secondary and university students, we’re piloting a new approach we call Young Leaders in Action to make our Scholarship Program even more impactful.

In addition to a scholarship, we are setting students up to have a purposeful internship. Depending on their field of study, interns will serve at Amigos or another local business or organization. This job experience and the leadership training that will compliment it, will help these young adults find fulfilling jobs and encourage their professional development.

This multi-year project, in partnership with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education, is a long-term investment we’ve embarked upon to empower the next generation of Nicaraguans. Through creative spaces and new teaching methods, this school serves as a model for what education can be: inspiring and purposeful.

The need for clean water is great in this large community located in El Viejo, approximately 9 km from Chinandega. El Pedregal is home to 200 families living in 174 homes. Every family has their own shallow, hand-dug well, and most wells are in close proximity to latrines. This is a major health concern as the shallow surface water is easily contaminated by latrine run-off. Amigos has tested several wells in the community and has found that every well is contaminated with fecal material and E. coli.

Yes, you read that right. By the end of 2018, we plan for 200 more families to have access to a sanitary and dignified place to use the bathroom. This big, ambitious goal is made possible by our innovative infrastructure team. With their expertise and experience, they have developed a new process to make construction faster, more cost-effective, and safer for the earthquake-prone area.
Amigos for Christ is a nonprofit organization that facilitates leadership, water, health, education, and economic development in rural Nicaraguan communities. Our mission is to serve, so that Christ becomes more visible. Our vision is to be a model cross-cultural community development organization.

JOIN US. Amigos for Christ is able to have a profound impact in Nicaragua thanks to generous donors who have a heart for transformation. If you would like to become a monthly donor or give a gift that continues the vision of our organization, please visit our website to learn how.

AMIGOSFORCHRIST.ORG