



## About Nicaragua

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. Largely overlooked by international developers and by tourism due to the civil conflict in the 1980's Nicaraguans have struggled to obtain their basic needs. Many Nicaraguans lack access to education, clean water, adequate and nutritionally sound food, medical care, and jobs.

## About Diria

Diria sits on the rim of the Apoyo Volcano overlooking the Laguna de Apoyo, one of the deepest lakes in the Americas. Diria is inhabited by thousands of beautiful, caring, hardworking



residents, who due to the remote location of their town, have been passed over for many assistance programs and tourism related funding. Diria boasts a non-existent crime rate and is one of the few truly authentic Nicaraguan pueblos left intact. Diria is historically famous for its Dirianjen warriors who were able to hold back the Spanish in the time of the conquistadors.

## Our Focus

The schools of Diria and the surrounding rural area serve over 1500 students. The local government estimates that there are over 1000 other children who do not attend school due to a variety of issues. These issues include inadequate access to food, potable water and healthcare, and the need of some children to work to assist in supporting the family. Many of the parents themselves never had the



opportunity to attend school and are unable to assist their children with schoolwork at home. The schools of Diria also lack the most basic of supplies, electric lights run on wires suspended above the classrooms, the old tin roofs are buckled and bent, many school chairs and desks are broken, the latrines are old and unsanitary and the children lack such basic supplies as paper, pencils, and pencil sharpeners.

The town of Diria has a small free medical clinic that unfortunately suffers from a severe lack of supplies. Over 90 percent of the children of Diria suffer from parasites, which cause diarrhea and malnutrition. There also are many problems with rashes and fungi, dengue fever, and other tropical diseases.

## Our mission

The focus of Laguna Project is to improve education and basic healthcare in the picturesque town of Diria, Nicaragua. We are dedicated to assisting the people of Diria to improve their own lives through educational, health, and economic development. We hope to provide opportunities for the people of Diria to develop their own strengths as a community and to obtain a brighter future.

## Our goals

- To improve local schools by improving the facilities and access to necessary supplies
- To provide basic health care to the people of Diria
- To improve access to potable water and adequate nutrition
- Provide jobs to the people of Diria by employing local people to assist us in our work

## Our Schools

Laguna Project is starting its work by focusing on two schools in need in Diria. As our funding sources grow we hope to be able to support all 13 schools in this area.

### Monsignor Ruiz Castillo School

This is the largest school in Diria and serves approximately 550 students between preschool and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The students of this school are a bright and beautiful group of children who unfortunately attend a school that is desperately under-funded and under-equipped.



### Anne Frank School

Anne Frank is located in a rural area outside of Diria down a long, unpaved, and very rough road. This school serves approximately 250 students from pre-school through the third year of high school. The children of this school live in an extremely impoverished rural community. The nearest water source is a 2 kilometer walk away. Many of the children suffer from water-borne disease.

## Current projects



### Food Fund

The local schools receive rice, beans, and corn to provide a school lunch. Unfortunately, supplies always run out long before the next shipment comes in. Laguna Project has a fund to supplement the food supplies so that students can be provided with school lunch daily.

### Medical Fund

Laguna Project plans on hiring a school nurse who will be paid by donations. The Lagoon Project also has a fund to assist with paying for medical supplies and medicines that are needed by the children and their families.

### Building Fund

Due to the current state of school buildings Laguna Project has a fund to assist in improving the current structures-classrooms, latrines, kitchens, roofs, etc.

### Supply Fund

The students in this area often do not have the money to buy basic supplies such as pencils and notebooks. This fund is used to provide supplies to needy students as well as to supply each classroom with things such as books and pencils sharpeners.

## Donations

Donations are needed to assist Laguna Project in improving the quality of health and education in Diria, Nicaragua. 100% of donations will go directly to the projects, no money will be taken out to pay for overhead. Thanks to generous donations by local businesses we are currently able to cover overhead costs.

Laguna Project is fully funded by donations. Without your help we will not be able to help this beautiful and deserving community.

What your money can do-

**\$5**-antibiotic ointment and band aids for 250 children.

**\$20**-school supplies for one class

**\$50**-School lunch for 120 children for one week.

**\$100**-One month pay for a school nurse.

**\$250**-a years supply of parasite medicine for the children at both schools.

**\$500**-salary for a year for a learning disability specialist to visit a school one time per week to assist the teachers in helping the special needs students.

**\$1000**-A years supply of vitamins for 1000 students.

**\$5000**-Construction of a new kitchen to assist in the preparation of school lunches.

**\$10,000**-Construction of a new classroom including whiteboards and school desks

To make a donation please see our website:

[www.lagunaproject.com](http://www.lagunaproject.com)

Or contacted by e-mail and phone:

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