

# CONSUELO BUITRAGO WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

a project of the Central American Women's Fund  
629 Palm Avenue, Watsonville CA 95076

Fall, 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Consuelo Buitrago Women's Association,

## **Greetings on behalf of Barrio Walter Ferrety and the Consuelo Buitrago Women's Association!**

You may have noticed that the project's name has changed. Formerly Project Children's Health, the new name "Consuelo Buitrago Women's Association" or AMUCOBU, the Spanish acronym, reflects our new and expanded role in the barrio.

In a major change this past year, the local government-run health center has asked our Health Clinic to collaborate with them as they are overloaded. Our Clinic will now receive doctors funded by the government. This means more patients will be treated and it means our costs no longer include the doctor's salary, which was a major item.

Now, in our 16th year, our support will be able to cover even more services. We'll be devoting \$10,000 to primary and preventive health care programs: basic health education and prevention, nursing services, and vaccinations (see the page on Health Promoters). And we'll put the other \$10,000 toward salaries and supplies for the school teachers, who until now have not received any compensation other than small supplements to their low salaries from children's families. The news has already improved teacher retention (not surprising!). These 6 teachers teach 375 students in grades 1-6.

**News on Education:** In Managua alone, there is a deficit of 16,000 classrooms and another 12,000 are in dire need of repair. Illiteracy in Managua is 8.2%. The government has prioritized basic education and we are pleased to be supporting the school in the barrio.

The chief objectives of the school in Barrio Walter Ferrety are to improve teacher retention and quality of teaching, and to improve student retention and academic performance of the students. The government is offering monthly training workshops to our teachers as part of a national campaign to improve teaching quality. The barrio school, "Solidaridad Entre los Pueblos," is one of the only schools in Managua to offer technical education to students in grades 4 to 6. This year, the school's teachers made dozens of door to door visits to identify children with learning problems or with histories of abuse to bring them back to the classroom. They are also educating the parents to integrate them into the educational process and improve both family relationships and parental participation in their children's education.

Your generous support remains crucial to the health and well-being of thousands of poor Nicaraguan citizens. Thank you so much for your gift to this project and also for your support all of these years.

Muchas gracias,

Jill Winegardner  
Project Coordinator

## Consuelo Buitrago Health Clinic Report: January–September 2008

### Nurses' visits:

There were 1,979 visits to the nurse, most commonly for injections, medicine, nebulizer treatments for respiratory problems, sutures, wound stitch removal, minor surgeries, cauterizations, and so on.

### Vaccinations:

The Clinic staff participated in the National Health Campaign on April 20 and administered 1296 vaccinations were administered to children under 5 and women of childbearing age. On August 20, a mini-vaccination day was held to administer 86 Rubella vaccinations to children under 6 years old.



### Women's health:

The Clinic staff collected 90 signatures demanding the return of therapeutic abortions for women whose lives are endangered. They also held a debate in which 30 women came together to discuss therapeutic abortion. The Clinic saw 59 women for family planning and distributed 1217 condoms to barrio youth.

### Preventive health:

The nurse and health promoters prepared and distributed 67 posters and 700 flyers with themes of personal hygiene, sanitation, prevention of dengue and malaria, and the importance of vaccinations. They also visited 248 homes to talk with families about personal health and sanitation to improve hygienic conditions in the homes.



Clinic staff and barrio residents held several Clean-Up Days to collect garbage and recycling and to eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes in an effort to prevent outbreaks of dengue and malaria.