

# Agua Para La Vida



Helping bring clean  
drinking water to rural  
Nicaraguan communities  
since 1987

## Our Mission

- ✿ To help small, rural communities of Nicaragua develop and maintain access to safe drinking water
- ✿ To preserve and protect the watersheds that provide water to these communities
- ✿ To educate these communities about health and hygiene so that they achieve the full benefit from their safe drinking water
- ✿ To provide training and education in all aspects of designing, building, and maintaining drinking water systems in order to achieve local autonomy in rural drinking water development

## Agua Para La Vida

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Please help support APLV in bringing clean drinking water to the people of Nicaragua.

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:

- \$25 Material cost for drinking water for one person
- \$50 Material cost of 500 seedlings for reforestation
- \$100 Material cost of a latrine for a family
- \$200 Sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
- \$300 Material cost for drinking water for an entire family
- \$500 Drinking water, latrine and trees for an entire family

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## Drinking Water Projects



Nicaragua is a very poor Central American country whose rural population, like that of many other third world nations, suffers from contaminated water supplies.

Current estimates are that 50% of rural Nicaraguans do not have access to safe drinking water. Agua Para La Vida (APLV) has been helping these communities build their own drinking water systems since 1987, serving over 12,000 people in the process.

Our projects are gravity flow systems, bringing clean water from a protected spring above the community through buried pipe to faucets near each of the houses. All projects are initiated by the communities we work with. APLV staff meet with the community to assess the need, the technical feasibility and the ability of the community to organize and complete the project - a water project requires dedication and hard work to finish. Our team works closely with the community during the construction of each project, training community members how to maintain their drinking water system.

Properly maintained, our water systems will bring clean, safe drinking water to the community for generations.



## Health Education

The bulk of infant disease and death in Nicaragua is due directly or indirectly to water-borne bacteria, viruses and parasites. Our



health team works with all of the APLV communities, providing workshops and training that promote health and hygiene. Their work includes school programs, adult programs, and house visits with each family. Improved sanitation is at least as important as clean water in improving community health. We help each family in the community build their own latrine as part of our work.

## Watershed Conservation

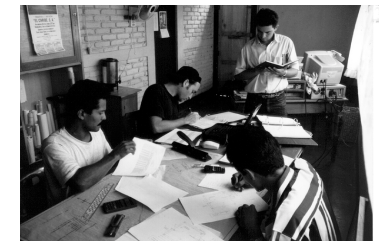
Nicaragua is among the most biologically diverse regions on the planet. Once host to 9,000 different species of trees and plants, Nicaragua has lost approximately fifty percent of its forest cover since 1950 and with it much of its biological diversity. This deforestation, a result of logging and clearing the land for agriculture, has had a profound effect on the quality and quantity of drinking water. Typically, landowners burn their land seasonally, resulting in a loss of nutrients, a loss of soil stability (landslides are seen all



over the Nicaraguan landscape), and a loss of plant and animal diversity. Cattle wade into streams and springs, destroy stream banks, erode the watershed soils, and contaminate the water with their waste. APLV works with communities to reforest their watershed, protect the watershed from the impacts of burning and cattle, and to educate landowners on sustainable land management.

## The Technical School

APLV currently works in a single region of Nicaragua, but the need for water projects is much greater.



To help meet this need, APLV operates a work-study technical school to train Nicaraguan students in all aspects of drinking water projects including engineering, project management, accounting and surveying as well as developing computer skills. Graduates have gone on to work both for APLV and other water organizations, but their training offers them a number of useful employment opportunities in addition to water development. All of the technical staff of our center, including its technical director, are graduates of our school.

## Support

APLV is supported by gifts from individual donors and foundations. Because we are a volunteer organization, 100% of your gift goes to our program in Nicaragua.