



# Agua Para La Vida

2311 Webster Street  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
(510) 643-8003  
apl@apl.org  
www.aplv.org

**Board of Directors**  
Gilles Corcos, Exec. Director  
Charlie Huizenga  
Anne Corcos  
RJ Bunnell  
Bill McQueeney  
Kelly Naylor  
Debbie Parducci

December 2007

## 20 Years of Clean Water... Let's make it 20 more!

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year of APLV's work in Nicaragua. With the completion of projects in the communities of Lisawe and Samaria, we have now helped over 16,000 people in 50 rural communities build their own drinking water systems.

Much about APLV has changed since our first project with the small farming cooperative of San Cayatano in 1987. We have a full-time presence in Nicaragua and have added community health education and watershed conservation programs to our agenda. We provide employment to over a dozen dedicated Nicaraguans who plan and carry out APLV's projects. We have an accredited training school that builds local capacity.

Yet in spite of our accomplishments, the need for clean water and sanitation in rural Nicaragua remains great. APLV is dedicated to working for at least another 20 years and we'll need your continued financial help to do so.

### Our Fourth Class of Students Inaugurated

In 1996, APLV founded ETAP (Escuela Tecnica de Agua Potable) to train youth from low-income rural Nicaraguan communities in the design, construction and maintenance



*Children are the biggest benefactors of our projects - the bulk of infant disease and death in Nicaragua is due directly or indirectly to water-born bacteria, viruses and parasites*



*APLV is proud to have inaugurated a new technical center especially for our school that provides all facilities for the students to study and live comfortably.*

of drinking water systems. The school is the only educational institution in Nicaragua that trains technicians in the construction of rural drinking water systems. By building local capacity to manage drinking water systems, ETAP contributes to the sustainability of the drinking water projects, as well as increasing autonomy and self sufficiency in the rural areas. To date, the school has graduated 21 water technicians that now work for local governments and non-profit organizations.


In April 2007, ETAP launched a new class of eight students, who will receive full scholarships to study in the two year program, obtaining a nationally recognized diploma as Drinking Water Technicians, (accredited by INATEC, the national technical institute of Nicaragua). The 2007 student recruitment and selection process included a special focus on recruitment of women and candidates from indigenous communities. Indigenous communities have the lowest safe drinking water coverage in Nicaragua. Building local capacity in those communities is key to improving this situation. The APLV school is under the leadership of Gilles Burkhardt, an enthusiastic and talented French engineer who has quickly demonstrated initiative and creativity.

**Double the impact of your gift!** Last year was our most successful fundraising campaign ever and the APLV Board has committed to matching your contribution this year up to a total of \$40,000. Please help us continue our important work by making a financial contribution to APLV. Consider making a larger gift than you did last year.

**Give a gift of water** - Make a donation in the name of a friend or loved one and we'll send them a card announcing your contribution to APLV in their name.

**Spread the word** - Pass this newsletter along to somebody you think will want to help improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere.

We thank you for your support and wish you and the whole world a year of peace, good health and clean water.

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- I'm interested in learning more about the APLV Nicaragua Project Tour next spring
- Please add the following person to the APLV mailing list
- I would like to 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
  - \$250     Sponsorship for one APLV technical student for one month
  - \$500     Material cost for drinking water for one family
  - \$1000    Drinking water, latrine and health education for one family

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(we won't share your e-mail address with anybody!)