



TALICA: The Teaching and Learning Initiative for Central America

With one child at a time, one book at a time, we can change the world.



A Little History...

The Community Library of Santa Cruz Opens

Above: Sue Ellen Wortzel with eager readers in Nicaragua

The Community Library of Santa Cruz was TALICA's first project. I had the pleasure of meeting American, Philip Owens in August of 2006 when I first visited Ometepe and Santa Cruz. We chatted for a short time and I decided this might be a place to start the first library. Unbeknownst to us, this library would evolve so quickly into something impacting hundreds of children and their families. It all began when Philip started volunteering to teach an English class three nights per week to a group of local villagers. This class ranged from teenagers to middle-aged adults. After a long day of work and chores, students came to class with nothing but a pencil, a notebook, and a smile. Philip dedicated many hours preparing and teaching his students with minimal to no materials. At first he used his own notes, and a small white board. When I returned to the island in February 2007, I came with TALICA's first donation of 64 books. Most of the books were in Spanish, however there were several bilingual and English books in the mix. I suggested we take this collection to the English class and see how we could incorporate them into the lesson. Not to our surprise, the students devoured them! They especially loved the bilingual picture dictionaries and science related materials. The class erupted in conversation, albeit Spanish conversation, but they were sharing the English materials too. That was how the Book Mobile of Santa Cruz began: 64 books and a group of 10 students.

Each time I returned with suitcases in tow, TALICA donates more to the collection. February of 2008 was my most recent visit to his class I saw much more English reading and writing done by students. The verbal skills of students have increased to basic conversation. Borrowing and returning books is part of the class and students finally feel like they have entered the "reading club" of the world! All of this has been accomplished by Philip, his students and TALICA in just one year.

Philip has now taken over the responsibility of choosing books for the collection. He listens intently to villagers and designs the collection around the needs and desires of the community. TALICA supports his efforts through donations during my visits to the projects. This type of sustainability is what we work towards, running and maintaining a book collection is no easy task. We salute you!
-Sue Ellen Wortzel

Our Work...

School Partnerships for Global Literacy

TALICA works closely with five schools in Nicaragua and three school in Guatemala. By helping to provide education materials and textbooks, TALICA is able to empower educators in the following schools to make education a priority in their respective communities:

Nicaragua:

- El Instituto Nacional Jaime Marza, Balgue, Ometepe
- Escuela Primaria Madroñal, Ometepe
- Escuela Primaria Corózal, Ometepe
- Escuela Primaria Merida, Merida, Ometepe
- El Instituto Nacional Robert Drew, Merida, Ometepe

Below: Students in class in Escuela Primaria Merida, Ometepe, Nicaragua



Guatemala:

- Escuela de la Republica de China, Zona 5, Guatemala City
- Escuela Rural Mixta de Chixolis, Santiago, Sacatepequez
- Colegio Terra Nova: Antigua Guatemala

Our Work...

Café Infantil

Café Infantil is a nutritional program for the community of Balgue on the island of Ometepe, Nicaragua. TALICA helps with Project Bona Fide to remedy vitamin, mineral, and protein deficiencies for children. With a hard-boiled egg, a tooth brush and paste, and books, children in Balgue are building the strong foundation for sustainable success for years to come.

Below: Children reading together at Café Infantil with TALICA-donated books.



A Local Teacher Biography...

Noe Gonzalez Jimenez

Noe lives in Balgue, Ometepe, Nicaragua.

He is a master teacher with El Instituto Nacional Jaime Marza and a professor of mathematics.

Noe is a life-long resident of the island of Ometepe and is a model for what education can offer fellow Nicaraguans. Noe comes from a very poor family. His high school education was interrupted by Nicaragua's Civil War/Contra war in the 1970's and 1980's. He did not return to secondary school until his late 20s because the school was closed during the war.

His family has always put education first. He worked countless hours along side his father to earn enough money to stay in school. He was not able to purchase the textbooks needed for class and therefore borrowed books from teachers and stayed hours into the night to finish copying material from the board. He never gave up and with diligence; Noe completed what the United States would call high school, which in Nicaragua is five additional years past compulsory education.

He did not stop there. Continuing on with great sacrifice, he was able to leave the island and attend university in Managua and then in Jinotepe, Nicaragua, where he studied mathematics and education. He finished his five year degree and was awarded el Licenciatura, the License.

He then returned to his home village to give the gift of education to the upcoming generations. Noe's story is unique and illustrates what access to information and determination can bring students.

Noe has worked alongside Sue Ellen Wortzel acting as a partner to design the book collections and has motivated other teachers and administrators to dream and build ideas that can be realized in the form of libraries and book collections. Noe leads and monitors the local movement and conveys new ideas and reports on current activities to Sue Ellen regularly.

Congratulations to Noe for helping turn TALICA's dream into a foreseeable reality!

Current Projects and Future Goals

TALICA's book donations are off to a fantastic start. In addition to the five projects highlighted below, TALICA has donated 360 books to the Primary School of Corozal. The total number of TALICA donated books is 2,230. In the next year, TALICA hopes to double the amount of books to each project for a grand total of 4,460 books! Help us reach our goal by supporting this important work through a tax-deductible donation to TALICA! We couldn't do it without your generous support!



Secondary School - Jaime Marza

Current TALICA donations:

526

2008-2009 Goal:

1,052

Secondary School - Robert Drew

Current TALICA donations:

268

2008-2009 Goal:

536



Primary School of Madroñal

Current TALICA donations:

363

2008-2009 Goal:

726

Primary School of Merida

Current TALICA donations:

367

2008-2009 Goal:

734



Community Library of Santa Cruz

Current TALICA donations:

363

2008-2009 Goal:

726



TALICA:
The Teaching and Learning Initiative for Central America
1010 Hilburn Drive
Atlanta, GA 30316

Affix stamp here

Place address label here

TALICA MISSION STATEMENT:

The Teaching and Learning Initiative for Central America is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding the access to basic educational materials and promoting international educational partnerships that will improve the overall access to education throughout Central America.

We envision life-long learning by providing materials to local community and/or school libraries in Central America. We believe by supplying these centers - which will celebrate the value of learning - we will increase the likelihood of students attending and completing school.

We are in the process of updating our website. Check it out:

www.talica.org

1010 Hilburn Drive
Atlanta, GA 30316

404-381-5853
suewartzel@talica.org

“There is no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.”

-- Margaret Wheatley
The Berkana Institute

TALICA wants to start the conversation that matters