



## The Roberto Clemente Health Clinic 2016 Annual Report

Thanks to all our volunteers and individual donors who helped us achieve our goals in 2016!



#### Who We Are

#### **Mission**

The Roberto Clemente Health Clinic provides affordable access to high-quality health care and wellness programs in the Tola coastal communities of Nicaragua.

#### Vision

Our #1 Goal: To expand our nonprofit health center to provide a full spectrum of primary care, pediatric care, urgent care, and holistic wellness education and services.

As the 2nd poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Nicaragua suffers immensely from a deficiency in available medical care. Many of



the rural communities do not have local health care facilities and they cannot afford the treatment that is offered in the cities.

The Clinic is named after Roberto Clemente—a major league baseball player for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955 to 1972—who died in an airplane crash while aiding a



medical airlift for the victims of a devastating Nicaragua earthquake. Launched in 2004, the Clinic is the creation of generous donations from private individuals, the volunteer efforts of the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh, The Oxford Club, and the Granados Family who donated the land.

The Roberto Clemente Health Clinic serves over 12,000 patients per year through general and emergency care, minor surgery, dentistry, lab work and a fully stocked

pharmacy.

In 2016, we have offered not only primary and emergency care, but also increased the range of our community services, improving the general climate of well-being in our region of Nicaragua.



## Health Care Report

The year 2016 was a year of changes and challenges for the NICACLINIC family, being fruitful to integrate us as a solid work team. We successfully grew stronger individually and as a group, achieving various objectives and goals proposed early in the year.

Starting with changes in the managerial and administrative areas, as well as the work system, a variety of activities were carried out as a strong team.

Here are some of the highlights of 2016:

- > 2016 Health fair
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training at Guacalito and our Clinic
- Community fairs together with the Ministry of Health and fairs with the Diabetics Club
- Biannual checkups the Padrino Program children,
- Anti-epidemic struggle against Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya, among others.

One of our main objectives was to strengthen our community projects and reinforce ties with other agencies. The Padrino Program, the Healthy Eating Initiative, the Clean Water Initiative among other projects have been strengthened with hard work from our team and similarly thanks the connections established with organizations such as American Nicaraguan Foundation, Healing the Children, John XXIII, Smile Train, Los Pipitos, Beyond Type 1 Diabetes, A Reason to Smile, as well as the important support we receive from community leaders.

All our efforts are always executed in benefit of the vulnerable population to which the help of the Clinic is a priority. Our aspiration is to constantly expand our capabilities and projects to be able to assist our target population with their most urgent needs.

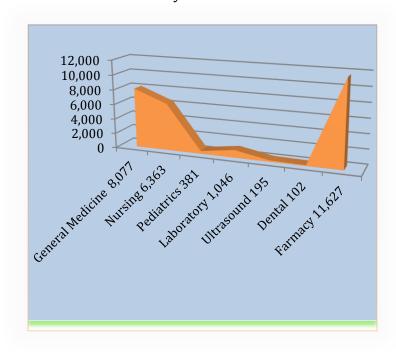
In 2016, a total of 27,771 consultations were provided at the Clinic in many services.



**CHART 1.** Total Consultations per Month

Service per month	Number	%
January	2,210	8%
February	1,922	7%
March	1,933	7%
April	1,814	7%
May	2,188	8%
June	2,090	8%
July	2,217	8%
August	2,710	10%
September	1,956	7%
October	2,789	10%
November	2,999	11%
December	2,963	11%
TOTAL	27,791	100%

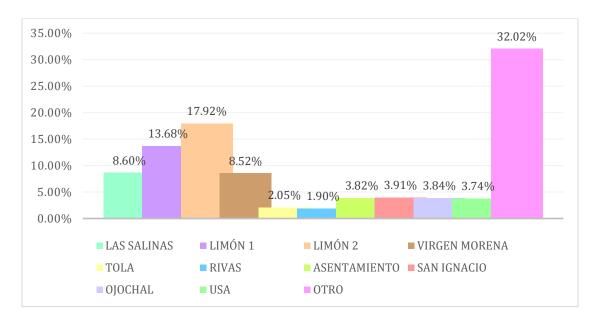
**CHART 2.** Total Consultations by Service Offered



Total Consultations by Service Offered 27,791



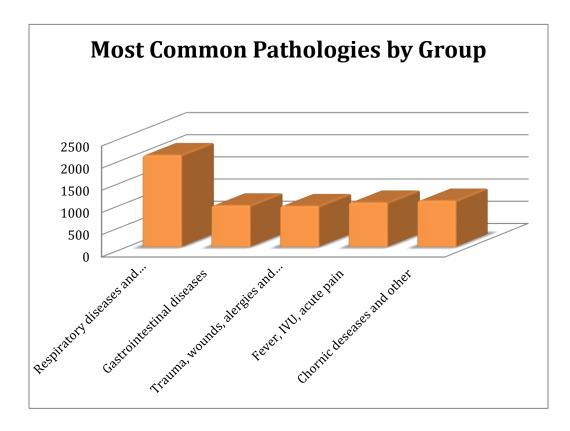
**CHART 3.** Patients Distribution by Community



- The communities that statistically show up throughout the year 2016 are: Las Salinas, Lemon 1, Lemon 2 and Virgin Morena.
- Depending on the month of the year, there is a small percentage variation among them. Given the proximity to the Clinic, the communities of Limon 1 and Limon 2 always occupy the first places. The Clinic offers care to 35 surrounding communities.
- 60.62% of the patients correspond to the age range of 15 to 49 years.
- Out busiest days are those in which extra services are offered such as laboratory, ultrasound and pediatrics, being Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays our most demanding days.
- There is a high incidence of consultations during day shifts (83.36 %); however, being the only facility with 24 hour service for urgent care and emergencies, an important percentage of consultations are registered in night hours as well (16.64%). We currently have the only 24/7 ambulance in the area.

**CHART 4.** Most Common Pathologies by group.





- In medical evaluations, acute diseases are the more common demand. Respiratory diseases tend to be the first common in the area. Included in this group are all the upper respiratory tract pathologies bacterial, viral and allergic origin.
- Another important group of diseases have to be related with gastrointestinal diseases, it include diarrhea, parasitosis.
- Because our Clinic is the only center in the area providing emergency services 24/7, wounds, trauma, allergies, burns, intoxicated patients has a big demand of treatment.
- After seeing the behavior of acute tropical preventable pathologies and their high
  incidence, our Clinic has committed to increase measures to prevent them, in
  conjunction with the Ministry of Health and community leaders, by conducting
  abatement-fumigation, de-worming in schools and sponsored children, educational
  campaigns, and distributing purified drinking water.



## Padrino Program

The Program currently works with 67 children from different communities, such as Limon



1, Limon 2, Canas de Garcia, Las Salinas, Virgen Morena, San Ignacio, Las Mercedes, El Asentamiento, among others.

The Padrino Program has improved the lives of more than 70 children since its inception in 2011.

Children are matched with volunteers who provide financial sponsorship of monthly healthcare and education costs. The sponsors are called "Padrinos" and they enable each child to have healthcare and a formal

education.

In 2016, like every year, the Padrino Program handed out uniforms and school supplies to each sponsored child. During this event, they also received physical examinations, laboratory tests, assessments of their nutrition and growth levels, and dental checkups offered by a volunteer from the ARTS (A Reason to Smile) organization. As always, this all

took place in a festive atmosphere, which included food and piñatas for the children and their parents.

The Clinic recently partnered with ANF to start a Nutrition Program to fight malnutrition. The ANF Program consists of providing "manapacks" to each child in our Padrino Program, as well as providing grains, cereals and other food supplements to other members of the family. Overall, 46 families and more than 220 people will benefit from this great initiative.

If you would like to become a Padrino, visit our website at: <a href="http://nicaclinic.org/donate-for-child/">http://nicaclinic.org/donate-for-child/</a>





## **Volunteers Program**

The Volunteers Program is important for the development of various activities which

benefit the community and support our Clinic. We received 63 volunteers in 2016.

The Roberto Clemente Clinic has been working to strengthen relationships with different leaders, entities and members of the community through the support of our local and international programs and volunteers. As a result, mutual support agreements were created with other non-profit organizations that share common goals.



As part of our efforts, our volunteers helped the public school system in the area. A deworming and lice removal campaign was carried out in 2 schools near the Roberto Clemente Clinic, Limón 2 and Cuascoto. The number of children benefited by this campaign was 192.

In an effort to support the Ministry of Health with their initiatives, we also joined a couple of meetings for pregnant women from the different communities of Tola. In these meetings our volunteers addressed health issues, better lifestyles, gestational diabetes, and the risks of getting Zika during pregnancy. 40 women attended the meetings and benefited from all the information provided.

We have expanded our program. We are seeing an increasing number of nurses and premedical students from all over the U.S. and Canada interested in volunteering at the Clinic.

In 2016, we put our focus on structuring the program and creating a protocol for volunteering. This document is currently under final review.

The Roberto Clemente Health Clinic team in Nicaragua is very thankful for our volunteers' expertise and support at the clinic. Our Volunteers Program is as rewarding to the volunteers as it is to the local patients.

If you are interested in our Volunteer Program, visit our website at: <a href="http://nicaclinic.org/the-volunteer-program-at-the-roberto-clemente-health-clinic/">http://nicaclinic.org/the-volunteer-program-at-the-roberto-clemente-health-clinic/</a>



### Clean Water Initiative

A lot of what we treat at the Clinic is the direct result of contaminated water. Most families in the community do not have potable water: Their wells are contaminated with bacteria from a nearby septic system or the water is too calcified.

We are proud to make a contribution to change this reality. The Clean Water Initiative started in late 2014. And our water treatment plant currently distributes an average of 1,195 gallons per month.

Chris Rios, a Harvard University graduate who will soon head to medical school, volunteered at the Clinic for several months and made a huge impact on this project. He started a crowdfunding campaign, which hit its goal of raising enough funds to buy the vehicle for the distribution of the water.

In 2016, we made major improvements to the process of washing, filing and storing of our purified water. In addition, we were able to make the necessary changes in structure and equipment to enhance the overall system performance.

With the new methods and tools, demand is growing. People have begun to gain confidence in this initiative to alleviate the problem of access to clean drinking water in the communities of Tola. We have conducted a survey in the area and were able to find out that



for our Clean Water Initiative!

28 homes and 56 families are interested in supporting the project and purchase purified water from our Clinic.

Expanding our current distribution route to reach communities located farther away is also part of future goals for this project. We are very excited to discover what 2017 has in store





# Organic Garden and Healthy Eating Initiative

In 2016, our enthusiastic Gardner, Eliezer was extremely busy taking care of our Organic Garden and teaching his valuable knowledge in basic gardening, soil enhancement, nutrition and natural pest control to the community on a daily basis. Through the use of drip irrigation and the arrival of the rainy season had our garden looking beatiful most of the year.

One of our goals in 2016 was to teach members of the nearby communities how to grow their own food using the bio-intensive system (organic crops). As a result, we were able to start twelve community gardens in a period of twelve months benefiting a total of 804 people – this includes the individuals who attended our workshops on bio-intensive system as well as their family members.

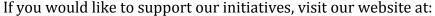
As part of the Healthy Eating Initiative, our Beekeeping Program is growing strong. We've had our challenges last year due to the drought phenomenon in the area for the past three

years which directly affected the production of nectar, pollen, and resins.

We currently have two bee hives and we are projecting to grow to ten hives in 2017. Bees are a vital part of our initiative - 70% of our crops strictly need bee pollination to grow.

Our bee hives are currently solid and our plan is to multiply them little by little; however, our success is strictly linked to climatic behavior. The importance of promoting organic

agriculture has special meaning for us and we are determined to continue our arduous efforts.



http://nicaclinic.org/gardening-project-news/ or http://nicaclinic.org/watertreatmentproject/



We welcome 2017 with open arms and many expectations. We are enthusiastic about our continued growth and improvement as a pillar of health care for the populations of Tola, as well as visitors from around the world.

We would like to remind you that we exist thanks to individual donations. We do not have a big grant, federal or state funds supporting our operation. That means people like you can make a big difference. Our organization is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code so your donations are 100% tax deductible. Please help us by visiting our website www.nicaclinic.org so we can continue to make an exceptional difference in 2016 for this remote area of Nicaragua



We cannot do it without you!