

RESPONSIBILITY IN MATAGALPA, NICARAGUA



The Robert Keenan Family School: The 2011 school year has an enrollment of 176 students, 90 kindergarten students and 86 elementary school students.

In the morning we have kindergarten classes. In the afternoons, we have an elementary school specifically for children who work and had dropped out of school or never attended. This describes most of the kids who scavenge the city dump for survival.

The Drinking Water Project: We are now providing drinking water to roughly 600 children. The ground water is contaminated so drinking water is trucked in.



Scavengers of the city dump: Eighty percent of the municipal dump scavengers are single mothers with four to eight children. The mom takes all her children to work. Babies come in cardboard boxes and are laid next to the mother while she scavenges for recyclables. Together a family earns about \$1.50 a day. Along with recyclables, they usually find breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Pictures: *Top left:* Our kindergarten. *Right:* We provide drinking water for nearly 600 children. Prior to this project, families drank from the polluted river that runs adjacent to the dump. *Bottom Left:* A child who goes to the dump with his working mother everyday.