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If you want to help for a day, give them rice;  
If you want to help for a while give them a tree;  
If you want to help for an eternity, give them an education.

Winter 2015

**Looking Back at 2014**

**RESPONSIBILITY IN MATAGALPA, NICARAGUA**

The 2014 school year had an enrollment of 670 students: 100 were in the Robert Keenan Kindergarten and 570 attended the Oasis de Esperanza Primary School which has three sessions a day.

Kindergarten classes are for the four and five year olds. Our primary school classes are for six to eighteen year olds with our emphasis placed on the working student who didn't start school until s/he was older. Most of our students must continue to work to help support their families.

**Quoting a line from Alan Turing in the movie, Imitation Game:**  
"Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine. Two of our students who attended our elementary school and work as scavengers in a city garbage dump won state and national scholastic awards:



Jassary (pic. Right) earned first place in the state poetry contest. Jose (pic left) won first place in the state academic contest and second place in the national scholastic competition. Who would have imagined that any child working in the dump would achieve such honors?



**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 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.

**OUR SCHOOL IN TIJUANA, MEXICO: LA ESCUELA DAVID LYNCH**

**Kindergarten School:** Our main emphasis at Responsibility is education for the children living in the dirt-floored shacks around the old Tijuana municipal dump. That is where we operate a preschool/kindergarten for approximately 67 students.



**Summer School/ Camp:** This summer you sent 75 children from the old Tijuana garbage dump to camp. Our kids had classes in art, computers, English and sports. Afternoons were spent at museums, parks, and the kids' favorite place, the beach.



## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FORMER STUDENTS

This past year we gave full tuition scholarships to five former students to attend college.

## CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO

We played Santa to 425 children including the Special Education School Students. Bikes were the favorite at our school. The nonprofit organization, The World of Children, played

Santa to our school by donating 13 laptop computers.

Thanks to Shari Sapp and her friends, The San Diego Downtown Breakfast Rotary Club, St. Martin's Academy, Tanner Simmonds and the Poway School District, and you for



making this a special holiday season for our hardworking, eager students. (Pictures: Left, the Special Education School. Right: our kindergarten.)

## UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**United States:** This program is becoming more popular at all school levels. Elementary schools invite Lynch to speak after the kids have read the book, *Armando and the Blue Tarp School*, a story of Lynch's early years of teaching. High schools request lectures on "The Life of Scavengers in Third World Countries." Colleges invite Lynch to speak to their classes of future teachers every semester. (Pictures: Left, The Waldorf High School in San Diego. Right: San Diego State University, in Professor Jesus Nieto's class.)



## Sister Teresa Jaramillo

**Sister Teresa** (May 5, 1929 to Nov. 3, 2014)

Gandhi said "Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men." You, Sister Teresa were a GREAT person. Thanks for working with us for the past 22 years. We made a great team!



## THANK YOU BILL O'REILLY, EDWARD JAMES OLMOS, AND SUSAN SARANDON

Bill O'Reilly, Edward James Olmos, and Susan Sarandon continue to be strong supporters of our work. All three are generous financial donors, along with giving their time.

## THANK YOU

As always, friends, we thank you for your support in 2014. If you didn't receive a thank you card for your gift, please accept my apology. I do all the administrative office work alone, so sometimes I make mistakes. But that doesn't mean your gift is less appreciated. It means I should hire an assistant, but I won't. I prefer to use your donations for the education of the kids. Your continued support is both needed and appreciated, especially today.

Gratefully, *David Lynch, the Board of Directors, the Mexican Staff, the Nicaraguan Staff, and all of our students.*