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## Mission-minded Preparations

Mission teams are the life-blood of New Life Nicaragua re-nutrition center and orphanage. We welcome groups from the United States and around the world. Our center offers adults, teens and children an opportunity to use their many skills to serve and care for these precious children here. It is a wonderful way to grow individually and support our critical work. Many who visit tell us that their time here is transformational to their spiritual and personal growth.

At New Life Nicaragua, we want to help our mission teams make the very most of their limited time here. It is in that spirit that we have created this checklist. It offers a handy reference guide to prepare your group to visit and align the many expectations that teams bring with those of the center.

## Our Children

New Life Nicaragua is one of just two missions in Nicaragua recognized by the government as a special re-nutrition center. That means that we take in the most malnourished infants and children from across Nicaragua and nurse them back to health. At the same time, we provide the love and nurturing necessary for their spiritual, emotional and physical growth. We operate on the Truth of God's boundless Grace. Prayer and Christian principles serve as the bedrock of our work and teaching.

Tim and Chris Bagwell founded New Life Nicaragua to care for this most-vulnerable segment of society. At any one time, the center houses between 35 and 50 children. Many will stay at the center for months and years. They receive the very best care. But as you can imagine, their spiritual, physical and health care needs are great. We could easily serve many more children. But our numbers are limited only by our financial resources. As a non-profit, we are funded through charitable donations from churches, groups and individuals mostly in the United States. We receive no government funding and seek to generate enough revenue to cover our expenses.

New Life Nicaragua is in the process of building a new campus on the outskirts of Managua. The five-acre project is being completely funded by private donations. It now houses a warehouse and security building. But our vision is much greater. Our next step is to build a new modern center for the children. Guest housing is in the planning stages. The entire grounds will be fenced. Realizing that vision will take your prayers, hands and financial support.

## How Teams Can Serve

New Life Nicaragua benefits greatly from hosting mission teams. Feeding, caring for and playing with our children are part and parcel of every visit. But there are many more opportunities to serve. A recent team built changing tables for the infants. Our electrical and mechanical systems need constant maintenance. Our warehouse and medicine cabinets need daily attention. These are all great opportunities to serve. We are blessed that teams bring with them medicines, diapers, new infant clothing and financial donations. As our new campus rises, there will be building opportunities for mission teams as well. We envision that teams will want to trench, rough finish and use their God-given skills in every imaginable way. Most construction will be performed by local contractors. We view the center as a key contributor to local jobs and the city economy. But we can use your help. We ask only that teams bring with them the money necessary for the materials they will use in any contemplated building project. Tim and Chris Bagwell are happy to discuss any building opportunities that they might have. Having a hand in the growth of our children and the buildings they will live in is such a wonderful gift. We are excited about your interest in the mission here.

## Team Lodging

New Life Nicaragua operates mission lodging less than five minutes from both the re-nutrition center and new campus. The house comfortably sleeps 20 team members. For a very reasonable \$20 (U.S.) per day per guest, team members receive a bunk, two meals (breakfast and dinner) and comfortable accommodations. The home has a security person on-site 24 hours per day.

The house features a large great room, garden and patio. They are perfect for conversation, reflection and relaxation. The home also has hot showers, a convenience not offered by many mission lodges around Managua. You will appreciate that difference on our occasional cool mornings!

Our house manager will do his best to accommodate every request. We have a team of seasoned cooks and house keepers who are happy to get you out the door and welcome you back after a day of serving. The house has a handy manual for perusing and noting emergency numbers, house rules and local services. We strive to make you comfortable. Typically, breakfast is served at 7 a.m. Please make us aware of any allergies in your group or food requests. Dinner is usually served around 6 p.m. after a day of serving at the mission. Evening is a great time for devotionals, conversation, reading and quiet games. Please bring any games for your recreation.

We can assist with your ground transportation needs. Staff is happy to work with you to arrange transportation to and from the airport. We also can arrange your coach and driver for daily trips to the orphanage or for outings. We strongly encourage that teams set aside one day to tour the area and explore the wonderful culture and topography that is Nicaragua. Managua has many volcanoes and national parks within an hour's drive. They make for unforgettable field trips. Please plan on spending \$125 per day for transportation for teams of 15 or less. Larger teams will require two vehicles at an additional \$125 per day.

Whenever you stop for lunch or meals, please consider picking up the meal tab for the driver. They operate their family households on a very tight budget and very much appreciate your generosity and tips.

## Team Budgets

Team mission trips promote spiritual growth through sharing, service and giving. New Life Nicaragua can only thrive through the generosity of its mission teams, individual donors and church sponsors. Again, we receive no government financing for our work. As you plan your trip budgets, expect a week-long trip to cost about \$1,200 per person for airfare, lodging and ground transportation. You will have to arrange your own air travel, but we are happy to assist if you have questions. The international airport is just minutes from the orphanage and mission housing.

The \$1,200 does not include meals outside the daily breakfast and dinner included in the lodging arrangement. Nor does that estimate include souvenirs, shopping trips, snacks or entertainment. As we mentioned, we encourage you to take some time to experience the local people and culture. You will likely, however, want to spend the bulk of your time in service.

All mission teams arrive with a goal of leaving the orphanage a little better place than when they arrived. With the need so great and resources so limited, we suggest that groups budget into their expenses a donation or offering to the orphanage. A mission team from Michigan challenges each of its team members to raise \$500 to donate to New Life Nicaragua. We realize that is a lofty goal. And we don't want anyone to think that an offering is a pre-requisite for coming. All are welcomed and appreciated.

But many of you will be holding fundraisers to defray the costs of your trips. Please consider building a donation into your budgeting and fundraising plans. The donation will go straight to the orphanage and is fully tax deductible. We are always amazed how God can multiply our gifts when we stretch for His Glory.

We know you will have many more questions. We are available any time to help you with your planning. We know one thing for sure, though: whether your mission trip here is your first or another step on a long walk in God's service, you will be blessed many times over for your work at New Life Nicaragua. You are sure to return home affected by what you've seen, grateful for what you have and inspired by the hope and wonderment you've seen in the children's eyes.

Yours is a noble and sacred purpose. Our commitment is to make your trip as fulfilling and uplifting as possible.

For the Children,

Tim and Chris Bagwell