

empowerment JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2019

since 2003

GRANADA NICARAGUA



All in the family

Nora, and her niños

We sat down to talk with Nora and her two children currently enrolled with Empowerment International. Nora's been a part of EI for many years. For the past four she's been on staff, keeping the space clean, as well and preparing food for the children. Reyna, her daughter, would like to continue her studies toward a career in the field of tourism and hotel administration. She studies english Saturdays, and is in her fifth level.

where they read *El Sí de las Niñas*, by *Leandro Fernández de Moratín*, and the poem "*Por los caminos van los campesinos*" by *Nicaraguan poet, Pablo Antonio Cuadra*.

Angel is Nora's youngest son, who at 13 years old, has been involved with Empowerment International since pre-school. He'll begin his final year of primary school in February. His favourite activity with Empowerment International is the afternoon reading



Reyna, Nora and Angel have all found a place for themselves at Empowerment International. Learning is a family affair, and it's a process not a destination. They're showing the community through their activity that we make the future, it doesn't just happen to us.

Reyna enjoys christian music, and would like to learn the korean language also. She is in her second year of studies at high school. Her favourite studies are natural science. She enjoys participating in the reading club at Empowerment International,

club. They've just finished reading "*L'edat del lloro*" by *Gisela Pou Valls*.

Angel is also learning to play chess with the new chess group of Empowerment International. There's more to this story on [our blog](#).

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Committed To The Future

How long have you been in Empowerment and what has been your experience in the program?

I've been involved with Empowerment International for 11 years, and my experience in Empowerment has been incredible, unique in every way. During my time at Empowerment I have learned a lot, from turning a computer on and off to taking pictures with a professional camera. Empowerment has been and continues to be like my second home, being a part of the organization has instilled me with very good values, and has educated me well.

Empowerment has opened many doors for me, doors that I thought I would never be able to open, but Empowerment has given me the keys and it has depended on me to open all those doors without letting them close. I owe so much to Empowerment that thanks alone is not enough. I want to pay Empowerment with my triumphs, with my college degrees, with a doctorate, to have a good job to support this organization, so that after me there are many more young people having their best experiences within this organization or rather the great family that is Empowerment.

During the years that I have been in Empowerment I have supported the programs of tutoring, dance, photography, art, sports, and the program that I have identified with most has been dance, and I like to dance.

What drives you to move forward?

My family (my Mom, my siblings and my Dad), but the biggest driving force that drives me to keep going and not give up is my Mom.

I feel that what makes me different from other young people is my hunger for the world, when I talk about hunger for the world I mean to fight no matter the circumstances and not give up, always fight. I am not one of the people who give up so easily, not until I fulfil everything I propose.

When did you decide for the first time that you wanted to study nursing, what year are you currently studying?

It was something that I decided very quickly for one circumstance or another, but I don't regret it. I am currently in my second year of Maternal and Infant Nursing.

What challenges have you struggled with to get to where you are now?

I have had many but many challenges, but in spite of those many challenges none has been so strong to defeat me, and not move on.

I wouldn't think twice about helping someone who has gone through, or is going through those challenges that I have gone through. I would do that by giving them lots of advice, encouragement, and helping them in every way possible so long as those people don't give up and move on.

Do you think that now that you have come to this new and incredible place in your life, do you see that dreams can come true with hard work and perseverance?

Not only do I believe it, I am living it. In the short time that I have been studying Nursing, and I have had very nice experiences that are being kept in my mind and heart. With these experiences I have been able to confirm that if you propose it, dreams come true, and that living that dream is much better than just dreaming it.

What challenges do you see?

The only challenge that will always be present throughout my career is the "economic" because as the years go by the expenses increase, and I cannot ask that my mother and father help financially because I know how hard it is to earn money, and I prefer a thousand times that there is something to eat in my house than to spend it on me. Thanks to the support of Empowerment, I always manage to cover all the expenses for the university.

What has been your greatest strength or inspiration to stay in college?

As I mentioned before, my greatest inspiration to move forward has been, is and always will be my Mom, I want her to be very proud of me, and the only thing I ask of God is to allow my Mom to live many more years so that she can be by my side in every achievement that I give her, I want to give her everything, I want her to be happy without any kind of worry.



With all of the enthusiasm of youth, toward an education

With you in their corner, they will succeed



I am **Paola Guadalupe**. I enjoy school. I just graduated from primary school and start high school in February. I am the oldest of 3 kids in my family and we all go to Empower in the afternoon for help with homework from the older students. I like the reading club. We use the computers to help with our reading. I think I'd like to be a doctor to help my family, and our barrio. Next year I will start high school. I think it will be hard but, I'm not scared because the students of empower will be there to help.



"My name is **Juan Manuel**. I'm 10 years old, and in 4th grade of school in Granada (Nicaragua). I like to go to class every day. I like going to Empower after school for help with my homework and to meet the other kids. It's a good place, the older students help us, and we have lunch."



"My name is **Amy Lissethe** and I am starting the 10th grade, I started with Empower when I was in the final year of primary school. I enjoyed the extra understanding of our school work, the help of the tutors. It made study for me much better, I understood more of the material. The next year I started secondary school, and I began to tutor the younger children. I have been with Empower for four years now, learning and teaching. I'd like to study to become a forensic doctor. I want to help people in the community, especially abuses suffered by women."

You can sponsor Paola, Juan, or Amy, or any of the many children, and help them to succeed in school, on their path to success.

Open an account today at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/empintspo>

"Sometimes people question why I would support multiple rescues or "competing" organizations, which I find personally absurd to question. There can be more than one organization fighting the good fight and helping make the world a better place! But as far as supporting kids, **Empowerment International gets my dollars, and effort. They are a great organization changing the future of so many children,** and families in Nicaragua, and have grown and flourished over the years!

Nicaragua is a country in turmoil, and EI has not only kept moving forward but, added much needed "special" classes in things like first-aid, that really support the families and their community.

So remember to **give to those doing good no matter where they are** because we only have one life to live and one world to leave as a legacy."

Diana Simplair,
CHILD SPONSOR, since 2012

our annual celebration of student achievement continues to grow

Another school year, 2019 closes...

The Empowerment International end of the academic year gathering, welcomes students and their families to join with all of the expanded team of players that make up Empowerment International. It's also a time to be thankful, and recognise student achievement, and parental support, and all of those sponsors, donors and the team that motivate our students to success. This year the Empowerment International gathering had to be located to a larger facility to accommodate all of the participants. There just isn't room any longer within the organization building...



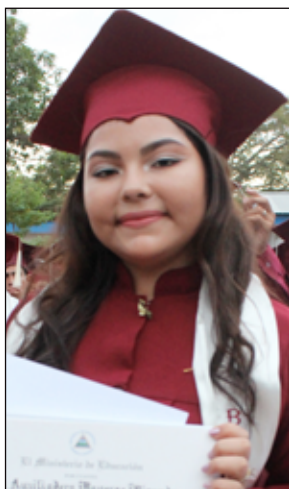
Proud parents, families of the communities gathered with their children to celebrate the end of the school year, and the coming of the festive season. Gifts were awarded to children for academic excellence.



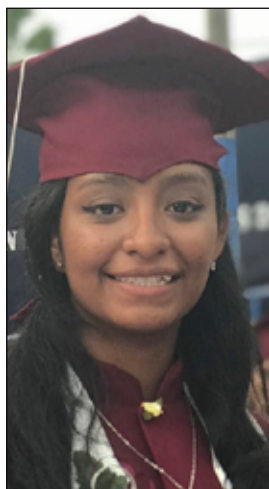
All of the children in attendance received a holiday gift. Mothers who've been particularly involved with assisting Empowerment International were also recognised with special presentations. Entertainment included student dance presentations, and a very popular "bouncy castle".

Congratulations Class of 2019

Secondary level graduates



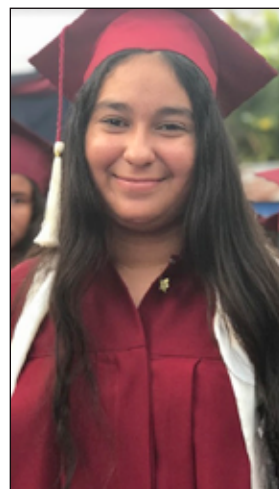
Ana Auxiliadora
sp. Neely Kasra



Michell Guadalupe



Ian Daniel



Jenniffer Carolina
sp. Jennifer Hawkins



Ecni Josue
sp. Karen Sekich



Geovanny Antonio



Jackson David



Lesly Cristina
sp. Jacquie McKenna



Carlos Alberto
sp. Mark Kennedy


**Lo
mejor**
- ESTÁ POR -
venir
...
**CLASE DE
2019**

Primary level graduates



Juan Carlos
sp. Jaime Hogan



Pamela Guadalupe
sp. Anna Waller



Sharon Dahiana
sp. Elizabeth Levy



Valentina Anahi
sp. Megan Kwasniak



Yaneli Samantha

Felicitaciones Clase de 2019

Primary level graduates



Nohelia Lissett
sp. Isamar Villalta



Yutdany de los Angeles
sp. Hans Wood



Geovanny de Jesus
sp. Michael Mars Landis



Anthony Emilio



Celena Guadalupe
sp. Tracey Salazar


**The
best**
= IS YET TO =
come
...
**CLASS OF
2019**



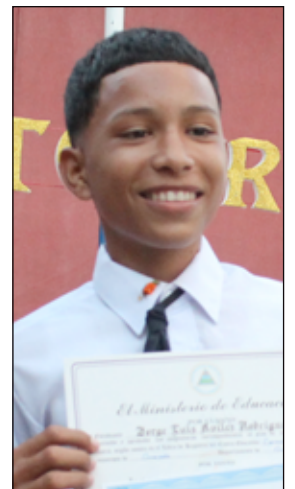
Alondra Ernestina
sp. Courtney Maxwell



Ashley Yudani
sp. Robert Dudley



Isabella Guadalupe
sp. Sue Heighberger



Jorge Luis



Jonathan Antonio



Maria Teresa
sp. Richard Paley



Jehisly Lizeth
sp. Dee Ann McIntyre



Anyel Osmani
sp. Charles Partee



Carmen Elizabeth
sp. Teresa Williams

Congratulations Class of 2019

Primary level graduates



Juana (Juanita) Lucia
sp. Janet Rowe



Fatima Auxiliadora
sp. Bonnie Brooks



Alejandra Auxiliadora


**Lo
mejor**
- ESTÁ POR -
venir
- ... -
**CLASE DE
2019**

Pre-School level graduates



Hellen Adriana
sp. Molly Jacquell



Juan Ramon sp.
Elizabeth & Flora Sailer



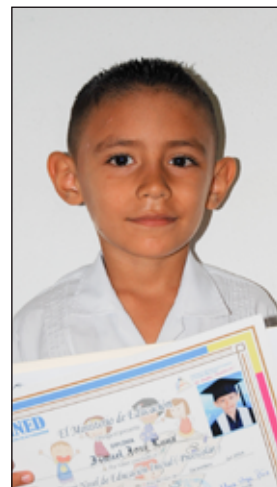
Melvin Alexander
sp. Jose Torradas



Isamara Valentina sp.
Julian & Kimberly Rector



Gabriela del Carmen



Ismael Jose



Daniela de los Angeles



Kaleth Antonio



EMPOWERMENT INTERNATIONAL

***Empowerment International** has been working in Nicaragua since 2003 and has reached an annual school retention rate of over 98% in both of our communities since 2008. As of 2015, we now have over 300 students participating in our program.*

***Sponsoring** a child starts at \$30/month or \$360/year. Contact our office to be a **partner in the success** of the children.*

SPONSOR A CHILD

DONATE TODAY

***EI** provides mandatory uniforms, shoes, and school supplies, tuition, medical care, parenting programs (how to be more effective and supportive parents), home visits, enrichment activities, and counselling both individually, and in groups.*

*Since 2009 **EI** has achieved a school **retention rate of over 98%** within the program participants from the two communities where we work. As of 2012 **over 87% of all school age children** are now attending school in **EI's** first community, up from **55% when we began in 2003!***

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Empowerment International is a US 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible in the USA.