



Sandy Carter

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Love Changes Lives



It's About Hope!

To date, I have approached this ministry with God's gracious gift of faith mixed with a sense of His compassion and heart for the spiritual and physical needs of the children of Nicaragua. This gift of faith has allowed me to see past huge obstacles, and given me the grace to fight the battles in order to experience the miracles we see on a daily basis. My motivation is that real spiritual change can take place in each child's life. Yes, I am deeply concerned about their physical needs and the abuse most of the older children experienced before they came to us. But the bottom line is that they learn to live a life of uncompromising faith.

One of the things that shocked and amazed me when we first began receiving children into our Home in Jinotega in 2000 was their reaction to what I thought was a very simple and logical question.

"What do you want to be when you grow up"?

This seemingly normal question was met with blank stares mixed with looks of doubt as they pondered the mere possibility of being able to "grow up" much less have any chance of deciding what they might want to DO if they actually did survive that long.

Today I am happy to tell you that each one of the older children have a goal...a dream. They know deep in their hearts that they have a future and a hope.



Their dreams change along the way. They take

shape and grow. The hope in their hearts is enlarged by the examples of the missionaries and the godly Nicaraguans that care for them each day. The dreams are encouraged and "transition" plans are made to encourage the study and discipline that it takes to go from being a child to look toward adulthood with faith and hope.

Here are a few of the ...then and now...photos I wanted to share this month. Together we are raising kids for Christ. It is not just words

Angelica, feeding program child, Rachel, houseparent's child, Jairo and Ana in my arms. (1999)

Irma at 6 years old.



Irma & Marvin at her 15th birthday party.

on a piece of paper. These kids are growing up. They have a future and a hope....no one can ever take that from them. It is carved into their hearts through God's Word, God's people and prayer.

And....we are just getting started...our Home for babies is bursting at the seams.

For me personally, God has used you, His people who participate in the ministry monthly, to keep that shine of His hope alive in me. When I listen to the plans and dreams of the older kids now I think of you.

It's all about the Hope. Together we are passing it on!
My love and my thanks,

Sandy



Babies Abound!

THEN & NOW



Back: Angelica, Christina, Marvin, Moises, Brayan, Jairo
Front: Nora (2000)



Nora
(with Lianne)
17 years old
and helps with
the ministry.



Marvin
16 years old and in
8th grade. He is great
with mechanical
things!



Moises
13 years old and
in the 7th grade.
He is an excellent
student.



Brayan
16 years old and
7th grade. He
wants to be an
artist.



Jairo
14 years old
and in 7th
grade.