



Project Schoolhouse 2022 Annual Report



Project Schoolhouse Building Foundations for Brighter Futures

With an emphasis on community-building and local volunteer participation, Project Schoolhouse partners with recipient communities to build new schools, provide clean water, improve sanitation, and help students continue their education.

We believe that every child has a right to a good education, that every community has a right to clean water in their homes, and that schools can be a foundation for a stronger and more sustainable future for the whole community.

Access to clean water and basic education are not luxuries but represent vital needs for the rural communities where we work.



Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

These projects have always been driven by tenacity and perseverance, fed by love and hope for a better future for the families with whom we partner. That determination was definitely shining in 2022, our most challenging year ever.

Our team in Nicaragua is well versed in the usual challenges of working through torrential rain, getting materials into hard to reach locations, pulling trucks out of the mud by horse and getting creative to work with locally-available materials. Additional in 2022 was a new level of government reporting and compliance that, at times, felt insurmountable. We're happy to report that we've received the certificate of good standing that allows this project to continue, with the knowledge that the additional requirements are the new normal. We remain committed to the country and to communities we support.

I wanted to share this photo of our team walking into the community of Bilampi in mid-2022. It is a beautiful part of the country, and touring the projects and meeting the families is so inspiring. We see projects in progress, and visit with communities who are next up on our wait list; the need has never been greater. Seasonal rains are not as consistent as they used to be, and the usual water sources communities depend upon are running dry for longer periods of time, requiring longer walks to collect water. Our water engineer has identified a massive spring that would bring water to 5 communities all in one giant project. We're working hard to secure the funding that would allow us to scale up to tackle this project.

We have a busy year planned for 2023, building new schools, water systems and educational programming, staying true to our core mission. We couldn't do this work without you.

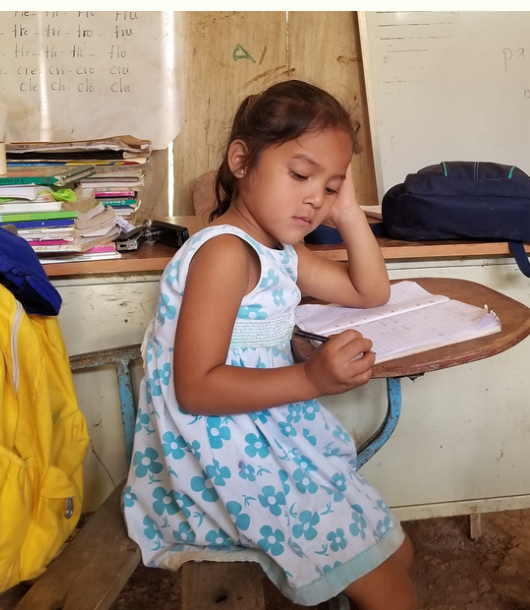
Gratefully,

Shira Serna



Left to right, Maria Inés, Selina, Cristian, Norma, Renata and Manuel

Moving Our Mission Forward in 2022



Since 2007
we have transformed
18 communities,
15 new schools,
14 water systems,
and hundreds of
latrines



In 2022 we served
4 communities,
built 2 fully
distributed water
systems, helped
850 people



Pilot Rainwater
Catchment System
providing clean
water to local
school



3,300 people
have clean water,
2,100 children
study in schools
we've helped build



Working For Sustainability

Sustainable Projects

Men and women who collaborate on the projects become experts. Our local team works with community members as they form Water and School Boards, allocate the jobs, and schedule work hours. Working side-by-side with our engineers, they learn the ins and outs of the water project, ensuring its care and sustainability in the long run.



Tree seedlings prepared for planting

We Bring Water Home

Our water systems are designed to bring safe water directly into the homes, improving health and eliminating the need to walk for water ever again, releasing children back to the classroom and allowing parents to focus on economic ventures. Each water project concludes with reforestation, protecting the spring for generations to come.



Digging trench for water lines

Successful Community Engagement

Through our 15 years of work, we have built a trusted reputation through the regions where we work. We require enormous investment from the partner communities we work with, those who demonstrate a strong commitment to the project.

We work with communities that have identified both the problems they want to solve and the solutions to fix them. Our purpose is to facilitate projects that have real grassroots support and local buy-in that result in sustainable progress.



Team en route to a Community Meeting

Bilampi, Bocana de Paiwas

Water & Latrine Project

In designing this project, our water engineer described the old watering holes serving the community of Bilampi as the most contaminated he had ever seen. We are thrilled to have turned on safe, clean water to the homes and schools in Bilampi in 2022!



This project was one of the most extensive, fully distributed water projects in our organization's history. The water system taps into three different springs, and carries water through over 22 km of water distribution lines that were laid in trenches dug by hand by community members. With each community volunteer digging 100-150 meters of trench per day using picks and shovels, every home, two churches, and three schools now have access to clean water in Bilampi.

We're grateful to Rotary International and Rotary Clubs in the US and Nicaragua for partnering in this project with us, by funding the costs through a second Rotary Global Grant.

"Now I feel happy, because my granddaughters don't need to bathe at the river ... which was dangerous because of the snakes and bad people on the roads."

- Socorro, Bilampi Mother and Community Leader



San Isidro, Matagalpa

Water & Latrine Project

This pilot project in San Isidro highlighted the importance of collaborative problem solving. In partnership with the University of Texas at Austin student group Texas Enactus and Austin-based Localized Water Solutions, we installed our first rainwater catchment system for the community's school.

From theory to trial to implementation of the Nicaragua pilot, this project highlights the power of collaboration. The UT student team, guided by engineering expertise from Localized Water, first built a prototype on the UT Austin campus, then traveled to Nicaragua for the local installation. As always happens once you get to the remote regions where we work, local innovation and ingenuity lead to design modifications. The final, local design will serve as a model for future projects. This system is a quick, low-cost solution to provide schools with safe water as we work our way through the multi-year pipeline of communities waiting for a fully-distributed system bringing water to each home.



As with every project in these rural communities, a group of women create a rotation to cook meals for the Project Schoolhouse team and project travelers that are housed in the community for the duration of each project. One woman we met in San Isidro started her walk to the host house at 3 am in order to arrive and begin her preparations for the day. They know the community best and where to gather local produce. Everyone has a role and is eager to contribute as they can. It is such a joy to experience the hospitality and excitement these projects bring to the communities with whom we partner.



Rosario Las Vegas, Matagalpa

Water & Latrine Project

This year, the community members of Rosario Las Vegas eliminated the risks of fetching water from the nearby river with the completion of a fully distributed water system. Given the flood potential for this river, this community quickly mobilized to build the system connecting every home, the community church, and the school to clean water. As with every water project led by Project Schoolhouse, community volunteers also installed water meters and latrines for homes. We're grateful to The Burdine Johnson Foundation for their sustaining support of water projects in these rural communities over many years.



This community project has brought Project Schoolhouse all the way around Cerro Musun, the mountain that dominates the landscape, which has been the center of our work for the past 15 years. It is so emotional to be able to track all the projects around the mountain leading to our home office in Rio Blanco. There are many more communities off the main road waiting to partner with us, but this feels like such good progress.

"We have to get water from the river every day and it scares me to wade into it when the river is really high. I'm glad we won't have to get water from the river after this project."

-Student, Rosario Las Vegas



El Aulo, Matagalpa

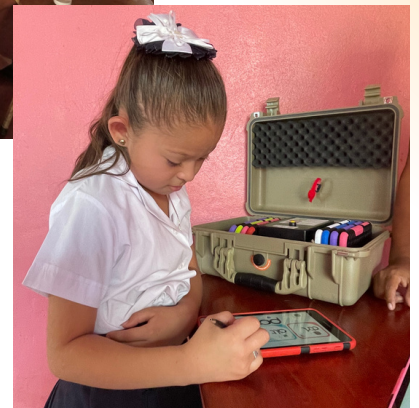
After School Program

In 2021 we initiated an after-school program to provide children with remedial support and enrichment opportunities that encourage them to stay in school. In these under-resourced schools, with typically one teacher for 40 children from grades 1-6 in the same classroom, there is limited opportunity for individual attention. The goal is to create healthy, dynamic, and stimulating environments that respond to students' interests (i.e. sports, arts, academics, leadership and service, science, and technology) and develop core life skills to help them succeed in school and beyond.



In 2022, we are happy to add android devices to improve reading and computer literacy. We are grateful to "CTRL ALT DEL Poverty" for donating the devices.

The longer-term goals are to see increased school attendance, higher promotion rates, and an increase in adult community engagement in the schools. We are particularly focused on recruiting female university student volunteers to lead the Clubs, providing female role models and encouragement to stay in school.



Financials

2022

We are very grateful for the trust and generosity of the sustaining donors to these projects.

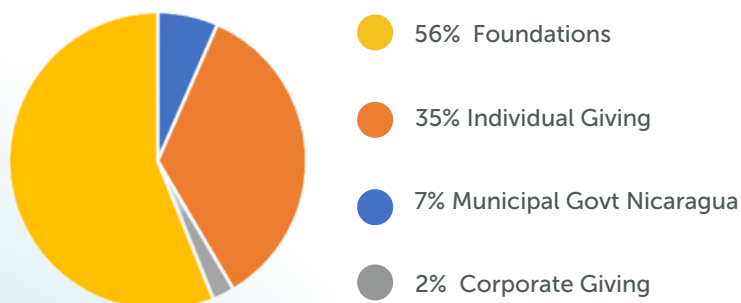
In 2022 we are grateful for the investment of Rotary International, The Burdine Johnson Foundation, The Prentice Foundation, The Still Water Foundation and all the individual donors who make this work possible.

Every dollar donated is multiplied by 3 through the value of the community volunteer labor.

Project Schoolhouse FY2022 Financial Information

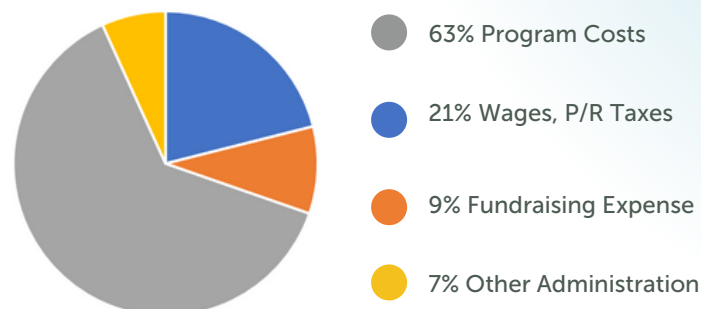
FY2022 Source of Funds

Foundations	\$194,820
Municipal Government	\$22,835
Individual Giving	\$121,296
Corporate Giving	\$8,349
Total Revenue	\$347,300



FY2022 Use of Funds

Program Costs	\$196,512
Wages & P/R Taxes	\$65,840
Fundraising Expense	\$28,902
Other Administration	\$21,260
Total Expenses	\$312,514



Awarded Candid 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency



Our Team

Austin & Nicaragua

Project Schoolhouse Board Members and Staff have diverse backgrounds and extensive field experience. We are grateful for their ongoing support and dedication to this work.

Board of Directors:

Dennis Passovoy - President
Sara Hesson Wagner - VP
Gene Bosche - Secretary
Evan Lambert - Treasurer
Thomas Barker
Abigail Escobar
JP Kloninger
Kristen Palmer
Angela Salas
Selina Serna
Alexandra Rodrigues

Advisory Board:

Marilyn Felkner, DrPH
Walter Moreau
Evan Morgan

USA Staff:

Selina Serna - Executive Director
Thomas Barker - Director of Operations
Renata Aleman - Development & Communications

Nicaragua Staff:

Maria Inés Bracamonte - Project Coordinator
Manuel Selva Garcia - Construction Coordinator
Norma Valdez - Programs Coordinator
Cristian Garcia - Club Volunteer Coordinator
Jairo Selva Garcia - Carpenter
Luis Enrique Sanchez - Carpenter
Mario Cano Cantarero - Carpenter
Luis Alberto Hernandez - Carpenter



Building Foundations for Brighter Futures

"We have to get water from the river every day. It only scares me when the river is really high. I'm glad we won't have to get water from the river after this project."

- Student, Rosario Las Vegas



projectschoolhouse.org



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facebook.com/projectschoolhouse



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