

The recent Gotita de Amor remodeling project, sponsored by Steven Point Rotary group, is nearing completion. The middle of this month (May 2012) they were finishing the last part of the remodeling project which was to finish the kitchen and build a new room for the security person.

There is a small triangle area on the left side of the building, this is where the watchman and kitchen area has been built, small but functional.



The south west corner of the pre-school building is where the security person's room will be located which is next to the added kitchen building. The kitchen was part of the first phase but needed to be finished and this took place between April and the first part of May this year. Jose Castillo, the builder in charge, was working to add floor tile, counter kitchen and tile, door, barred windows, electrical system and smooth wall finish in the kitchen room and build a new room for the watchman. The room has a shower, restroom and electricity system. Jose added a side walk that connects the existing school building with the kitchen and watchman room.

Jose Castillo (local builder) and Sergio Acuña (local coordinator) standing in front of kitchen building for the preschool.



Ezequiel Amador watchman (in blue) will live in the triangle area in exchange for providing security to the building. He has a shower and bathroom included in the triangle area. Incredible planning for small space.

Gotita de Amor preschool has 20 children attending classes and has a new teacher, Yessennia Amador. If the Educational Ministry will approve a new initiative, the school will attend 40 children from the Monseñor Arnulfo Romero School. Every Saturday they are having English classes and they have 30 students so far.

After completing this phase to finish the kitchen and get security for the school by building the watchman room, Sergio is looking to provide more activities in the pre-school building. For example, in June they will have sewing, dance, and jewelry classes. Jewelry classes will be sponsored by Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners by sending a jewelry teacher for 3 days & materials are to be included also.



(sidewalk from kitchen area runs in front of building)



Gotita de Amor Pre-School, Estelí, Nicaragua, was developed in 2001 out of a community effort to provide early childhood education. The initial building grew out of a donation of land by the city and a concerted effort of a Peace Corps Volunteer, the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners (W/NP) and the Stevens Point/Estelí Partner City Committees, along with the Estelí Mayor's office and a NGO in Switzerland. The building now has electricity and working indoor plumbing and restroom facilities. The school serves 45 children, ages 3-5 years of age.



We are working to further enhance the Pre-School by various projects such as renovation of the original building including building interior walls as room dividers, two new classrooms, utility upgrades (electric, water, sewer, internet), kitchen area and computer lab and painting, etc. The buildings would serve a dual purpose for the community. During the day they would be used for the pre-school programs, computer-learning modules, lending library for the children and facilities to serve a nutritious snacks. During the later afternoon/evenings, the buildings would be used as a lending library for older children and adults, computer training area, and offer English classes.



This summer Ali and Mary have been offering English classes at the Preschool.

"The students there really want to learn. I mean they even get up and come every Sunday. It is a great building but does need some things, such as they have a kitchen but none of the utilities. As you can see in the pics that we do have chairs and tables but they are little. The 2 white boards are awesome we use them all the time. I have been teaching the older more advanced students while Ali teachers the younger ones. I think that the more and more we can use the building the better things will be. Like if we had the kitchen stuff there could be cooking classes, or if we had cosmetology tools there could be those kinds of classes. Over all it has be an amazing experience so far and I am so happy to be able to be here." - Mary

