



WISCONSIN/NICARAGUA *Partners of the Americas, Inc.*



LEARNING CENTER PROGRAM

JUNE 30, 2018

With great enthusiasm, the monthly meeting with the leaders of the Learning Center Program was reactivated on June 30, 2018 at the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners office in Managua. After spending three months without seeing each other, Leonor gave the words welcome for the participation of 33 people from different communities. Luz from the Valle los Aburtos Learning Center shared a prayer of thanksgiving, giving thanks for the reunión and for being alive and well. With spirit of sharing, it was expressed that they needed to learn new techniques and that the meetings help bring life in each of them. Hilvia from the Carolina Learning Center facilitated the craft lesson, which was making simple and easy hair ties for the hair. Mirna read a message from Wisconsin, sharing concern and praying for good wishes. Mirna reminded all on the importance of submitting the quarterly reports and digital photographs of the activities. Ulda, Eraida and Marina express that there are many obstacles and it is very dangerous to leave or enter the different locations. Estela suggests that you do not see much news because that gives more sadness and children should not see anything negative.





[Lilliam y Karen](#)
[Centro Rosa y Sweet Progress](#)

Reported that the Biointensive Cultivation Course is a success. They plan to cultivate sweet potatoes and other products that will be used to make cajeta, to make soap, wax, lotions and lipsticks. ANF is the field school where they have lodging, food and where they teach how to make jam with guavas, cucumbers and nuts.

The students make little dresses using cloth scraps.



[Eraida/Centro Hossana en Masaya](#)



Eraida shared that her community participated in Biointensive crops with 17 women learning to work with the cultivation of vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, radishes, and how to make organic fertilizer. She grows lemon and oregano and took packets with leaves of oregano and lemon grass to help with a cough. They also planted sunflowers and they liked it a lot.

In Comején 4 we have 15 people that receive classes of making girls dresses and simple bags. Classes are offered on Saturdays such as crafts, making bows and pillowcases. Due to the crisis in the country, people have put large trees on the roads and we cannot pass.

Trip to the San Juan river region El Garabato where they have started classes of sewing, crafts, how to use the sewing machine including threading. 22 adults, young people plus 8 children participated and said it was very interesting. They learned to make brushes, purses, bags and skirts. A total of 70 hours were given, we took an electric sewing machine, boxes with materials, sábanitas for children, toys, bedding and a suitcase. I observed a lot of need to learn and they expressed that they already feel like a learning center in Wisconsin, said the young Asunción Gúzman in charge. The women continue to work hard, they have made shorts and blouses. The kitchen mixer machine is damaged and so they continue to cook by hand. This place requires a lot of help because it is a remote and mountainous place.



[Ulda / Centro Renacer San Juan de Oriente](#) She informs that several things were stolen from her Learning Center by the vandals who are stealing, taking advantage of the traffic jams. Ulda is an exemplary leader for all of us as she travels always in her wheelchair, keeping a smile on her face that inspires not to give up ever, Bless her.

[Marina / Centro Robert Bowen](#) With few activities, but active. She learned to cultivate various vegetables and said that the sunflowers were grown and sold to buy and fix the books in the library and were beautiful. With the pieces that Wisconsin gave, they made puppets and tortilleras products to sell and raise funds.



The participants of this Learning Center are 7. Among the classes we have: Elaboration of ecological piggy banks, elaboration of rose with Chinese paper, and elaboration of bracelets. After they showed us how to do projects and make a Business Model, I implemented my personal Ice Cream and Soft Drinks business and it is helping me a lot in my economy. I bought a fryer that I am using and preparing for my food and my economy has improved.



Emilia/ Centro San Antonio.

They are making baby diapers, also reproducing a class of craft yoyo's that Petronila and Doña Leonor had given. The group of ladies has been educated on the preparation of the cakes. According to their planning they have sewing classes, various crafts like Osa fabric, clown with fabric cuts, ties and hair pieces, jewelry, brushes, teddy bears, centerpieces, sewing in general and pastry.



Luz Marina./ Centro San Gabriel Valle Los Aburtos. She brought bags of flowers from the Jamaica plant that grows at the Center. She sells them and explained how they are processed. The sewing and crafts classes are taught on Sundays afternoon, a companion managed to build an artisanal oven and she shares it with the group to make the cakes of the pastry class. This Center works with an annex promoted by Professor Ramón Aburto in different classes but especially in sewing.



Karla Nuñez Chica Nica With the current situation I have not been able to make my piñatas or cakes but I learned to make bracelets and necklaces of different styles, rosaries, etc. These products are having acceptance and it is my help for my personal expenses. Thanks for the project of the loans opening doors.

The leaders who could not get to the meeting sent their reports:

Rosa Amanda /Centro Dios con Nosotros. Sabana Grande. In his report he says in the first trimester we worked with 8 participants in Crafts making brushes and napkins. In the library we worked 3 days a week with the children in activities of growth and promotion of reading. In the second quarter it was impossible to meet, people are afraid in every corner there are assailants that threaten them with firearms and for the same reason children are not working. We thank the organization and each of the people who support and support us in all.

Socorro /Centro Aprendizaje Luisa Amelia Sierra Ocotal. The report explains that they have the classes of



Beauty, (cutting and style), Pastry, Crafts, with a total of 102 students from different municipalities of the department of Madriz. All different ages including students, housewives and professionals. Saturday shifts and three days during the week in the afternoon. We have 6 sewing machines 4 in good condition and 2 in bad situation. In the second quarter, we had a sensitive low due to the situation of the country, we only have 48 students. We have to help with the expenses for the bakery clases. Likewise we continue working with the court of adolescence training to make crafts with tire materials, such as different types of animals, chairs, and pots. We also have started work with special

education giving training to children and mute deaf girls.

[El centro CATALUYNA de San Jose de Cusmapa](#) Reporting achievements since receiving 6 machines from Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners. With the donated materials we have developed products such as tablecloths, colanders, bags and pencil cases. The group consists of 7 mothers with disabled children that have a great interest in learning. They started small because they did not know even how to operate a machine. The machines have had maintenance and with the help of the technician they have changed the two tables that were in poor condition.

In December they made 30 Christmas shoes for the children. From the received material, the mothers made elaborate covers to protect each machine. Among the difficulties we have is the travel distance. They must walk for 8 hours to get to the sewing classes, when it rains, the roads are bad and much run off of the road.

In the second quarter of 2018 we have 8 mothers participating, 5 of them already have made skirts and pants patterns, and the machines continue to receive maintenance by a technician. They already have a kiosk where they sell their products and this helps them in their economy. Among the difficulties are we do not have materials for sewing, an alternative solution is to find a source of funding so that mothers can buy a machine that facilitates their work in the community. Management by administrative means the purchase of materials to follow the sewing course.

[Estela/ Centro Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Chilamatillo](#)

The music classes are formed by 30 members who learn to play the recorder, Bisuteria (plates and bracelets) 30 students,

Handicrafts of making bags with recycled material of meneitos making bags and retrateras boxes of camba with embroideries. 38 young students,

Sewing bags and cushions, woven purse and purses. 2 ladies

Working on rims, chairs, vases and pots, 3 adults

Crafts disposable dishes boys and girls 21 participants.

The elaboration of recycled bags was used in the celebration of mothers' day, they also have a folk dance group with the girls of the Center.



[Socorro/ Centro Oscar Baltodano Diriamba.](#) Classes are initiated reactivating the center with the following plan: Sewing Machine management, practice straight seam, square and circle. Straight skirt and pencil mold construction, straight skirt and pencil confection, pattern making and basic blouse construction. At each meeting equipment (sewing machines) are cleaned

[Hilvia/ Centro Carolina Managua](#) This center reports that it has been visiting the Zelaya Central region where 3 sewing machines were delivered, 20 packages with sewing materials, 45 baby quilts, 45 backpacks fully equipped with school materials, 11 caps for youth and adults. Ms. Kenya Cano is the person in charge.



[APAN Diriamba](#) The APAN Center has been a model for its superior organization and continues to work for children, they now have a Preschool with three levels, 35 girls and boys.

The Skills for Life program is one of the most important activities for the organization since it develops skills and abilities in these areas: cultural, sports, education, manual, culinary activities, and training habits and values that will help our children in daily life. A population total of 55 girls and boys are served.

Miscellaneous Crafts; encourage and develop skills and abilities in the field of crafts, making use of recycling techniques in the production of turtles with newspapers, purses with magazines, flowers with spoons, flowers with straws, origami techniques, flowers, hearts, tassels with wool. This workshop is directed by the young Leopoldo Baltodano, an alumnus of handicrafts, being reflected the institutional policy as it is the generational change in the actions. Also offered are the following:

- English for children
- Preparation and construction of ladies 'and girls' clothing
- Haircut and barbershop
- Community English
- Garden and Garden Construction Workshop

[Centro Brazos de Amor Managua Laureles Sur](#)

The different activities that they report consist of:

Sewing 12 adults and 8 youth classes on Thursday 4 - 6 pm and Saturday 2 - 4 pm.

Crafts schedule from 3 - 5 pm 20 students participate

Pastry 10 students

School Gardens 20 young people

Reading Club 50 children and young people Library All and Ella Zabor



[Centro Buenos Aires Villa El Carmen Managua](#) In this center we have a registration of 35 children with an average attendance of 25 participants every Monday from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. The classes that are developed are the following: Crafts, purses, masks, flowers, yoyos and bows. Painting, classes of half an hour / Fabric with two needles classes of 1 1/2 hour / , Drawing, Games groups with balls / reading exercises and Dramatization divided into groups of different ages.

Next meeting July 28 at 9 a.m. in the office of Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners.

