

# CIELO de Amor

November 2019

WHO workshop participants master the art of making pressure-relieving seat cushions!

## Building Better Wheelchairs

**W**ith dedication, hard work and a positive attitude, we have found opportunity within Nicaragua's ongoing struggles. Difficulties importing chairs and parts forced us to develop more capacity within our team. We've done so, with a high level of quality, by hosting a World Health Organization (WHO) wheelchair course and extending collaborations with a International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) trainer and also with local metal workers, bicycle shop owners and upholsterers. As a result, we now refurbish and create custom cushions and parts. We can build a complete, high quality chair from nothing more than an old frame. Christian, the co-trainer from Managua, is assisting us to insure even children with more complex needs receive appropriate chairs with a customized fit!



*In August, we hosted a dynamic, practical and informative one-week WHO wheelchair provision course for 21 participants from 8 organisations across Nicaragua – including 5 wheelchair users who provided great perspectives. Dynamic, practical, informative, we learned theory and then applied it through hands on practice!*

## Teamwork & Persistence: Alexa learns to walk

**W**hen she was a baby, Alexa's doctor said she would never walk, but thanks to her hard work, her committed family, and our dedicated physical therapists, she has progressed from sitting, to crawling to now walking with a walker, orthotics, and parallel bars!

*You make a difference!* By funding the parallel bars, walkers, and staff salaries for our physical therapy program, your ongoing donations make stories like Alexa's possible.

Become a monthly donor or increase your current pledge to help us support more children like Alexa!

## Giving 100%







## Expanding Communication, Social Skills and Play

Thanks to volunteers who've worked with us in Nicaragua and also virtually, plus donations of augmentative communication and assistive technology devices, we're refining our communication support strategies. For example, Lourdes, who's never spoken a word, is mastering multi-symbol voice output devices to make choices and express herself.

In addition, we've organized, enhanced and beautified our outdoor space to provide more opportunities for learning and play, with a new outdoor music area, more engaging motor play area, plans for raised garden beds, and even a lavanderia!



## Join our Quiet Drive!

We must raise salaries for our seven amazing Nicaraguan staff, to match the increase in Nicaragua's cost of living.

For 2019's big fundraiser, we invite you to donate to our *Quiet Drive*, and ask three friends to do the same. Help us quadruple our donor base!

Visit [cielodeamor.org/donate](http://cielodeamor.org/donate) to give through PayPal or set up direct donations through your bank.

*Ask 3 friends!*

Share our story in person and on social media, and invite others

to become a monthly donor:

[bit.ly/sustain-cielo](http://bit.ly/sustain-cielo)

or make a one-time donation:

[bit.ly/supportcielo](http://bit.ly/supportcielo)

## By the Numbers...

**4** grants from England, Netherlands, & the US funded our wheelchair program and upgrades to our outdoor space

**5** wheelchairs donated by new friends in Florida and Nicaragua

**7** volunteers from the US & Mexico, plus countless virtual volunteers shared new skills!

**6** Facebook birthday fundraisers raised \$4,000+

**50+** sustaining donors from the USA, UK, Switzerland, France, Costa Rica, Israel, & Nicaragua



## Need holiday cards?

As we approach the holidays, our youth are busy creating fabulous cards. How wonderful to see the youth who've been there long enough to build skills and confidence teach our three newer students! The results are beautiful. Let us know if you would like to purchase some.

To purchase cards – or sell them in your shop – contact [info@cielodeamor.org](mailto:info@cielodeamor.org)



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*Thanks to you, we keep moving forward!*

*– Ruth Weinberg and the CIELO de Amor Family*