

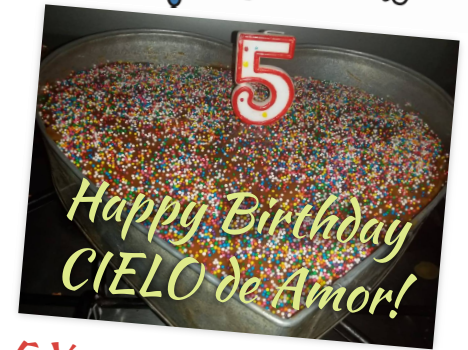


### Our Dedicated Staff are CIELO's Heart and Soul!

Five years ago we began by hiring Liseth, then Wilmer, then Yahoska, followed by Yereld and Miriam in year two, and most recently Xiomara. All of our permanent staff members have stayed on! Their deep commitment and consistency are the heart of CIELO's success. Not only have they each brought unique strengths to the program, they all work hard to develop new skills through courses, teamwork and in-depth trainings, in-person and online, from volunteer specialists. Their impact grows and grows with every year!

### Your Partnership Matters

Maintaining salaries and benefits for our wonderful staff depends on the generosity and commitment of over 50 monthly donors and a handful of repeat grant providers. This support - *and the courage of our staff* - enabled us to remain open during the worst of Nicaragua's political challenges when many businesses and services throughout Nicaragua closed down. For that we are tremendously grateful. **Become a monthly donor: [bit.ly/sustain-cielo](http://bit.ly/sustain-cielo)**



*5 Years: & Going Strong!*



### Doing More with Better Tools

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have a set of new hand tools and power tools. They have been vital for creating and customizing important wheelchair parts, such as cushions, seat backs and head supports. They help us cut wood, cloth and foam with a high quality, durable and professional finish.

It is excellent to have these tools. For example: with the clamp, we can make better head supports because we can stabilize the pieces for a more precise cut. With the grinder we do not have to go to a workshop to smooth the metal. With the circular saw, cuts are faster and more precise, and with the jig saw we can make cuts that are more complicated, such as curves.

We also appreciate that the tools are safe and of high quality. They have really come to change the way we work in wheelchair repair and refurbishment, helping us to improve both the speed and quality of our services.

*- The CIELO Staff*

*Before:*



*After!*





## Physical Therapy Expands

The number of children coming to CIELO for services continues to grow. Many of the children require physical therapy to improve mobility, positioning, strength, balance, functional hand control and more. Unable to meet the increased demand, CIELO turned to our generous Swiss supporters who have now funded a part time physical therapy position. We are so grateful to have Helen join Yahoska to provide therapy. Many children receive physical therapy twice a week, always involving family members so they can reinforce exercises and skills at home.



### Helping Elias get back on track

Elias has been coming to CIELO from the beginning. He made great progress in walking and talking until he had a severe seizure and lost most of the abilities he'd gained. Progress is now slow, but his family and the CIELO staff have been persistent in working with him. In addition to hard work, we also value time to play. Our most recent CIELO trip to the beach brought back Elias' smile, one we hadn't seen in a long time.

## Communication Workshops

The majority of children at CIELO de Amor use less than 50 words to talk! To improve speech and communication services, our staff have begun a rich collaborative training process with Speech Therapist Molly Grant and University of Oregon's Communication Disorders and Science Department, using Zoom, an online conferencing tool. Each workshop is personalized for our staff, using videos from CIELO to focus on the specific skills and needs of children in the program.

José is one of the children we focus on in the workshops with UO. Prior to coming to CIELO at age 6, he had no expressive language. The only advice his family had received was to 'be more strict' with him. After just one year of therapy with us, he's using words like papa, mama, careful, and bus, and enjoys making animal sounds, too. His attention span has greatly improved as has his behavior. His family is extremely grateful for his growth.

Innovative use of technologies like video documentation and online conferencing have allowed our staff to greatly enrich their professional skills in an economical and ongoing way. We look forward to seeing how further training with UO will directly impact children like José and their families.

*You Make the Difference!*  
 Help us reach our goal of **60 monthly donors:**  
[bit.ly/sustain-cielo](http://bit.ly/sustain-cielo)  
 Make a **one-time donation**  
[bit.ly/supportcielo](http://bit.ly/supportcielo)

## Maria returns to our Vocational Program

Maria recently took time off from our program to have a baby. Now she's back! With supported practice, she has regained former skills and built new ones. Being able to cook at home and earning income from making greeting cards and baking at CIELO has allowed her to contribute to her family and care for her new baby in ways she never could have done before. Formerly nonverbal, Maria now enjoys talking and laughing with staff and co-workers. What a difference, thanks to her hard work and the support she receives from CIELO de Amor!

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

