

Adopt a School Project- *Miramar* School, Las Sabanas Nicaragua

El Miramar Community in Figures

Population: 350

Number of families: 65

Student Population: 60

High School Students: 18

University Students: 3

Adult Illiteracy: 22%

Inadequate housing: 60%



Escuela Miramar is located in the municipality of Las Sabanas in the state of Madriz. Las Sabanas lies near the Honduran border and 250 kilometers north of Managua, the country's capital. It is a mountainous region with an average altitude of 1,200 meters above sea level. Las Sabanas has about 4,800 inhabitants of which 80% live in rural villages.

Miramar is the elementary school for the village of same name and is 2 kilometers north from the center of the town of Las

Sabanas. The only access to *Miramar* is via a dirt road, which becomes practically impassible during the 6-month rainy season due to heavy mud and water run offs. This area of the country was one of the most severely affected by the Mitch hurricane in 1998. Most houses in the community are built of mud and straw with dirt floors and have no access to running water and electricity.

Families in *Miramar* are subsistence farmers growing beans, corn, sorghum, and some vegetables. Due to the inaccessibility of the town, few farmers plant cash crops and they are solely dependent on rain to irrigate their crops. This year there are some signs of drought, which will decrease the amount of food available to these families. According to a recent national survey, Las Sabanas ranks as the municipality with the highest incidence of stunting among school-age children. Children in *Miramar* are in desperate need for a stronger education, health, and nutrition program that can help them tackle the many challenges they face.



Details of the Adopt a School Program



Miramar is a public elementary school operated by Nicaragua's Ministry of Education (MINED). Fabretto supports the school to enhance and improve the quality of education that is being delivered. Our program consists of a daily lunch, tutoring and curriculum reinforcement, art, music, crafts, sports, health & hygiene education, and teacher training.

The regular school day ends at 12:00PM. It is at this point that Fabretto services begin, starting with the lunch program for which we count on parent volunteers to prepare, cook, serve and clean up. For the afternoon activities, Fabretto then hires the teachers (who work for the Ministry of Education in the morning) to provide an additional 2 hours of instruction in academic classes and another 2 hours of extracurricular activities. The program's main objective is to work within the context of the primary school curriculum, rather than supplant it, and focus on improving the quality of teaching and school services that are available to the children.

Thanks to Fabretto, the children of *Miramar* receive twice as many hours of instruction every school day, as well as multiple tangential benefits including improved nutrition, better health, and access to community development improvements sponsored by Fabretto.

Existing School Infrastructure

The community of *Miramar* has one school with basic physical infrastructure to address the needs of its 60 students. There are only four small classrooms for all 60 students, so teachers have to teach students from different grades on the same classroom.



One of the classrooms is a computer lab that was recently equipped by Fabretto in a project to provide computer access to rural schools. In addition to the four classrooms, *Miramar* also has a kitchen and a lunch hall where volunteer parents prepare and serve the school meals to the students.

Teachers



Miramar school's teachers also benefit from the training and technical assistance initiatives that Fabretto offers. Since the Ministry of Education has almost no resources for ongoing teacher professional development, this program will have a significant impact in helping the teachers improve their performance and teaching skills. Fabretto will hire two teachers to run its afterschool program. The teachers, all of whom are from nearby communities, are:

- ⇒ Haydee Castellon Gonzales. MINED
- ⇒ Nubia Velasquez Betanco. MINED
- ⇒ Enyel Ismales Rivera Herrera. MINED

- ⇒ Enyel Ismales Rivera Herrera. FABRETTO
- ⇒ Walter Antonio Huete Zelaya. FABRETTO

Enrollment – 2010

There are 60 students enrolled at the school in grades first to sixth.

Project Budget – Miramar School

		Holy Comforter	Fabretto	Total
Teacher Salaries & Stated Mandated Benefits	2 teachers at \$200 for 12m + 34.5% of state-mandated benefits	\$ 3,231	\$ 3,231.84	\$ 6,463.68
School Supplies, Sport Equipment, & Gardening Material	Shoes for 60 students + Didactic Material for teachers + School Supplies Packages for students & Sport Equipment & School Garden Tools and Seeds for School	\$ 1,370	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 2,420.00
School Meals & Nutrition Program	Nutritionally rich hot meals for 60 students & 3 Teachers for 200 Day + Cooking & Transportation Expenses	\$ 4,374	\$ 870.00	\$ 5,244.00
Doctor Consultations & Health and Hygiene Activities & Supplies	\$300 for Doctor Consultations & Medical Referrals + \$600 for Health & hygiene supplies & workshops	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Monitoring & Evaluation	Transportation, Food, & Lodging Expenses of M&E Staff	\$ 3,564	\$ 1,204.88	\$ 4,769.77
Grant Management & Administrative Expenses	Donor Reporting & program overhead Expenses	\$ 1,570	\$ -	\$ 1,570.00
		\$ 15,000	\$ 6,356	\$ 21,367