



October Greetings from CREA

It is harvest time in the Northern Hemisphere! What's fun about harvest time? The spring plantings have all grown and we celebrate the bounty. Further south, the growth at CREA is equally abundant. This year alone, more than 2,700 kids have been shaped by CREA's literacy and learning programs in rural Nicaragua.

**We wouldn't be able to share the following success stories from each of CREA's Initiatives without our generous supporters, so
THANK YOU.**

Academic Success

There's been an abundance of professional development at CREA this year with international visiting educators. And the result has been incredible success in accelerating recovery from learning loss. Students from primary school through university now work in smaller groups and receive more individualized attention in their before and after school tutoring and homework help. And CREA's intensive course for university entrance exams further encourages CREA's college-bound youth to succeed.



CREA Education Facilitator Laura and participant Maria Elena share a story together.

Laura travels an hour by bus to CREA from the small fishing village of Astillero. Her Spanish Language and Literature degree, coupled with recent professional development at CREA, have helped students like Maria Elena blossom. Maria Elena first discovered CREA in primary school. Once a week she would receive homework help when CREA visited her community. Now in secondary school, Maria Elena is old enough to venture alone from her village to the CREA Library and Learning Center, a daily journey of 20 minutes by foot and, like Laura, an hour by bus.

Library Services

CREA now has more than 1,000 library cardholders and more than 10,000 books. This summer, staff was trained in new literacy development strategies which have already made an enormous difference in teaching children to read and write. **READING for FUN** is now popular, both at CREA and throughout the communities that are visited weekly by CREA's Mobile Library.



Mauricio finds a quiet corner with his favorite book.

Mauricio started coming to CREA just last month, encouraged by a community member who saw something special in him. Mauricio is 11 years old and, like many kids in the area, never really learned to read. Now, with 1:1 daily support from CREA's Reading Facilitators, Mauricio can be found practicing reading out loud as he pours through interesting titles from the library's shelves. CREA supports all students by providing a safe, supportive, and fun place to learn and grow.

"I love coming to CREA because it is a happy place where they teach me to read".

Youth Development

The Youth Development Initiative supports the growth of young people from secondary school through university. CREA provides the resources necessary for students to dream big, reach their goals, and create positive change in their communities.



A photo-op in front of Volcán Concepción.

Youth Development participants recently went to Ometepe Island for their annual retreat. Opportunities to travel are rare and, even though it is only a few hours away, most of these young people have never ventured so far. The retreat provides them an opportunity to reflect on their personal achievements and set goals for the future. The experience helps prepare them for their next steps in Rivas or Managua, where many hope to attend university.

Community Events

Led and organized by CREA youth participants and staff, events focus on promoting literacy and learning in engaging ways. The success CREA has seen over time is in large part due to this community outreach, which both deepens the impact of our programming and expands our reach into the surrounding areas.



Chess is a great way to connect, have fun, and practice problem solving skills.

Chess club is a popular way for CREA participants to get away from book and pencil learning and practice their critical thinking skills. Tournaments fill quickly with young people who travel from communities far and wide to compete.

Scholarship Highlight



Mirian in her happy place.

Mirian has known since she was 8 that she wanted to work with animals. She grew up watching her grandfather milk cows and her father tend to sick animals in the community.

Unlike them, neither of whom had the opportunity to complete primary school, Mirian vowed to one day become a certified veterinarian. Mirian has attended CREA since the day it opened its doors in 2016. And next year, thanks to a CREA funded scholarship, Mirian will realize her dream to graduate from university with an official degree in veterinary medicine.

"Becoming a veterinarian is my way to communicate with animals so I can help them. This is what motivates me and makes all of the hard work worth it. I want to come home to be a veterinarian. We have so many large animals who need care in my small community."

We wish you a bountiful harvest season and give deep thanks for all your generous support in helping CREA flourish this year. We love to hear from you, so don't ever hesitate to reach out or stop by if you find yourself in the area.



¡Muchas Gracias!

***Corrie Burdett, Executive Director, and the entire staff at
CREA***



Elevating Nicaraguans and their communities through literacy and learning.

www.creanicaraua.org