





February Greetings from CREA

Spring is just around the corner and the days are becoming longer and sunnier. At CREA, we are looking forward to the new growth ahead. After the long winter break, and with school back in session, CREA is once again in full swing and bursting at the seams! As a result, the services that CREA provides to young people before and after school in rural Nicaragua are expanding as well.

We wouldn't be able to share the following success stories without our generous supporters. THANK YOU.

Academic Success

CREA is excited to expand its Outreach Services by providing additional weekly visits for primary school students in remote areas. Working together with our Library Services Initiative, CREA's teaching strategies prioritize the fundamentals of literacy and mathematics. This solid foundation enhances comprehension within and across subjects and allows for more advanced learning which translates to success in school.



Dilan practices math after school at the CREA Library and Learning Center

Dilan lives in a remote, rural community, an hour by bus from the closest big town. He began coming to the CREA Center in 2019 when he was in first grade. At the time, he was having challenges in reading, writing and mathematics. Today, with continued individualized support from CREA staff, as well as his commitment to learn, Dilan's success is measurable: His reading aptitude has increased by 12 levels! He has also mastered fundamental math and is now ready for more advanced math. Always willing to help his classmates, Dilan is an inspiration to staff and to the other children.

Library Services

The Mobile Library is also back in action with the start of the school year. CREA Reading Facilitators take boxes of books to remote communities every week. In addition to lending books, these weekly visits also incorporate fun activities that engage readers of all levels like Mommy + Me, StoryTime, and Book Clubs.



Sara Isabel at Mommy + Me Bookclub

Sarah Isabel joined Mommy + Me four years ago. Every week she walks four kilometers with her children and grandson to wait for CREA's Mobile Library. While the children participate in StoryTime, Sarah Isabel and other mothers from the Ojochal community are all finding joy in learning to read! In spite of the sometimes arduous journey by foot up steep hills and through swollen rivers, Sarah Isabel shows up, week after week, inspired by the possibilities discovered through the world of books. Sarah Isabel represents the best in what CREA does for so many.

Youth Development

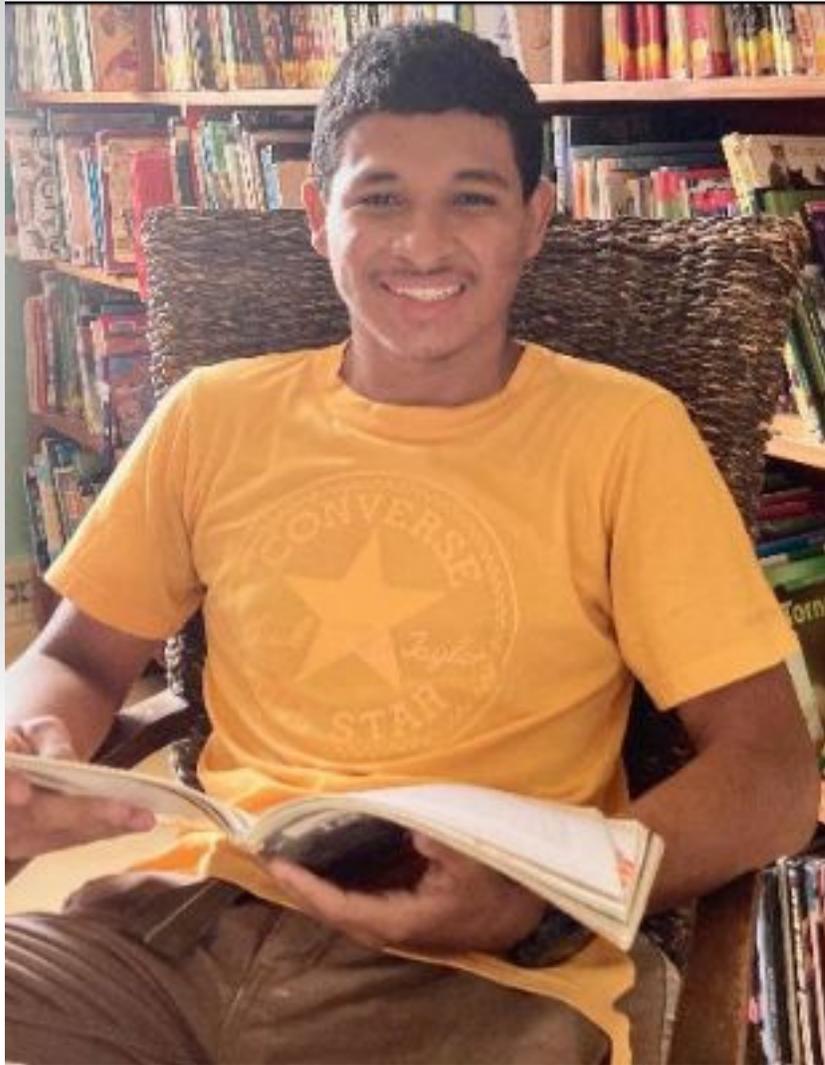
The Youth Development Initiative continues to provide opportunities for young people to experience new adventures and practice their leadership skills. Students can also participate in three electives: Manos Verdes, which focuses on the life cycle of plants, healthy eating, and land stewardship; CREAcciones allows students to express themselves through art; finally, many students choose Book Club to read for fun and socialize with their peers.



Leydy, Antoni, and Litzy in Manos Verdes, learning about local plants

After years of dedication and a lot of hard work, three additional students have been awarded CREA university scholarships. Congratulations to these exceptional Youth Development students who are off to study Medicine, Systems Engineering, and Business Administration in Managua!

Scholarship Highlight



Derek enjoying some downtime at the CREA Library and Learning Center

Since 2016, Youth Development participant Derek has engaged in EVERYTHING that CREA has had to offer. Derek's generous spirit, great sense of humor, and leadership skills are incredible assets to CREA staff and participants. Derek studies Systems Engineering on a CREA scholarship. He also works to help support his family. In his free time, Derek can usually be found assisting staff member Ezequiel in CREA's Computer Lab, mentoring younger CREA participants or diving into a good book.

Enjoy the emergence of spring and sunshine. We are very grateful for your generous support in helping CREA reach the young people of Nicaragua. We would love to hear from you!



¡Muchas Gracias!

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



Elevating Nicaraguans and their communities through literacy and learning.

www.creanicaraua.org

Coming in March: Win-A-CASA is BACK!!!

WIN a luxurious week's stay in La Casa Mas Alta, a beautifully appointed home in Rancho Santana, a world-class resort on Nicaragua's Emerald Coast!



Don't miss out! Win-A-CASA kicks off on March 9th.