



Graduation Day

On March 25th three of SIFT's nurses were among 44 students receiving their degrees in the first ever graduation ceremony of the Martin Lutero University on Ometepe. Dr Sandra Villagra, SIFT's doctor, was instrumental in establishing the university back in 2006; before that point there was no tertiary education available on the island.

Gretty, Alex and Aleida (above, left to right) have been studying for the past five years to get their degree in nursing, whilst also receiving practical training from Dr Sandra as they work in the SIFT clinics. Now that they have graduated they are able to work on their own in the clinics, with Dr Sandra at the end of a mobile phone if needed. This will enable more people than ever before on the island of Ometepe to receive medical attention.

Meet one of our nurses

“My name is Alex Flores. I was born on Ometepe Island and grew up in the village of Las Pilas. My parents are both from poor farming families, but when I was very young they separated, so I grew up in my grandparents’ house.

“My hobbies are studying, listening to music and playing baseball. I also organise sports for the young people in Las Pilas to help them keep away from alcohol and drugs.

“My motivation for becoming a nurse was the desire to help the people in my village, because they deserve to be treated well.

“A typical week in the clinic involves serving our patients in the best way possible, as though they were members of your family. We give the people educational talks on topics such as breastfeeding, hand-washing, and washing vegetables and fruits before eating them. We also speak to them of the great love that God gives us.

“My dreams for the future are to continue studying, to build a house for me and my family and to continue giving my best to the society that needs it so much. I also want to continue to support young people.”



Celebrating 10 years

If you open up this SIFT Insight you will find a special poster to celebrate SIFT’s 10 years of work with the poor of Nicaragua.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without your generosity, so we’d like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us in any way over the last 10 years.

Why not use the poster as a way of promoting SIFT in your area? If you’d like any more copies, we’d be happy to send them to you.

We are very grateful to Kathryn Nichols (www.thedrawinghouse.com) for her fantastic work in producing this illustration.

SIFT Sunday



On Sunday 5th August we are celebrating our 10th Birthday as a registered charity and we would love you to be a part of our celebrations.

Here are some ideas for how your local church could include a focus on SIFT as part of your Sunday service. If you need any resources, please get in touch with us at the SIFT office.



Pray

Please give thanks with us and many other churches across the country for the great things that God has done in the lives of people in Nicaragua over the last 10 years.

Ideas for prayers are available from the SIFT website.

Share

Could you find 10 minutes in your church service to give a short presentation about SIFT?

We can provide you with a ready made PowerPoint presentation and script upon which you could base your talk, along with brochures detailing our work.

Celebrate

Every birthday deserves a celebration, so why not bake a birthday cake and share it with everyone over coffee at the end of the service?

We'd love to see some photos of your celebrations; please email them to the SIFT office.

Give

All the money donated on *SIFT Sunday* will go towards the medical work on the island of Ometepe.

Your donations will help to keep the clinics open, the doctor and nurses in residence and medicine provided free of charge.

Celebrate with us on **Sunday 5th August**

How can we help you?

There is still time for you to get involved in fundraising for SIFT this year! You could try one of the 10 ideas listed in the Spring SIFT Insight or you could come up with your own event.

Whatever you are planning to do we have the resources to help you. From custom sponsorship forms to PowerPoint presentations about SIFT, we probably have what you need to make your fundraising a success. We can even design and print posters to advertise your event. So, if we can be of any help, please get in touch with us at the address below.

Introducing Ali Wilson...

SIFT's new fundraising manager, Ali Wilson, has been involved with the work since the early days having participated in a building trip in 2002. Ali says, *"I'm very excited to be able to join the SIFT team as I've had a heart for the people of Nicaragua since my first visit to the country. As SIFT enters its second decade I'm looking forward to helping to improve the lives of poor Nicaraguan families through the expansion of our work."*



Ali (left) with Ligia, the head of Verbo School

A continental challenge

Chris Anderson, one of SIFT's Trustees, is cycling from London to Paris for SIFT in July. Every penny of sponsorship is going to SIFT and, in addition, he will match every donation pound for pound to raise even more. To sponsor Chris, please visit his JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/Chris-Anderson4.



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Patron: Andrew Selous MP



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

WORKING WITH THE POOR OF NICARAGUA TO ACHIEVE LASTING CHANGE

ELSEWHERE IN NICARAGUA



EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP
Our sponsorship scheme has helped 260 children to attend school.



HOGAR DE FE ORPHANAGE
Providing children and young people with a safe and secure place to call home.



CAR MECHANICS COURSE
Giving teenagers from poor families new opportunities and new skills.



HOMES FOR ISLANDERS
Building a new community for families facing eviction from their ancestral homes.



Our medical team has seen 20,000 patients, nearly half of whom were children.



Medicines are prescribed free of charge to all who need them.

HEALTH CLINICS

HORTICULTURAL PROJECT
Encouraging 220 farmers to grow nutritious fruit and vegetables.

FEEDING PROGRAMME
Providing high-vitamin milk to around 80 children twice a week.

LATRINES PROJECT
75 latrines have been built, giving the gift of good sanitation to 408 people.