

# **MEDICAL EMERGENCY!!!**

**SIFT's Medical work is facing a critical funding crisis ... and you can help. But first, a reminder of the work and an update ...**

SIFT's clinics and medical team provide essential primary healthcare to the Nicaraguan people living on Ometepe Island. Our Nicaraguan Doctor and her team of nurses labour long hours for a small wage, in the last year seeing almost 3,000 patients, all of whom may not otherwise have received medical care.



Mindful of the need for preventative care, the team also provides community lectures. This year around 100 talks were given on a range of subjects; for example a recent talk was given to school children on dental hygiene.

Dr Sandra Villagra, our highly qualified and experienced Nicaraguan Doctor, is also a committed Christian and wants to see the people both physically and spiritually healthy. She is a pastor to one of the villages and is looking at ways to help women in particular in their faith.

Sandra and all the nurses are dedicated wholeheartedly to this work – read nurse Adelita's story on the next page - and they all want to continue to serve the people.

**BUT ... this financial year (to August 2014) we anticipate having a shortfall of up to £18,000 against our year's budget. This is a result of costs for the work rising and the loss of a regular grant.**

**You can help in three ways:**

- **Consider giving to this work – regular is best, but one-off donations are welcome.**
- **Help SIFT to encourage those around you to support this work by becoming a SIFT Medical Champion – see page 3.**
- **Pray for God's provision for this work to be sustained.**

# Meet Adelita Martinez

*Adelita is one of our nurses and has worked for SIFT for ten years. She currently works at the clinic in the village of El Corozal where we built thirteen latrines earlier this year. She told us about the work she does in the clinics.*



Three months ago we started a club for expectant mothers because we saw a big need in the community. There are mothers who need to be in control of their blood pressure, sometimes they have anaemia, sometimes they have little knowledge of what a pregnancy is. This motivated us to start the club to help them. We have been seeing a lot of pre-eclampsia and a lot of anaemia and so in our programme we



are teaching them about nutrition and about easy to prepare foods which are within their reach. All this forms part of the programme of the pregnancy club. We teach them how to prepare food to guard against anaemia and improve their condition, how to prepare fruit juices, how to prepare bread, how to prepare stew, lots of easy to prepare foods which are within their reach. We give talks about how to monitor their pregnancy and how they can know that their pregnancy is going well.

We are now seeking to form a group for elderly people. In the community they are marginalised, they're ignored and nobody understands them, and so we saw that there was a need here as well.

For me SIFT is a Christian organisation, I am a Christian, a Pastor's wife and I run a children's ministry. SIFT has taught me to serve, to give because SIFT has given to me, and now I give back my strength and my knowledge.

## Finca El Rayo update

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent us a donation in response to our appeal in the summer Insight. As a result we have received £2,000 towards the cost of the infrastructure works for the project which aims to re-house families who have been or are at risk of being made homeless from their island homes on the Asese Peninsula. We still need £55,000 for this phase of the project so please pray with us that we will be successful in raising these funds.



# Be a SIFT Medical Champion

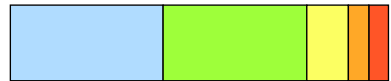


- We are looking for volunteers to promote our medical work during 2014 to their churches, community groups or their family and friends.
- Lack of experience of public speaking need not put you off as all the resources you need will be provided, starting with a short video and presentation in the new year.
- To find out more please contact Ali (ali.wilson@seed-trust.com) or call her at the SIFT office (01297 22484).

## Annual Report

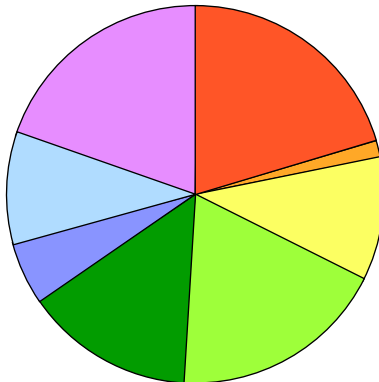
Thank you to everyone who has supported SIFT over the past year. These charts give an overview of how your money has been used to help the poor of Nicaragua. If you would like a full copy of our Annual Report and Accounts when they are published, please get in touch with us. You will also be able to find them on our website.

### Income:



Total: £148,902

### Expenditure:



Total: £159,883

Please note that this section is based on the un-audited version of SIFT's accounts for 2012-13.



# Love from Ali

I was fortunate to be able to visit Nicaragua in August and as a trained teacher I was particularly interested to visit the courses which Nestor Maldonado runs in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua. The courses, in mechanics, car electrics and carpentry, take place every Saturday and run for a year. They are aimed at young people, between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five, from poor backgrounds who are particularly at risk of becoming involved with drugs or gangs. As well as teaching the students skills which they can use to support themselves and their families, the teachers visit the students at home and invite them to church services and Bible studies.

Students on the mechanics and car electrics courses attend work experience placements alongside the course. In addition Nestor aims to find longer work placements for graduated students with a view to securing them employment. Participants in the carpentry course are taught how to make items which they can sell to the increasing number of tourists visiting Nicaragua. During the course the items the students make are sold to raise money for more materials for the classes.



Since the mechanics course started in 2010 thirty-nine students have successfully completed it and some are now in paid employment. The car electrics and carpentry courses started this year and there are currently eleven students participating in each one.

It was a pleasure to be in the classrooms where the courses take place and to see the enthusiasm of the students. Instead of using our presence as a reason to stop working the students were intent on learning and clearly enjoy what they are doing. They speak with hope and optimism about their future and I am proud that SIFT is able to be a part of it.



UK Charity 1094193

## Contact us

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