



**Health** It's been another busy year for Dr Sandra and the team running SIFT's health clinics on the island of Ometepe. As well as treating 4,496 patients, providing consultations for a small, affordable fee and medicines for free, they have provided 196 community lectures on topics such as chronic diseases, diabetes and dengue fever. Dr Sandra and our nurses also share their Christian faith as part of their work and offer to pray for their patients when this is appropriate.

A new initiative this year has been the opening of a luncheon club for the elderly at Las Pilas clinic. Sadly the elderly often find themselves neglected by their families and excluded from village life. The luncheon club not only provides them with a hot meal and medical care but also gives them the opportunity to build friendships and feel valued.



In the immediate aftermath of devastating landslides caused by heavy rainfall our medical team distributed clothing, hot meals and other essentials to those whose homes had been destroyed. They also provided fortnightly food parcels to 30 families who had lost their crops until the harvest in July this year.

**Orphanage** We support the ministry of the Hogar de Fe Orphanage through our sponsorship scheme. The orphanage is run by the family of Pastor Ramiro Blandón and is home to around 50 children and young people. The team at Hogar de Fe, all of whom are Christians, care for the children in a loving manner and are concerned for their physical, emotional and spiritual development. After school the children receive support with their homework and at weekends they have the opportunity to learn English, music and computer skills. Many of the children come from troubled backgrounds so the orphanage employs a child psychologist who is available to talk to them.



This year Ramiro and the team asked us if we could help them build a new laundry room on the orphanage site. The laundry would make it easier for the team to wash the children's clothes as well as giving them the opportunity to teach the children an important life skill. Thanks to the generosity of grant-making trusts, a church

and a few of our supporters we were able to fully fund the project which was completed in June. We're really grateful to everyone who contributed and helped make life easier for everyone at the orphanage.

**Education** Our education sponsorship scheme enables children from some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the town of Bluefields to attend fee paying schools, which offer a better standard of education than the free state schools. This year 61 children attended primary school, 53 attended secondary school and 10 studied at university. We also supported 30 children on the island of Ometepe.



We are able to monitor the progress of our sponsored children through the year thanks to our field worker, Margaret Storey, who lives in Bluefields from March to November. As well as visiting the schools to confirm that our children are continuing with their studies, Margaret offers Christian pastoral support and practical help to the children and their families.

## Feeding programme

We support a feeding programme for children in the village of Urbaite, on the

island of Ometepe. The feeding programme is run by local Christians, Julita Alemán and Gabi Barrios. The children are given high-vitamin milk twice a week to help provide some of the vitamins which are missing from their diet. This year Julita and Gabi also started giving the children a nutritious meal once a week. Around 30 children attend the programme where they also enjoy singing choruses and learning Bible stories.



**Casa Rahab** The city of Granada sadly has a reputation as being a centre for sexual tourism. Casa Rahab is a new project which has been established by a Nicaraguan charity and is run by Christians to help young women and girls who have become caught up in the sex trade in the city. Casa Rahab rents a house where they provide counselling, psychological support and vocational education to help victims break free from the cycle of exploitation. SIFT is one of a number of organisations, including the Peace and Hope Trust, which are supporting this project. This year we are funding the sewing teacher who works at Casa Rahab, teaching the women skills which they can use to support themselves financially.

**Vocational training** We support the Body of Christ Church in Managua which runs vocational courses for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The courses are taught by professional instructors and are designed to provide the participants with skills so that they can find a trade.

At the end of 2014, 15 young people graduated from the course in car mechanics, 10 young people completed the car electrics course and 9 completed the artisan woodworking course. One of the students who completed the mechanics course has already found employment in a workshop and is able to support his family and finish his secondary school education.



In 2015 the church started a course in handicrafts and piñata making, replacing the course in artisan woodworking. The women who attend this course learn how to make popular items, such as jewellery and decorations, which will provide them with a source of income.

# 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 contact us or download them from our website.

## Income:

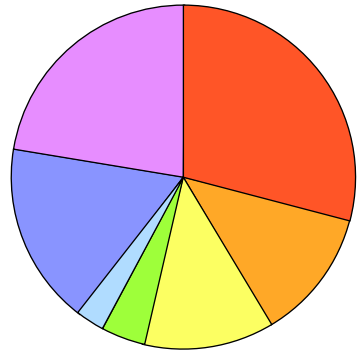
- Regular giving
- Grants from Trusts
- One-off gifts
- Legacies
- Gift Aid
- Fundraising events



Total: £171,777

## Expenditure:

- Medical work
- Education sponsorship
- Orphanage support
- Landslide relief
- Vocational training
- Other charitable work
- Fundraising and governance



Total: £126,121

*Please note that this section is based on the un-audited version of SIFT's accounts for 2014-15.*

## Present ideas

Jane Weaver, one of SIFT's Trustees, has a lovely collection of jewellery at <https://folksy.com/shops/Beadseedz>. They would make perfect presents for your loved ones this Christmas and all of Jane's profits will help SIFT to provide healthcare on Ometepe.



## Contact us

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