

What a year!

It's been another busy but rewarding year for the SIFT Team as we continue working to improve the lives of the poor in Nicaragua. As we near the end of 2017 we thought we would share some of our highlights with you.

Healthcare

This year the team at our three health clinics on the island of Ometepe treated 3,814 patients, prescribing free medicines to those who need them. They have also taught their patients about topics such as hand washing, dental hygiene and tropical diseases in order to help them live healthier lives. Our team continues to run targeted support groups according to community needs. This year they have run two groups for expectant mothers as well as a luncheon club for the elderly. From time to time the team are able to undertake larger projects which help the wider community and this year Dr Sandra oversaw the construction of a water tank in the village of El Corozal delivering water for the whole community.



Hogar de Fe

This year we continued to support the ministry of the Hogar de Fe Orphanage. The orphanage is currently home to 49 children and young people and is run by the family of Pastor Ramiro Blandón. They provide the children in their care with educational and spiritual support, helping them with their homework and involving them in the local church. The young people also have English and IT lessons in order to give them the best chance of finding employment when they are older. This year five of the young people started university in Managua. They live in one of two transition houses which the team have set up in order to encourage them to become more independent in preparation for adult life.



Education

We support children to get a better education on the island of Ometepe and the town of Bluefields. This year we enabled 138 children and young people to attend primary and secondary school or university in Bluefields. Our students go to fee-paying schools which offer a higher standard of education. Margaret Storey has proved invaluable again this year. She visits all of the schools to check on each student's progress and provides pastoral and practical support to them and their families.



Casa Rahab

The city of Granada is very popular with tourists. Sadly it also attracts people looking for sex and as a result many children and young people get caught up in the sex trade. Casa Rahab (Rahab's House) is a Christian centre which is seeking to break this cycle of exploitation and to provide hope to young women who have been affected by the sex trade. The team provides them with counselling, educational support and practical skills to help them find alternative means of supporting themselves financially. Since it opened in 2014 Casa Rahab has helped more than 80 young women. SIFT has funded a sewing teacher and psychologist.

Feeding Programme

Children on the island of Ometepe are at risk of malnutrition due to the lack of protein and vegetables in their diet. The feeding programme which SIFT supports is run by local Christians and provides high vitamin milk to between 40 and 45 children twice a week. Once a week the children are also given a meal of rice fortified with soya, chicken and vegetables. The sessions also include a Bible story and Christian songs because the team want the children and their parents to know God's love.



Christmas Gifts



If you're looking for a beautiful gift for a loved one this Christmas why not buy them an item of jewellery made by SIFT Trustee, Jane Weaver? As all of Jane's profits help SIFT to provide healthcare on Ometepe the gift will help someone else as well as putting a smile on the recipient's face. You can see the jewellery and place an order at <https://folksy.com/shops/Beadseedz>.

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
- Fundraising events
- Gift Aid



Total: £146,971

Expenditure:

- Medical work
- Education sponsorship
- Orphanage support
- Casa Rahab
- Other charitable work
- Fundraising



Total: £147,630

Please note that this section is based on the un-audited version of SIFT's accounts for 2016-17.

SIFT Sunday - A Date for Your Diary



On **29th April** we will be holding SIFT Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity for churches across the country to celebrate SIFT, to pray for our work and to raise much needed funds. Further details and fundraising ideas will be in the Spring InSight. **Save the date!**

Changing Times at SIFT

After many years of dedicated service to SIFT Keith Davis and Dave Staley have both decided that the time is right for them to step down from their current roles.

Keith has been “in it since the start”. He has always worked tirelessly to ensure that his responsibilities as our Treasurer and as a Trustee have been conducted with a high level of professional integrity but also with his wonderful Christian heart at the forefront of all he does. He will be very much missed.



Dave has also been working with SIFT for many years, bringing all the might of his strong Christian heart to bear as our Operations Director. He has travelled regularly as a volunteer to Nicaragua, with his wife Heather, to supervise and direct our work. With an energetic yet always loving approach, they have gained many lifelong friends there, and seen

great advances in the work of SIFT to reach out both materially and spiritually to the poor of Nicaragua. He leaves a gap which will be hard to fill.

Please hold Keith, Dave and Heather in your prayers.

Could YOU be our next Trustee?

Our Trustees play a vital role, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from their daily lives to help the people in Nicaragua. We are looking for people with a heart for SIFT’s work to join our Board of Trustees. If you would like to find out more, please contact our Chair of Trustees, Chris Anderson (underthewater@hotmail.co.uk or 07988 011977).

Contact us



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