

# Project Bona Fide News • 2007

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Project Bona Fide passed its five year mark in May of 2006, a success due to many. The diversity of projects started and completed is proof of our growth and commitment. The “We” of Project Bona Fide has grown into a strong team here in Nicaragua and internationally by people who recognize and act on the opportunity to support sustainable change and development in this small corner of Nicaragua.

## **Children’s Nutrition Program**



Our Children’s Nutritional Program has grown to 70 children now receiving fresh milk, eggs, fruit, multi-vitamins, toothbrushes and paste, parasite medication, and basic sanitation education six days a week. The difference in the children is a wonderful thing to see. A year ago it was heart breaking to watch some of the children arrive listless, dull, snotty... now you have to get out of the stampeding path of excited, bright and energetic kids rushing in for their breakfast, then out again for school. Forget the data we monitor; seeing the changes in these children verify our intentions and approach.

Our focus is to continue fundraising in hopes of expanding the program to reach more of the undernourished children in this community. Plans are underway to establish a Women & Children’s Community Center in 2008. This location will be a multipurpose center housing the Children’s Nutrition Program, a center for workshops, classes, a library, and a café.

## **Single Mothers’ Group**

*Rosas del Volcanes* (Roses of the Volcanoes) is a women’s cooperative founded in February of 2005 by 10 single mothers of our neighboring community Balgue. The cooperative’s mission is to empower women through education, initiative and resource availability so they may provide for their families and forge a better future for their children.

Spearheaded by Project Bona Fide team leader, Andrea Calfuquir, the cooperative established a farm school at the Bona Fide Farm; holds workshops on homemade products to generate income; builds earth ovens to make baked goods, chocolate, and peanut butter; and established a ‘bodega’ for storing herbal medicines and materials. Future projects will focus on establishing community markets, an annual seed and plant exchange, and generating scholarships for cooperative members to study community-oriented trades such as nursing. *Las Rosas del Valcanes* are an integral part in establishing the Community Center in 2008.



## ***Community Stove Project***

The Smoke Removing Stove Program launched itself with the construction of 10 models in as many houses. The stoves, made of local resources, represent a practical approach to a very serious health issue for women and children throughout rural Nicaragua who suffer from nearly constant smoke inhalation. Though the cause and ill effect of open cooking fires is widely acknowledged it is taking a lot of community involvement to find the appropriate design.



The 10 stove models, their use and performance, are guiding us in the construction and design of the next 10 to be built this year. The out pouring of interest and willingness to voluntarily build better smoke removing stoves in homes lends this program the ‘fire’ to keep cooking.

## ***A Bone Fide Thank You!***

Needless to say many trees and useful plant species were planted during the Pacific rainy season (June-Nov. '06) both on Bona Fide's Farm and in surrounding communities. The plantings help assure future generations the resources to diversify nutrition, ecology, economy, construction materials, and means for economic autonomy.

All of these changes and opportunities have come to be from the diverse support of Project Bona Fide over its initial years. As founder and now co-director my gratitude is immense, a feeling shared by many here.

Thank you for being a part of what we are doing.

Mucho Amor,

*Michael Judd*



P.S. Check out our new web site!  
[www.projectbonafide.com](http://www.projectbonafide.com)