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GOCARE Inc. helps educate disadvantaged adults and children in Nicaragua

The Ventura-based nonprofit organization provides programs to help Nicaraguans out of poverty into a bright, successful future



(VENTURA, Calif.) – Oct. 23, 2012 – Ventura-based GOCARE Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity, is helping Nicaraguans overcome crushing poverty.

Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America and the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere, with widespread war in the 1980s having destroyed much of the country's infrastructure. GOCARE Inc. provides a bridge to a better life through educational, health and economic development curriculum programs. Currently, about 50 percent of Nicaraguans live below the poverty line, while 80 percent live on less than \$2 per day, according to the U.N. Development Programme.

Jan Lindsay, CEO of GOCARE Inc., made it his mission to help the Nicaraguan community after his first visit to the Third World country in 2001 with the Ventura East Rotary Club. With a background in economics, Lindsay felt the best way to help lift the community out of poverty is through education. He was inspired by the work of the late Alice McGrath, a Ventura resident activist who developed a passion for Nicaragua and the Sandinista movement and helped lead 86 missions between 1990 and 2000.

“On my first trip, I was introduced to the community of Pantanal outside Granada. A group that was composed of mostly women met with us and explained how they were living out of the dump with their children. They were asking for our help and I knew I had to do something,” Lindsay said. “Education is the only lasting way to help the future of our children.”

GOCARE Inc. has been recognized as a model program by the Nicaragua Ministry of Education for its adult education courses in reading and math, pre-school, day care, computer instruction, English instruction and vocational training. Over the past 11 years, the organization has helped more than 360 students graduate from GOCARE Inc. programs on their way to college. With the core philosophy “Come Back to Give Back,” students pursuing their college degrees are encouraged help mentor and lead their peers through GOCARE’s programs.

To learn more about GOCARE, Inc.’s efforts and to make a difference, visit www.gocarekids.org.

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Photo cut line: Left: Jan Lindsay, CEO of GOCARE, Inc., and wife, Pamela, stand in front of the Lindsay Community Center. Right: Students learn during a computer class at the Lindsay Community Center.

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