



Sharing in the love of Jesus Christ by partnering with Nicaragua's poorest people in healthcare, education, economic development and housing.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Area United Methodist Churches Combine Efforts with Rainbow Network to Build 25 Houses in Rural Nicaragua

Springfield, MO – April 2016: A total of 26 churches and individuals primarily from the Ozarks District of the United Methodist Church based in Springfield, MO combined efforts to build 25 new cement block homes in the rural Nicaraguan community of La Quesera. Located about an hour north of Nicaragua's capital of Managua, La Quesera and the surrounding area is home to nearly 500 people who all live in some sort of mud, stick, and plastic "shack". This type of home promotes a wide array of issues including easily-preventable chronic illnesses, a heightened lack of security, and an extreme hindrance to move ahead in life.

Working through The Rainbow Network, also based in Springfield, MO, the group of United Methodist churches and individuals raised \$120,000 to construct the 25 homes in La Quesera which are made of cement blocks, a tin roof, a front and back door that both lock, and a cement floor. Each home has its own latrine, space to grow a garden, electricity for outlets and lights, and access to water. The newly built structures will soon be more than a house; they will serve as locations for Rainbow Network educational collectives, feeding centers, small businesses, and medical clinics. Each of these programs will empower the residents to pull themselves out of the desperately poor situations they are currently in and create a brighter future for generations to come.

Keith Jaspers, Founder & President of Rainbow Network said, "200 people are going to have their lives changed forever as they move from some version of a mud and stick hut into these solid, permanent cement and steel homes thanks to the generosity of so many churches and people from the Springfield area. We are so happy with the response of the people involved."

The dedication of these 25 homes took place on March 31st with members of Campbell United Methodist Church, who was a large donor to these houses, in attendance. Up until the dedication on March 31st, the 25 families chosen for homes had been working to complete the project without knowing which house would be theirs. In conjunction with singing, dancing, speeches from key leaders in the community and Rainbow Network staff, the families participated in a lottery drawing to determine which house will be theirs. It was an event attended by hundreds of people and was a joyous occasion for all.

Started in 1995, The Rainbow Network works in seven regions of rural Nicaragua, including 112 communities where nearly everyone lives in severe poverty and poor sanitary conditions. Rainbow Network serves over 42,000 people with **feeding centers, healthcare, education, housing, and economic development programs**.

Rainbow Network is supported by 100 local churches, 17 different denominations, and 1,000 individual families throughout the US.

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