



4 firefighters hope to meet 'adopted' boy on trip to Nicaragua

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[Edited news release](#)

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Members of the Springfield Fire Department adopted Fernando, a Nicaraguan boy.
SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -

Four city firefighters are going to Nicaragua this month to [help](#) build new homes through Rainbow Network, a nonprofit group based in Springfield. Capt. Jeff Prior, Rescue Spc. Matt Lyon, Firefighter Daniel Speights and Firefighter Matt Fields will leave Jan. 11.



The group will help start a 25-house project. The work will take place alongside families who will live in the homes.

Rainbow [Network](#) says the group's presence will be a huge encouragement to the impoverished families working on the homes, and each person's life will change as they learn about each other and build relationships.

The housing project is in the small community of Las Rosas, which is in the mountains near the large city of

Matagalpa.

Fields sponsors a young [student](#), Fernando, in honor of the Springfield Fire Department, and the group members hope to meet Fernando during their visit.

"Fernando wants to grow up and be a fireman and that's why Rainbow paired us together," said Fields. "I am very excited for the opportunity to see him!"

In addition to construction, the team will visit medical clinics, feeding centers, banks, [businesses](#), "shacks," and established housing projects. The group also plans to visit a fire station.

The Rainbow Network works with 111 rural Nicaraguan communities, or about 42,000 people, in medical clinics and feeding centers, primary schools and high school scholarships, small [loans](#) for businesses, and housing. The communities run each of these programs themselves, alongside about 35 Rainbow Nicaraguan staff members. The programs help families overcome extreme poverty.

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