



## September 2023

Dear Friends,

Since I last wrote, we have continued to host more RCA Global Mission folks! This has been such a big blessing for our rural communities, local CEPAD staff, and me.

More recently, I hosted friends from Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City, Iowa, which was extra special for me since that's the church I grew up in and where my dad was a pastor for almost 18 years. Getting to share some of my favorite people from Iowa with some of my favorite people in Nicaragua was such a gift to my soul. Watching them laugh, worship, and pray together was a true glimpse of heaven.



Shortly after, we welcomed RCA Cultivate Volunteer, Tiana, who served with us for three weeks. She stayed with a host family in a rural community and experienced their everyday life while also learning all about CEPAD's programs and helping with various community activities. She had a great time and we are thankful for her dedication to living in a very rural area.

After several years without welcoming volunteers, it has been great to have some. We are open to short or longer-term volunteers at CEPAD. Please reach out if you would like more information as to what that could look like.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*



Recently, I was able to travel back up to Pantasma and visit several of the communities. While there, I interviewed lots of beneficiaries and took photos and videos. Over the next few months, I'll be translating and editing videos to share with all of you. I don't have all of them done yet, but I am excited to share two with you.

[Juan](#) is a farmer in CEPAD's Sustainable Agriculture Program and is learning how to grow a variety of new fruits and vegetables.

[Nicaragua](#) is experiencing some dramatic effects of climate change, with the rainy season being very unreliable, causing a lot of unpredictability for our rural farmers. CEPAD is trying to combat water scarcity, and this video shows a few ways in which we do that.

I'm excited to share more stories with you in my next update. Now that we are in the rainy season, and don't have groups coming down soon, I can spend more time in Managua and focus on a few projects that have been on the back burner.

Thank you for praying with me and for me in this next season.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Now that the rainy season is finally underway, pray for the rural farmers and their families as there is a low probability for a good harvest.
- Continue to pray for all seven of the communities in the Pantasma region as well as the local staff as they strive to lift themselves out of poverty.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Opgenorth