

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A heartfelt thank you to Anna & Christena Brown for their article in the November 2015 Gift Gazette "SchoolBOX Mission Trip Opens Eyes and Hearts". As SchoolBOX Ambassadors, we are so happy that they shared their experience so that others may know more about the work SchoolBOX does to Make Education Possible for kids in Nicaragua!

SchoolBOX is an Almonte based charity that started with a simple story. While working in Nicaragua, our founder, Tom Affleck, gave 2 little girls a notebook and pencil each in 2006. When the girls' father happily exclaimed that "now they could go to school", Tom realised that for want of 50 cents worth of school supplies, kids were being denied access to a basic education.

Today, SchoolBOX is helping over 17,000 kids in 89 communities in Nicaragua. We have built 75 classrooms and handed out over 400,000 notebooks. We are also proud to say that in addition to St. John's, South March, several other Ottawa

Diocese churches have participated in Volunteer Build trips including St. Paul's, Almonte; St. George's, Clayton; Parish of Huntley, Carp and St. Thomas, Stittsville.

If you are interested in participating in a SchoolBOX Volunteer build trip, we have a combined group from St. Paul's, Kanata and St. Thomas, Stittsville heading to Nicaragua this July 21 - 30, 2016 and there are still a few spots available. As Anna & Christena shared, a 10-day build trip has volunteers working in the community alongside the kids, parents and SchoolBOX team helping to build a much-needed classroom. And that "work" absolutely includes "play time" with the kids! If you would like to know more, discuss other date options or are interested in a presentation, please email michelle@schoolbox.ca for more details. Our website is www.schoolbox.ca.

Saludo!

Michelle Kay, SchoolBOX
Finance Director