

Caring for Joana: a story from the field



2023 Fall Newsletter

A few months ago in the rural community of Malacatoya 1 the life of a baby girl was in danger.

Fátima González, an AMOS-trained Health Promoter, shared with us:

“It was Maundy Thursday, April 6th. A mom came with her 46-day-old baby at 1pm. The baby’s name was Joanna. When I examined her, she had a fever of 100.4 Fahrenheit; I listened to her lungs and I could clearly hear stridor or noise in the chest. She had great difficulty breathing. When her mom breastfed her, Joanna vomited. Her mom told me she had been sick for several days. From what I learned at trainings with AMOS, I knew I had to refer Joanna to the nearest health center. She was younger than 2 months-old and her symptoms indicated she had severe pneumonia.”

Fatima knew the seriousness of the case and immediately called the health center for an ambulance. She explained little Joanna’s health and the center sent an ambulance right away.

Once there, Joanna was examined again. The staff confirmed Fatima’s diagnosis and sent her to the regional hospital in Boaco, located one and a half hours away.

“At the regional hospital they ran tests, and in addition to pneumonia, the baby had a kidney infection. Joanna was in the hospital for 3 days

and was released on Sunday.”

There was no public transportation that day. So, Fatima’s husband went to pick up Joanna and her mom and brought them back to the community. Since the group arrived very late and Joanna’s family lives in the most remote part of the village, Fatima opened up her home and invited them to stay the night.

During the next few days, Fatima went to visit the baby several times to check on her and make sure she was taking her medicines. Happily, Joanna made a full recovery, is healthy again, and growing.

Fatima reflects on all the changes she has seen in her community throughout the years: **“Before I was trained as a Health Promoter and we [our community] started working with AMOS, there was no one here who could treat an injured person, give an injection, or organize emergency transport for a patient. We had maternal deaths and children were severely affected by parasites. After we started working with AMOS we have had no maternal deaths and the children grow up healthier.”**

When you support AMOS and our partnership with local health authorities, you also support the community work of leaders like Fatima, who with love, dedication and effort, help to save lives.

“We want to continue hosting teams as it helps our community with the many existing health care needs. During home visits with a mission team, we found the first patient in a health crisis. An AMOS doctor referred the patient to the hospital and doctors from the mission team said it was a wise decision to visit that house first. The patient felt supported, it was hard to see that he was suffering but it was great that we got there on time.”



Eveling Cabrera,
Nejapa Health Educator

Putting our hearts into missions



“For me, as a long-time public health nurse that has participated and organized many “train the trainer” programs, I had never experienced such a successful program that trains lay people to respond not only during emergencies, but also to support their communities through every day teaching, support and monitoring of the children, and for those with chronic conditions, especially. The health teaching that I experienced the Health Promoters utilizing was better than any that I have witnessed in the U.S., and I was so grateful to be a part of the CPR and choking trainings.”



Kathy Hahn,
St. John's Episcopal Church mission team member.

Home Visits in Nejapa, AMOS Board Trip



Activities with children,
Nicaragua Medical Missions

“I was joyful to play a small part in installing the 30 water filters in the local homes of families in El Obraje. Knowing that these filters will help prevent sickness and disease in young children and pregnant mothers is very rewarding. Also, I loved participating in the WASH educational sessions with the children. Even though I could not communicate with them in Spanish, smiling at them and seeing them smile back, brought joy to my heart. Meeting some of the local women and speaking limited English with them was also rewarding. I feel like I was able to begin a possible relationship with some of the women and children there and look forward to continuing that relationship when I return.”



Kathy Thorne,
Ocean View Baptist Church mission team member



Lynn Bernard,
MacGregor mission team member

“We missed seeing our friends during the COVID years. We missed the satisfaction of helping out by providing clean water, solar electricity, and First Aid training. Since 2014 our group has made some very special friends. We are grateful for AMOS staff's partnership with the El Socorro community and their preparation to connect our team with the people that we served. El Socorro was very helpful and pitched in to accomplish the tasks. We are looking forward to our next mission trip in February 2024!”



You are making such a big difference!



Launch of the Sexual and Reproductive Health pilot project in Matagalpa.



56 community health volunteers participated in trainings.



184 water filters installed in 5 communities.



3,698 patients cared for in our urban clinics so far this year.

Thank you to members of The Parajón society!

We are so grateful for your decision to invest in advancing community empowerment for lasting change that saves lives and improves the wellbeing of entire communities in Nicaragua.

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Find out more at: amoshealth.org/the-parajon-society/



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