



# Amigos for Christ



Christmas 2005

[www.AmigosForChrist.org](http://www.AmigosForChrist.org)

## If you are reading this, you are an Amigo...

Multiply us all a thousand fold, and we become the *Amigos for Christ*. Somewhere in the chain of events that began in 1997, **you are a link**. Who are you? You may be a long time supporter who actually participated in the first youth mission trip to Chinandega in 1998. Or, you may have spent part of this summer as an intern at Villa Catalina. You may have seen the Getsemani Boys Choir in Atlanta or New Orleans in 2001, 2002, or 2003 and made a donation toward our first projects. You may have underwritten the hospital or music school at Betania. You may have sponsored an Amigos fundraising event, like our *Outback Fiesta*. You may have ridden your bike for an hour to raise money for the children of Santa Matilde. You may have given a friend or loved one a donation to pay for a mission trip. You may be a monthly donor who sponsors a student or teacher. You may have attended a benefit honoring Gladys Rivas during her past 2 visits to the U.S. You may be an Agua for Christ donor, enabling us to drill for clean water in many rural areas. You may be a doctor or nurse, who has performed medical miracles at St. Martin de Porres Hospital. You may have devoted hours of volunteer work in our office or warehouse. You may have read about us on our website or in a local newspaper and just wanted to help. **You are all part of our extended family**, stretching from Georgia to Maine to Colorado to California to Louisiana and down to Nicaragua. The spiritual chain began in your heart and ends in the eyes of every Nicaraguan child who has witnessed your acts of love.

**Have a blessed Christmas!**



## Water

Did you ever realize that water has such a positive and negative impact on your lives? Without it, you can't live. Too much of it can ruin everything...

We received an email from a very special young lady who was with us in Nicaragua in August. She was one of 50 students and teachers from **Sacred Heart Academy and Jesuit High School in New Orleans**.

Three weeks after working side-by-side with hurricane survivors from Nicaragua, she was herself a survivor of Hurricane Katrina, relocated to Connecticut. She never complained, only stated, "I can now really empathize with the Nicaraguans. I can't wait to go back next year to help them finish their houses." No mention of her own loss, only others. What an awesome spirit of service!

It took that same spirit this past summer to complete what came to be known as **"the ditch"**. It covered more than 1500 feet and, at points, was 8 feet deep. What the first crew started, the last crew (ironically, the New Orleans gang) finished.

Everyone in between had a story about this seemingly unimportant canal. It drew people like a magnet, where hours of dirt flying, rock laying, and cement-mixing fun were to be had.



**It was worth it.** Nicaraguan rainstorms are historic. This picture illustrates the water that would have flooded the homes and the construction site. It is flowing beautifully away to a natural river. Thank you to everyone for this tremendous effort.





# Pay It Forward This Christmas



## Our Inspiration

Those who attended a fundraiser benefiting the Knights of Columbus at Prince of Peace Church in October truly understand how to use their many blessings to **"pay it forward"**. At the event, attendants bought raffle tickets to bid on items in the live auction at the end of the event. Each raffle ticket was given the imaginary value of \$5000. Auction items ranged from artwork to sports memorabilia, but the focal point was the **giant 32" Magnavox Flat Screen TV** displayed for all to see. As participants determined their wish lists, Kelly Floress contemplated a different agenda. Soon, over half of the room was literally *buying* into her spur-of-the-moment idea. Their plan was to combine their raffle tickets, bid on the Magnavox Flat Screen TV, and donate it to Amigos for Christ for future fundraising efforts. At the moment of truth, Kelly held over 4 million dollars worth of tickets in her hands. After a tense round of bidding on the TV, Kelly's generous campaign had won. These compassionate actions inspired us to *pay it forward* this holiday season. We want to **pass the giant TV on to someone** in the generous Amigos for Christ community, while also inviting you to pass on your gifts to our community in Nicaragua.

## Our Invitation to You

This holiday season, we urge you to **pay it forward!** Help the families in Villa Catalina, and buy Christmas gifts for friends and family at the same time. This year, change your routine of holiday giving, and make a contribution that expands far beyond your relationships. Honor your friends and family members by making a donation in their name. We will send them a greeting card with the beautiful artwork shown above, explaining how we used the contribution. Each home costs \$3,800, and every donation, no matter the size, is part of the long line of generosity that has created the promising community of Villa Catalina. Your gifts will be used to finish the remaining 60 homes in Villa Catalina and will also give you the opportunity to win the **giant 32" Magnavox Flat Screen TV**. But, it doesn't end there; we invite you to *pay it forward* by designating someone else to receive the giant TV. More information is located on the insert included with this newsletter. Help us continue the amazing story of Villa Catalina, and **pay it forward** by honoring your friends and family this Christmas, while helping your friends and family in Nicaragua.

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