



Noteworthy

AUG | 2017



Funding Focus: *Health Care in Pedapatnam* **Help us make our Match!**

We've received an anonymous gift of \$5,000 to use as incentive to raise the full \$25,000 we need to fund our clinic for another year. **WE NEED YOU TO HELP MEET THAT GOAL!!**

This would help carry us over as we continue the search for a medical sponsor for this very necessary outreach.

Opening the clinic again was a priority to address the imminent health needs of the local villagers.

Our goal is to stabilize its operations so we can then focus on the economic development through our micro-finance programs for women.

Please help us continue to provide the much needed health care to these villagers!

Visit theneofund.org/needs and specify 'clinic' today!!

8,344 Reasons to Celebrate!

by Ron Hockley

On June 15, we completed our first year of operation at the Pedapatnam Health Center in India. Thanks to the generosity of our awesome partners and friends, we served 8,344 people, with a focus on women and children. What difference did we make? We relieved suffering and reduced mortality; we provided preventative treatment, health education and counseling; and we created the relational groundwork for a Women's Cooperative Credit Organization that will lift the hopes and fortunes of tens of thousands of the most vulnerable people, the poorest of the poor. We did that together!

Joji Raju Lella, the Pedapatnam village elder, and his wife, Lourdukumri, are personally invested in the Health Center. Early last year, over a lunch of rice, fish, Brinjal curry and a gooseberry pickle chutney, Joji begged us to help re-open the shuttered clinic. "It would be very, very, very good for our village," he said. Since the clinic re-opened in June of 2016, Joji's children and grandchildren have been among the patients. Last month, his hands pressed

Our village health educators visit pregnant women and children at their homes every week. One of their objectives is to enroll pregnant women and children under six in the local "Balwadies," a free government program offering nutritious food and other food supplements to mothers and children. When our partners maximize use of existing programs, it enables your contributions to go even further! This supports our NEO philosophy of collaboration.



*Tax-deductible donations may be made to The NEO Fund, a 501-c3 non-profit,
ONLINE at TheNEOfund.org/needs
or by MAIL to: The NEO Fund • 13407 17th Avenue, Ct E • Puyallup, WA 98374*

8,344 Miracles and counting ... *(continued from page 1)*

together in the universal symbol of blessing and gratitude, he said “this clinic has not only been a blessing for my family and my village, but for our whole region. Thank you!”

That thanks belongs to YOU. As part of our NEO family, you helped make the venture possible! What is the future? Our friends at the Palmer Foundation helped us cover many clinic expenses for our pilot year. Now that year is over. The NEO family is committed to covering the costs of this excellent, ongoing outreach, but — long term — we are searching for one or more sponsors to help us keep the lights on and the doors open. **That’s our first priority!** It costs a little under \$2000 a month to run the clinic (a REMARKABLE value of \$2.64 per patient treated!)

Second, this year we designed a Women’s Cooperative Credit Organization (WCCO), hired a loan manager, and selected three women’s groups to serve as the pilot recipients of the first loans. We furnished a room at the Health Center with a desk, computer and chairs, to serve as the local office. We raised some loan capital and registered the program with the Indian government. The program is on the verge of launch. Our 18-month pilot lending program is expected to be profitable after one year with a total investment of \$30,000, a little under \$1,700 a month. We must find a way to launch this program! It will immediately begin changing the lives of people in desperate poverty.

Third, we see a great opportunity to start a seasonal boarding school for children in conjunction with the clinic. Many of the parents in the region are migrant, they follow the fish or rice crop. The school would provide stability and economic lift for the most vulnerable families and help house and educate some of the most at-risk children on Earth.

Fourth, our India partners have been asking for a mobile health van since we launched the clinic. Traveling on the unpaved narrow roads to provide health services in the more distant and remote villages is tricky at best and limits the reach of our nurse and health educator. This will extend our reach and effectiveness throughout the region.

Fifth, we imagine adding a modest apartment on the roof of the Health Center (the building was designed with this in mind), to house visitors and small teams.

Speaking of which... **Would you like to travel to the Pedapatnam Health Center to visit or serve?** It would be a true adventure, about as far off the tourist trail as you can get, and super heart-warming. Your compassion and service would truly change lives. Please contact us if you are interested!

Every day of the past year, we served an average of 23 people. Every month, 695. For the year, 8,344. This care and compassion has created a beachhead of hope in the Krishna River Delta. And we’re only getting started. Thanks for being our partner in this meaningful work! ■■■

Just a few of the activities our WCCOs in India will support: small village markets, repairing fishing nets, drying fish, and preparing peppers for sale.

“When a woman gets an extra dollar in her hands, 90 percent goes to her family.”

-Melinda Gates

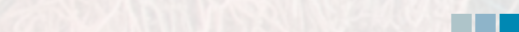
(Eighty percent of NEO micro-loans are made to women).

Updates from Nicaragua

El Faro Undertakes Major Construction



This year El Faro's main construction project has progressed at full speed. We finished two floors, remodeled the roof, installed a sound-system, lighting, and fans, finished interior offices, and leveled the floor of "El Faro Central". This is one of the nerve centers of our work in Nicaragua, a growing facility constantly buzzing with people and activity. It houses a daycare, kindergarten, elementary school, church, accounting office, counselors, health clinics, kids clubs, men's and women's groups, marriage and other life-skills



Projecto Agricultura El Faro (PAEF) produces bumper crops

With the cooperation of PONTIS, a Nicaragua-based agriculture consulting organization, we have successfully reconditioned the soil at our farm site and have just this year produced our first crops. The squash yield managed to provide for the school's feeding programs, local El Faro residents, with enough to sell for cash to cycle back into the farm. It's with thanks to our many partners in giving that the farm's sustainability is becoming a reality. Next up, plantains and passionfruit! YUM!



The NEO Fund Nicaragua becomes official!



To broaden our partnerships throughout the country, we have brought our lending programs under its own legal entity in Nicaragua. We have retained our experienced, caring staff and are in the process of refining our entire program under the professional eye of Dr. Francisco Barquero (see back page). With Carlos Lopez, continuing as our Loan Manager and Massiel Cano moving forward with accounting, we are excited to embark on this new chapter!

Our mission is to equip parents with the capabilities to provide for their children's nutrition, health, and education by working through established local organizations in some of the most vulnerable communities of the world.

The NEO Fund

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Sustainable Community Development for the Poorest of the Poor

Backpage



Meet Dr. Francisco Barquero NEO's Director of Microfinance

Two years ago we heard about the gentleman in Masaya whom we 'had to meet.' Now, this gentleman, a Fulbright scholar who received his doctorate in Development in the United States, is realigning our current microlending programs and creating new models for future growth. He has a proven track record with other organizations in his native Nicaragua. We are so excited he has agreed to work with us! His enthusiasm for helping the poor by rebuilding economies in struggling areas around the world is truly infectious. His humble, caring demeanor has won all of our hearts at The NEO Fund and in our offices abroad. Embrazos y besos, Francisco! We welcome you!

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