



In this issue –

- *Noche de Salsa*
- *Commentary from Board Member Jij de Jesus*
- *Student Profile: Belinda Duarte*

3rd Annual Noche de Salsa Washington, DC

The night of Saturday, November 17 is not one that Help Educate will forget anytime soon. Our supporters in the Washington, DC area joined us at Meze for our 3rd annual **Noche de Salsa**, a night of dancing and celebration in support of our students in Nicaragua.

As a result of your generous contributions, we raised **\$2,152** from ticket sales, extra donations, raffle tickets and the silent auction! That translates to **four**

scholarships for rural Nicaraguan youth to pursue a university education.

A special thank you goes out to our hosts at Meze in Adams Morgan (www.mezedc.com) and our fabulous salsa instructors Hugo, Mercedes and Jessie, who all helped make the event such a success.

Look out for more Help Educate events coming in 2013. Our annual Winter Membership Drive

runs from December to January, and we will soon have a calendar of happy hours, wine tastings and other exciting events happening across the United States.

Check out our website www.helpeducate.org and “Like” us on Facebook (see link below) to get all the latest news on our events as well as the achievements of our students.

Thanks always for your continued support!

“Like” Help Educate on Facebook



Help Educate has a new presence on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/helpeducatenicaragua>

“Like” us to receive up-to-date news on our students’ accomplishments and upcoming Help Educate events near you!



Commentary from Board Member Jij de Jesus

I have long been an idealist, a believer in both my responsibility and my power to affect the world in positive ways. I have my Jesuit high school to thank for this perspective, with its emphasis on creating justice and being a "Man for Others". Even through college, I sought opportunities that supported my "change the world" worldview. And when I graduated as an environmental science major, I saw my future as an eco-activist, trying to improve the future of the planet.

In my first job as an EPA intern, I worked with immigrant families in Colorado. It was not the tree-hugging, policy changing work I had envisioned. Instead, I was changing attitudes and behaviors in the community by introducing new ideas, by educating. And it was working. This was the first time that I had truly seen how education could change communities for the better. I had always had this notion of changing the world, but never had I felt it so directly as when I was educating. Education as activism. This is when I became a teacher.

A decade later, my belief in education is still strong. I work with 23 4th grade boys who one day will be leaders in their community. One key concept I teach in my classroom is that we are all connected. What I do for someone else, impacts me. Ten-year-old boys understand this idea for two reasons: it's simple and it's true.

So when I was presented with an opportunity to support the education of young leaders in Nicaragua as a Help Educate board member, I accepted wholeheartedly. With my belief in the transformative power of education affirmed each day in the classroom, and my experience of the world as a web of connections, why would I not?



Current Student Update: Belinda Ninoska Duarte

Belinda Ninoska Duarte from Ococona is in her third year studying Pedagogy at Universidad Martin Lutero. Teaching is her passion because she enjoys working with children. She also serves as a community librarian, tutors elementary school students, and participates in community reforestation efforts.

Belinda says that the Help Educate Scholarship allows her to focus on her studies and gain career-related experience, rather than the alternatives of

working long hours as a live-in maid or burdening her parents in addition to studying. She hopes she can help her community both with her new knowledge and her continued support of Help Educate's programs.

Belinda believes that youth are important in communities because they are the present and future. Her goals are to teach elementary school and continue her studies in science. She is saving in the community bank for her future studies.