

CHRISTMAS GIVE

December 2017

GLOBAL OUTREACH

REAP Granada: REAP Granada was started by Scott and Jennifer Esposito. The Espositos were members of Crossway Christian Church in the early years.

REAP Granada serves the more economically challenged neighborhoods of Granada, Nicaragua. Their vision is to create true disciples of Jesus by engaging in Christ-centered community development. The ministry focuses on living life together with the people they are teaching and serving.

The REAP Granada team interacts with the community through various touchpoints: Discipleship Groups, Bible Studies, Jail and Hospital Ministry, Sports for children and adults, training events. They also partner with local pastors, equipping and empowering them to serve alongside them.

We will give to help with the construction of their new community center. This center will focus on youth and kids, keeping them off the streets, while helping them to know the love of Jesus. The center will be a place of Bible studies, lock-ins, and all sorts of youth and kid activities. Their next phase is windows and doors. We will give toward this need.

LOCAL OUTREACH

Adult Learning Center - Early Childhood Adventures: The Adult Learning Center's Early Childhood Adventures Program offers high quality childcare to children from less advantaged families. It prepares the children from these homes to succeed in school, while enabling the parents to work.

The floors in the childcare rooms are cracking and crumbling. We will be giving to help provide new flooring upon which the children can play and learn.

LHIFA (Latino, Hispanic, International, Football Association): LHIFA is a soccer club whose goal is to provide kids with educational and character mentorship, through sportsmanship, community service, and educational support.

As the cost of athletics through schools and clubs continues to increase, many kids are being left out. LHIFA partners with the United Way and One Greater Nashua to give these kids the chance to participate.

Studies show consistent involvement in extracurricular activities during school years is strongly associated with positive outcomes like higher grade point average, lower drop-out rates, lower truancy, better work habits, higher educational aspirations, less risky behavior and more civic engagement.

Youth who participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities are 400% more likely to go to college than those who do not participate. The extracurricular activity most associated with high academic achievement is sports.

Even with LHIFA's minimal costs for kids, there are still families who cannot afford to have their children participate. We will give toward a scholarship fund that will help provide the children of such families, especially refugee families, the ability to participate.

MILFORD BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SOUHEGAN VALLEY - THE CHILDREN'S RESILIENCY RETREAT: The Children's Resiliency Retreat is a one-day retreat held each month for children who have a loved one with alcohol or drug addiction. Each monthly session will include educational and therapeutic approaches, and provide tools and skills to break the intergenerational cycle of substance abuse disorders. Children will learn about addictions and how to keep themselves safe. Families will be strengthened as healthy communication and conflict resolution skills are developed within the family system.

Through these retreats, children will develop strength for their own resiliency. In a safe environment, they will be able to explore their feelings, learn they are not alone, and recognize that what is happening in their families is not their fault. Children will also gain valuable connections that will help them learn how to find the emotional help and community resources when they need them. We will be giving to help sponsor these retreats.