



WISCONSIN / NICARAGUA
PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS

Sherin R. Bowen W/NP Managua Warehouse Renovation Project



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Dear Friends of W/NP,

The time has come for thoughts to become reality. For years, we have contemplated how to accomplish the much needed building upgrades to the Managua Office. Our priority of putting what funds we had into implementing projects meant there was never enough left over to make the necessary improvements.



In 2005, Henry Gillis made his first trip to Nicaragua. Being a well seasoned handy man, he immediately recognized many shortfalls in the Managua Office building where he could provide a hand. He returned to WI a dedicated W/NP volunteer and set out developing plans to upgrade the electrical set-up in the Managua Office. During the following year, Henry gathered needed materials, made the plan to return to Managua in the Fall of 2006. Shortly before his travels, Henry was up on a roof making repairs like any other normal day - but this day became his last, as he fell from the roof to his death. **It was an unbelievable tragedy that left us all asking why??** His family recognized what Henry would want most is to see his work completed, thus dedicating his memorial fund to the work he was in the process of completing at the W/NP Managua Office. We have been saving Henry's fund until the time was right, and sufficient resources were available to get the job done right, as Henry would want it.

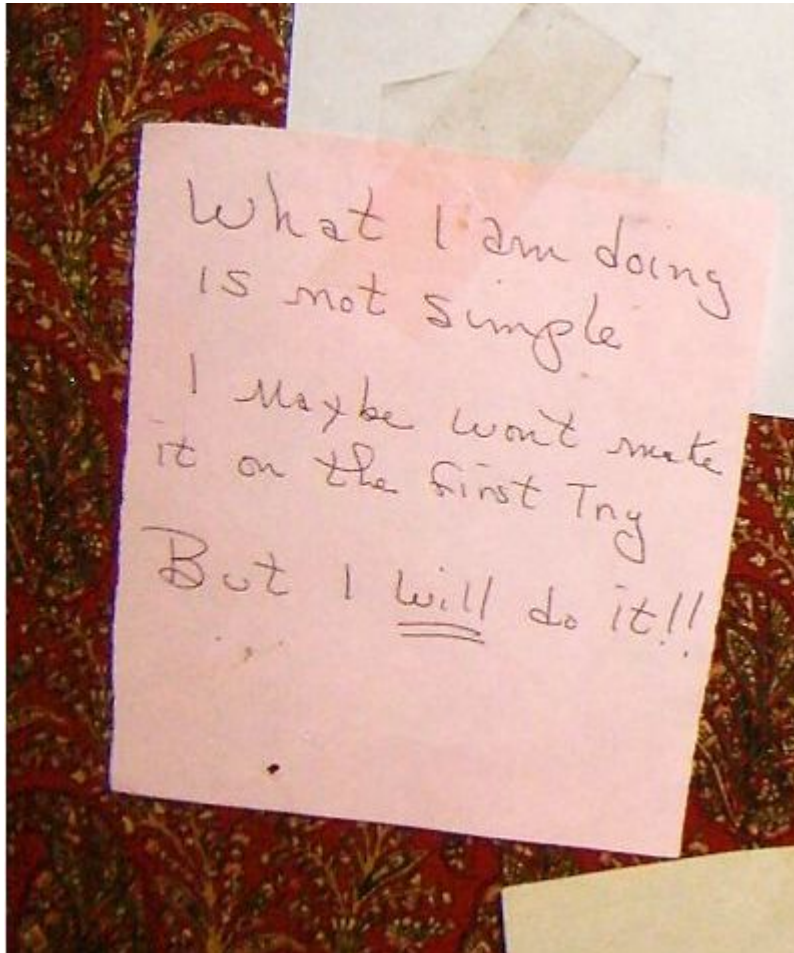
That time has come. Almost the same scenario, Sherin was in right in the midst of figuring out how to get the office in Managua in better shape to facilitate all that has to take place in the space we have to work with. She was brain storming and exploring options as she fell to her death.



Once again, the best we can do to honor those who were unable to finish what they were trying so hard to get done, is to carry on and see it to completion. How it will all come together we don't know yet, and that is the beauty in believing the seemingly impossible can indeed become reality with cooperative

efforts. What we do know for sure, is they showed us all how powerful the spirit of volunteerism can be in getting things done!

This note was written by Sherin & posted on her desk, a good reminder for us all:



Below is a snapshot of where we are currently at:

Managua Office construction begins



Moises Guillen (in the blue), coordinating the renovation project. Covering the existing warehouse side door.



Julio welding the side walls inside - this is the warehouse area of the building - soon to be an area for teaching sewing machine and bicycle repair. One objective in this renovation is to better utilize the space available by providing areas for teaching and skill development.

**Meet two of our stellar Nicaraguan volunteers:
Modesto (black shirt) and Julio (blue shirt)....**



These two men are truly a classic example of what W/NP is all about.

Last October they both attended a W/NP Baseball workshop in Tipitata. This was their first intro to our projects, afterwards they said they would like to become members and volunteer if we could use their help. We talked about how W/NP works, inviting people to share their time and talents. The men had experience in construction and welding by trade and naturally the conversation turned to our office as it was in need of repair. Last fall they helped with some structural issues in the building, and now are back as volunteers again helping with the office remodeling project.

Our gratitude for their expertise and willingness to help is immense!

Working on the steel base



These two men, among others, have been working (as volunteers) relentlessly to get things ready for the September construction.



How can you be a part of the project?

1. Email us ASAP if you are interested in helping with construction in Managua (tentative travel dates - last week of September)
2. IN-KIND Donations of supplies - the welding equipment quit working, and in response Kevin Marinacci, Pabre Fabretto's, lent us his welder. In addition, we had word this morning Miller Electric will be donating a welder. THANK YOU!

Sherin's Memorial Fund - The Bowen Family had dedicated the entire fund for this project, special thanks to all of who will help to carry out Sherin's dream. If anyone would care to contribute to this fund they are invited to do so. However the Bowen family is committed to completing the project as a memorial monument to Sherin.

<http://wnp.uwsp.edu/finalindex.html>

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