

Circulo de Amigas News



Pat Returns to Jinotega

Anyone who knows **Pat McCully**, knows she can't be away from her beloved Circulo de Amigas for too long.

To celebrate her 80th birthday, Pat decided she was ready for another trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua, where Circulo de Amigas is located. Pat has made yearly trips to the community center serving girls and women in the poverty-stricken *Barrio Linda Vista Sur* at the edge of



Pat McCully

Jinotega. Since founding Circulo, she has only missed one year—last year—due to serious back surgery.

The nonprofit organization, which sponsors the education of more than 100 girls, was established in 1993 to help local girls and women ac-

quire the skills and tools needed to improve their lives. During her one-month stay, Pat will provide enhanced training to the CdA staff and detailed oversight of the entire program. She is bringing with her fresh ideas to enhance the library, computer instruction and the family gardening and nutrition program.

Traveling with her is Vice President **Gayle Hopper, M.D.**, Treasurer **Denise Flanagan** and long-time sponsor **Christa Petersen-Frey**.

Christa will be meeting her student, Gema, for the first time at the girls' dormitory Pat had built in Leon, one of the two largest cities in Nicaragua and a university town.

"I'm excited about seeing the new accomplishments at Circulo," said Pat. "Promoting learning is a never-ending process, and I'm grateful to our sponsors for bringing education and hope into the lives of our girls."

**Now You Can
Donate Online:**
[www.camigas.org/
howtohelp.htm](http://www.camigas.org/howtohelp.htm)

Generous Contributors Sponsor Staff and Students *by Fany Morales*

With the economic downturn impacting peoples' lives and livelihoods, many nonprofits have been struggling to make ends meet. Circulo de Amigas is no different.



L to r: Gloria Huerta, Yamilet Rivera, Flor Castro, Fany Morales

Faced with the possible loss of staff, individuals and sponsors took it upon themselves to fund the salaries of these dedicated workers.

Several positions are continuing to be funded, due to donations by the following individuals:

Pat McCully

Fany Morales,
Director

Molly Fairbanks

Flor de Maria Castro,
Psychologist

**Chuck Langlois &
Judy Sterling**

Yamilet Rivera,
Tutor

**Herb & Mary Lou Fa-
ris**

Gloria Huerta,
Librarian

**Nora Pedersen & Roy
McCord**

Security Guard

Bill Stoker, Computer Guy for CdA



Computer Expert Keeps Circulo Online; On Time

A devoted supporter of Circulo de Amigas for many years, **Bill Stoker** has provided expert volunteer computer support, keeping the organization online and on time.

Consultant and owner of Huntington Beach, CA. **CT Solutions** specializing in computer hardware, software and networking, Bill's expertise is in solving computer problems.

When sponsor Roy McCord's PC crashed in April, "Bill salvaged my computer quickly and economically, saving the Circulo newsletter, my Jinotega movie files and all my email data. Since then, Bill has guided me through wireless connectivity and a new computer purchase." His services are competitively priced and his volunteer computer servicing for CdA has been invaluable.

To contact Bill, please email him at:

ctstechs.bill@gmail.com or ss@ctstechs.com

Seven New Sponsors!

It's not often that so many sponsors join at one time to help the girls and women of Circulo de Amigas. But that's what happened on July 26, 2009, when a presentation given by CdA Founder Pat McCully and Vice President Gayle Hopper, M.D., to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fullerton, California, resulted in seven new sponsors, bringing the total number of students sponsored to 10.

Members of the church also are donating backpacks and several scientific calculators that have been transported to Jinotega this fall.

Sweet Tweet

Thanks to the generosity of Dawn Tripp of Tempe, Arizona, our scholarship girls have been introduced to formal music instruction. They are beginning to read notes and play simple tunes.

Dawn supplied recorders and a teacher for the two-month music program. When the program is completed, girls choosing to continue will be able to continue with free music instruction in downtown Jinotega.

Hats off to Ms. Tripp!



Circulo students were given recorders and music instruction for two months.

Thank you to the Fullerton UU sponsors!

Gwen and Jim Fykes, Anaheim

Randi Hetrick, La Habra

Debbie Langenbacher, Fullerton

Lee and Carol Oldham, Hacienda Heights

Mary Botts, Fullerton

Gloria May, La Habra

Doris Dressler-Clark, Fullerton

Richard Cole, Anaheim Hills

Donnette Gultinan, Placentia

Journey to Jinotega

In January 2008, I came to Central America to backpack for three months. During that time, I also wanted to do some volunteer work. In San Juan del Sur, I met an American woman who sponsors a girl at Circulo. She told me about the program and said they could probably use my help.



Renee Duffie, Circulo Volunteer

So I contacted Fany (Morales), who was very receptive to having me come to Jinotega and teach English to the staff there. In Jinotega, they have two rooms for guests. Let me tell you, it was the nicest room I stayed in during my entire three-month journey through Central America!

My Spanish was not very good, which made the first week of our English classes a challenge! We had class Monday through Friday, and with the help of Spanish-English dictionaries, the staff and I learned a great deal.

The class was doing so well, I decided to stay an extra week.

Bea Bowersmith, an American, was volunteering to help the girls with their English, so I helped Bea



Circulo Staff Learning ...

with her lessons as well. I think the staff and the girls loved the classes. They were all eager to learn, which made teaching so much fun!

I would highly recommend visiting Jinotega when you have a chance. It is a beautiful and friendly town. The girls in the program are very fortunate to have the opportunities you have provided for them. Circulo de Amigas is a wonderful organization, and I'm happy I was able to help and get to know the program.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my story!

***Renee Duffie,
Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Canada***

Mission Statement

Together, we help Nicaraguan girls and women acquire the skills needed to improve their lives.

Circulo de Amigas

*P.O. Box 6605
Huntington Beach, CA 92615-6605*

Donate Online

*www.camigas.org/howtohelp.htm
Tax-exempt 501c (3) ID #33-0586472*

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Treasurer, Denise Flanagan

Deniseflanagan100@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor, Millie Paul

mbpaul444@gmail.com (Ideas or articles welcomed)

NOTE from The Treasurer. Please don't send checks or money directly to Nicaragua. Not only is mail risky, but checks cannot be cashed there. Be sure to send gifts to the Huntington Beach address. I will make sure funds get to their intended destination and purpose in Jinotega in local currency.

Have a Heart—Be a Sponsor!

For \$44.00 a month, your support allows a young girl to stay in school, rather than being forced to work without an education.

For only \$59.00 a month, you can support a student in her university years.

Please send your e-mail address \$1 per mailing!
Save paper and save Círculo \$1 per mailing!



Círculo de Amigas
PO Box 6605
Huntington Beach, CA 92615-6605
www.camigas.org
Address Service Requested



Which one of these girls should quit school and work to help feed her family?

Honor someone you love by giving the gift of Opportunity!

Círculo Giving Levels

- Abeja amiga (friendly bee) \$30
- Mariposa (butterfly) \$50
- Urraca hermosa (pretty jay) \$100
- Cenzontle (tropical songbird) \$500
- Guardabarranco \$1000
- Other amount: \$ _____

Your name

In honor /memory of

Your address

Your city, state, zip code

Email/phone



Donate online at
<http://www.camigas.org/howtohelp.htm>

Or send this form and your check to:
Círculo de Amigas
PO Box 6605
Huntington Beach, CA 92615-6605

Círculo de Amigas provides educational aid to poor women and children in the remote mountain town of Jinotega, Nicaragua. Tax-exempt 501(c)(3) ID #33-0586472. For more information, including links to our newsletters and video, go to <http://www.camigas.org/>