

The **SHEAF/ESPIGA Foundation** affirms the concept of integrated development. Specific activities undertaken in a community must fit together to promote consciousness-raising, self-respect, and transformation of the individuals.

The officers of **SHEAF/ESPIGA** are dedicated to a holistic model of development which recognizes the need to integrate work, education and spiritual development. The officers have all enjoyed extensive work in pastoral ministry, social work and /or administration. They have all visited projects in Nicaragua and some have had extensive overseas service, particularly in Central America. They come, primarily but not exclusively, from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. They are dedicated to real and meaningful development in Central America.

**SHEAF/ESPIGA** projects are in place in Nicaragua and they will gradually expand throughout Central America.

## Current Projects

### Agricultural Projects

#### Calf Project

The objective is to help rural families by giving them a heifer calf to raise and keep. The cow becomes a welcome source of food (milk, cheese etc.) and income. The project is ongoing and sustainable because the first calves are paid to **SHEAF/ESPIGA**, who in turn gifts them to additional families with the same

stipulation. Until 2009 this project was called the Steer Project with families in three communities engaged: two south of Managua and one in the North. Feedback from these communities and the families involved encouraged a switch to heifers because of the benefits of milk and dairy products.



*Top group is from north of Managua.*



*Bottom group is from south of Managua*

#### Macadamia Project

The objective of this project is to increase crop diversity by introducing an alternative crop to coffee in Nicaragua. The coffee market is inherently volatile, and causes economic instability and hardships, partially because it is so highly seasonal, for farmers. Macadamia trees can be inter-planted to provide shade for coffee and thus increase farm income and stability.

Eight farmers, who are active members of the Association of Farming Cooperatives,

*Unión de Cooperativas Agropecuarias U.C.A. -San Ramon*) are participants in this project. Their farms are located in different zones and at different elevations.

The farmers are small landowners with a couple of "manzanas" of land (1 manzana = 1.7 acres). Each of the participants will cultivate 20 trees on about half a manzana. We look forward to further developments with this project as the trees grow and produce enough nuts for a harvest.

*A farmer showing off one of his plants (below).*



*Project Director of the UCA indicates the height of one tree (top).*



*A farmer in another area around San Ramon is showing us one of his macadamia plants.*

This project has been expanded to other farmers who are cultivating macadamia trees from seeds.

## Health and Educational Projects

### Batahola Centre

This Centre holds worship services and teaches music, household, computer and restaurant skills to underprivileged groups. **SHEAF/ESPIGA** is proud to sponsor some of their activities.



*The centre celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their slogan reads: "Looking forward to a new era".*



*Women proudly display their diplomas after completing one of Batahola's programs.*

### School for the Deaf

Handicapped people have a very difficult time in developing nations. This school has a day-time program and also allows students an opportunity to board.

**SHEAF/ESPIGA** is privileged to be able to give scholarships for poor students.



*A scholarship recipient graduates. His brother (in white shirt) is currently being sponsored.*

## Other Scholarships

**SHEAF/ESPIGA** currently administers scholarships to three University students who have been supported since high school.

### How You Can Help

Financial contributions are always very welcome. If you wish to support a specific project, please indicate this when you donate and every dollar you contribute will go directly to the designated project. (In rare instances where a project has been over-subscribed, we will contact you before reassigning your gifts.) If you prefer not to designate your donations, we will be pleased to direct them towards the greatest need.

We are proud to report that our administrative costs are low because the Canadian component of **SHEAF/ESPIGA** is managed by volunteers.

We invite you to inquire about visiting projects in Central America.

For those who are part of a faith based tradition we invite your prayers. Prayer requests are posted on our web site.

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Salud (Health)  
Educación (Education)  
Agricultura (Agriculture)  
Fundación (Foundation)  
**(SHEAF/ESPIGA)**

(Espiga is Spanish for Sheaf)

### What is SHEAF?

It is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that fights poverty in Central America. It is a registered Canadian charity.

### Purpose:

To assist the poor, the marginalized, the underprivileged and minority groups in Central America in living more meaningful and productive lives by focusing on health issues, educational programs and agricultural projects.

To fulfill its purpose **SHEAF/ESPIGA** will:

- Invite the support and participation of donors and volunteers.
- Cooperate with compatible local agencies and organizations that have like-minded goals.