

November 10, 2014

Dear Friends:

Do you want to know how to change the world? How to make it better...to make a difference...? Well, let me tell you about how you can do this and more. But first let me tell you why I have given of my time and money to the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte.

In November 1978, I drove to Nicaragua to become the Country Director of Peace Corps. The country was in the middle of war. The country's economic and cultural systems were seriously damaged. Centro Cultural Batahola Norte was founded by Sister Margarita Navarro (Cincinnati, OH) and Father Angel Torrellas (Asturias, Spain) in 1983 with the aim of creating an educational center with the people and for the people. The founders lived out their faith by promoting strong values and supporting families with a decent standard of living. Since that time the Center has changed the lives of countless individuals and their families. I have met and been inspired by many of these families. For example:

Nercy Mercado was born into a poor family, and when she was four years old her mother passed away from cancer. Her father was forced to leave the country to look for work, and Nercy and her siblings were left in the care of their grandmother. Nercy first arrived at the CCBN as an internal scholarship recipient, taking both computer and cashier classes. From there she received an external scholarship to study public accounting at the National University. Nercy is glad to report that just months after graduating she is employed and providing for her family. Nercy says that she can't imagine her life without CCBN, noting that her work in the library helped her develop interpersonal skills as well as a greater sense of purpose and motivation.

Five years ago I was invited by my friend Sister Helen Prejean to come and visit the Center. I was amazed to find a wonderful cultural center which - while it taught the arts - raised up the rights of women and promoted nonviolence. It has annually reached over 3,000 individuals with its programs.

I have seen the positive changes this Center has made for students, staff and community members. And I have also seen the positive growth and change in those North American supporters called FRIENDS OF BATAHOLA through their collaboration with the people of Batahola. I am asking you to join us again, or perhaps for the first time, to help CHANGE THE WORLD by contributing to this wonderful Center. We begin to change the world by



Nercy Mercado

first changing ourselves and then by touching the life of one or more individuals. We can drive even more change if we are part of a team, a movement of builders of dreams and hope.

Please consider giving what you can from your own resources and also consider joining Friends of Batahola in their efforts. We are building a community of hope and sharing this vision of a better future with the students and staff of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte. Please help me by investing of yourself in this wonderful organization that is changing the lives of people each and every day.

Remember that together we can change the world.

Dream a Better World,



Magdaleno Rose-Avila

P.S. Friends of Batahola is a certified 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible and 97% of the donations fund the work of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte.

We're on the Web...

friendsofbatahola.org • bataholavolunteers.wordpress.com • Facebook: Friends of Batahola (English)/Centro Cultural Batahola Norte (Spanish)

Friends of Batahola • P.O. Box 36159 • Cincinnati, OH 45236-0159 • www.friendsofbatahola.org

Friends of Batahola is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization providing resources for the growth and sustenance of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte, Managua, Nicaragua.