

## E323 Spring 2017 • GRANT PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Proposal Writer: Harley Harrison

Legal name of organization applying: Life Together Nicaragua

Executive Director: Timothy Taylor Phone number: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

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Website: lifetogethernicaragua.org

### PROPOSAL/PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Christ the King's Kitchen Breakfast Program

Summary of the Project:

Life Together Nicaragua is a non-profit organization located in Cristo Rey, Nicaragua, which provides meals and educations to the children residing in the village. The organization is requesting funds to add a breakfast meal to their feeding program that would give the children a second meal per day, help fight against chronic malnutrition, and provide a meal to students before school. With aspirations to end child starvation and malnutrition in Cristo Rey, the breakfast program would run five days a week and serve roughly 350 children each day. Since the organization already runs a successful lunch program, the kitchen and supplies are already obtained and the funds would be used to hire two more kitchen staff members, buy food, and pay for a part-time doctor. As part of the evaluation, Doctor Reymundo Otero will weigh and measure the underweight children, throughout the year, to mark progress in fighting chronic malnutrition.

Population Served: Approximately 350 children Geographic Area Served: Cristo Rey, Nicaragua

Project Dates: Upon notification of receiving the award to one year.

Funds are being requested for (check one):  
 General operating support     Start-up costs     Capital  
 Project/program support     Technical assistance     Other (list):

### BUDGET SUMMARY

Dollar Amount Requested: \$30,480

**Executive Summary:**

Life Together Nicaragua was founded by Tim and Amy Taylor in 2012. With funding from the Keystone Community Church in Saline, Michigan and individual supporters, the nonprofit was able to successfully launch a children's feeding program, a teen life program, and a student scholarship program in the poor village of Cristo Rey, Nicaragua. Among their many accomplishments, the organization has also built both an educational center, a kitchen, and multiple houses in the village.

The village of Cristo Rey is formed by cardboard or tin houses and its residents seek resources such as food, clothing and housing in Tipitapa's city dump. Life Together Nicaragua already provides a lunch feeding program to roughly 350 children, which is the only meal most of the children receive a day. The organization is requesting funds to add a breakfast program that would give the children a second meal each day, help fight against chronic malnutrition, and provide a meal to students before they attend school.

Life Together Nicaragua aspires to end child starvation and malnutrition in Cristo Rey. By doubling the amount of food each child receives per day, the program hopes to see a decrease in the deaths and illnesses due to malnutrition and a decrease in the number of children who are underweight. The program will also seek to obtain an increase in the number of children who are able to eat breakfast before school.

The evaluation will be both physical and emotional and will take place multiple times throughout the year. A doctor will be hired to weigh and measure the children in the program who will be starting out underweight, to see if they gain weight throughout the program. The children will also be asked questions about their general happiness at the beginning and end of the program.

While Life Together Nicaragua has a current income for its other projects and programs, they do not have a current income for the breakfast program. Funding is needed to pay the project director, hire kitchen staff, buy food and cover miscellaneous expenses such as an increase in the electric bill.

The organization will continue to apply for other grants while hopefully continuing to work with current funders. Most recently, Life Together Nicaragua has started partnering with Convoy of Hope, a non-profit organization that started in 1994, and Amazon Smile, a partnership with Amazon that allows customers to donate with their purchases.

Since Life Together Nicaragua already runs a successful lunch feeding program, the organization already has a facility, has an experienced kitchen staff, and a kitchen that is fully equipped with pots, pans and other kitchen utensils. The organization also has an experienced project director, who would work as the project director for this program, and a doctor who already has experience in working with the lunch program evaluations.

### **Organization Information:**

Life Together Nicaragua was started in 2012 by Tim and Amy Taylor, who were inspired to start the organization after a mission trip in 2009. The organization started with funding from Keystone Community Church in Saline, Michigan, as well as individual supporters. With these funds, the Taylor family has successfully started a children's feeding program, a youth program on the weekends, and a scholarship program that sponsors children to go to school in a larger city in Nicaragua. Among their many accomplishments, they have built both an educational center and kitchen, as well as multiple houses in Cristo Rey, Nicaragua.

The mission of Life Together Nicaragua is to build homes and communities through Christ, in addition to feeding and educating children. Life Together Nicaragua is located in a small village called Cristo Rey, which gets resources from a city dump nearby. The organization's primary goal is to introduce Christianity to the Cristo Rey community, although they serve all community members, regardless of religious affiliation.

### **Need Description:**

Nicaragua has a population of roughly six million people, with approximately 30% living in poverty and over 8% living in extreme poverty. Approximately 17% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition, a condition that can stunt growth and it is a typical result of being underweight<sup>1</sup>.

Poverty in Nicaragua is defined as living off of less than \$2 a day and extreme poverty is defined as living off of less than a dollar a day<sup>2</sup>. While records are not kept of the Cristo Rey population, which is estimated to be over 4000<sup>3</sup>, the entire village is considered to be below the Nicaraguan poverty level.

Tim Bagwell, president and founder of New Life Nicaragua, a non-profit organization founded in 2002, which serves a different area in Cristo Rey, explains that Cristo Rey is one of five sectors in a residential area next to Tipitapa's city dump<sup>4</sup> (See Appendix A). The sectors were formed in 2004 when excessive flooding of Lake Xolotlán, located next to the country's capital, lead the government to relocate the homeless population of the city to an area where they would be safe from floods.

Many of the people of Cristo Rey neither have jobs, or they do not have the ability to get one, and the main resource for food, clothing, housing and other items for the people is Tipitapa's city dump. The inability to get a job is attributed to a lack of education or experience, and the lack of transportation to a city where a job could be obtained. The closest city is 30 minutes away by car and no one in Cristo Rey has a car. The government provides fresh water for two hours a day through a local well, and the people live in houses of cardboard and tin without electricity or plumbing.

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<sup>1</sup> Information from <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/nicaragua>

<sup>2</sup> Information from <http://www.ticotimes.net/2014/11/13/extreme-poverty-increases-in-nicaragua-in-2013-study-finds>

<sup>3</sup> Information from [http://www.aguadevida.org/stories\\_to\\_tell/cristo\\_rey.pdf](http://www.aguadevida.org/stories_to_tell/cristo_rey.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Information from <http://www.newlifenicaragua.org/relief/>

Life Together Nicaragua provides one meal per day to about 350 children in Cristo Rey, which is the only meal many of these children receive. Children can start participating in the program as soon as they have teeth, and continue to receive food up until they are 16 years old. The meal consists of rice, tortillas, and beans and, children who are severely underweight, receive powdered milk after checking in to be weighed. A volunteer doctor measures and weighs the children according to a standard BMI chart.

Our organization is requesting funds to add a breakfast meal to their feeding program that would give the children a second meal per day, help fight against chronic malnutrition, and provide a meal to students before they attend school. The one meal the program already provides has already made significant changes in the lives of many of the participants, according to Tim Taylor, the founder of Life Together Nicaragua.

“██████████ (seen in the pictures below) has been coming to the Center since we started five years ago. As you can see in the picture on the left, she had red streaks in her hair, which is a sign of malnourishment and she is also underweight. Over the past five years, we’ve seen ██████████ change not only physically but also in her confidence and personality. ██████████ has special needs and has been told her whole life [that] she is stupid and won’t be good for anything. Daily, we encourage ██████████ and not only do we feed her physically, but emotionally. She is currently a part of our



Student Enrichment Program. She is 12 years old and in the first grade, but she is working so hard and we have already seen so much improvement in her ability to complete simple tasks, like learning her colors and letters. As ██████████ continues to come to the feeding program, we have seen her hair turn black, the color it is

supposed to be. She has gained weight and is getting the vitamins that she needs. The Center is a safe place for her and she loves coming and hanging out after she gets out of school.”

## **Goals and Objectives:**

Life Together Nicaragua aspires to end child starvation and malnutrition in Cristo Rey. The objectives include:

- Doubling the amount of food each child in the feeding program, ages 5-16, receives a day over the course of a year.
- A 50% decrease in the deaths and illnesses due to malnutrition in children, ages 5-16, that participate in the feeding program over the course of one to two years.
- A 75% decrease in the number of children who are underweight and participating in the feeding program, over a nine month period.
- A 100% increase in the number of school-aged children who are able to eat breakfast before school over a one month period.

## **Program Description:**

### **Overview**

Christ the King's Kitchen Breakfast Program would run five days a week and serve roughly 350 kids each day. For many participants, the meal programs offered by Christ the King's Kitchen are the only meals the children receive. The breakfast program would include the weight checking process, an evaluation started by the lunch program, to calculate whether or not there is a decrease in children who are underweight or malnourished.

### **Target Audience**

There are roughly 350 kids who would participate in the breakfast program. These children live in Cristo Rey closest to where the kitchen is located. A small fraction of these children, about 80, attend school and, thanks to the breakfast program, they would be able to eat a meal before attending school. The ages range from as soon as the child develops teeth to 16.

### **Equipment**

In addition to paying the project director and two kitchen workers, the program will also need food supplies and general necessities such as electricity and gasoline. Each month the program will need 28 pounds of onion, 12 pounds of cheese, 30 pounds of sausage, 5 gallons of oil, 50 gallons of milk, 5 gallons of peppers, 200 oranges, 2,070 bread rolls, and 50 cases of eggs (15 eggs per carton). No dishes or silverware are necessary as children are expected to bring their own, and there are never leftovers as the feeding program brings all leftovers to the elderly of Cristo Rey.

## Timeline

<p><b>Upon notice of receiving the award</b></p>	<p>After being notified, the program will start the process of hiring two staff members to work in the kitchen or expand the work schedules of the current staff who work the lunch program. Life Together Nicaragua will also start notifying participants of the new breakfast program.</p>
<p><b>Month 1</b></p>	<p>Within the first month of being notified, the program will have all the necessary supplies and the doctor will have weighed and measured the participants who are severely underweight for an evaluation starting point. The program will have just begun serving breakfast.</p>
<p><b>Months 1-3</b></p>	<p>The breakfast program will have started and, at three months, the staff will meet to evaluate the program and see if any unexpected adjustments need to be made, such as menu changes, quantity changes or price changes in food. The underweight children will also be weighed and measured again at three months to record any differences.</p>
<p><b>Months 3-6</b></p>	<p>The staff will meet to review any changes that need to be made with the changing of seasons, which would include fruit prices and functions of the kitchen due to excessive rain in the winter months. At month six, the underweight participants will be weighed again and the program will accept any new underweight participants if needed.</p>
<p><b>Month 6 - 1 Year</b></p>	<p>The program will check weights at months nine and 12 to check for improvements. At month six, the program will start planning and budgeting for a second year. At month nine, the program will be able to see a change in weight for the children who started the program severely underweight, this will count as substantial proof of whether or not the breakfast program had a direct correlation with the children's weight. Months ten through 12 will be used to start accepting new participants and getting their initial weight if they are severely underweight.</p>

### **Detailed Description**

The breakfast program will run Monday through Friday, serving roughly 350 kids each day. The cost of the program will be about \$2,540 each month and will take place hours before the lunch feeding program, which will make it possible for children participating to eat two meals a day. The program will weigh children who are severely underweight as part of the evaluation process.

### **Staffing and Management**

The program will be managed by Timothy Taylor, the founder of Life Together Nicaragua. His responsibilities will include buying the necessary ingredients, hiring staff, finding volunteers and making any needed adjustments to the program so that it runs efficiently. The kitchen will have two staff members who are responsible for cooking and serving the food, as well as cleaning the kitchen afterwards. Extra servers and cleaners will be provided by volunteers. Checking the weights and measurements of the children will be conducted by a doctor who currently volunteers once a month in the feeding program.

Doctor Reymundo Otero works in Managua, the country's capital and the organization hopes to start paying him once or twice a week with the breakfast program. Checking the weight of the severely underweight children will also be conducted by volunteers, who will record the weights and heights of the participants and calculate any differences in growth to see if they are still underweight, this process will also be overseen by Timothy Taylor.

### **Evaluation:**

Life Together Nicaragua already has an evaluation system in place for their lunch program, which could also provide an evaluation for the breakfast program. The current evaluation process involves a volunteer doctor weighing and measuring the children who are underweight every few months. The children all have a card that keeps record of their weight and, each time they are reported as underweight, they receive an extra banana and some powdered milk.

The evaluation for the breakfast program would run quite similarly. However, in order to obtain a more accurate evaluation, the breakfast program would hire a doctor to weigh and measure the children on a regular basis and to conduct an emotional evaluation. The children who are weighed and measured from the beginning of the program will be asked how they feel, if they are happy, and how much energy they have. The goal is to get more positive feedback at the end of the program. As seen in the objectives, the program aspires to see a 75% decrease in the number of children who are underweight and participating in the feeding program and form of evaluation would prove a direct correlation between the breakfast program and the weight of the children.

**Budget:**

Life Together Nicaragua currently has other forms of incomes for it's other projects and services, however, they do not have any current income for the breakfast program.

<b>Personnel Costs</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Project Director	12 months at 50% of his time. Will buy necessary materials, hire kitchen staff, find volunteers and oversee the project as a whole.	\$18,300
Doctor	12 months at four hours a week. Will weigh and measure the children who are underweight, according to a BMI chart.	\$3,600
2 Kitchen Workers	12 months at 25 hours a week. Will prepare and cook breakfast and will serve food and clean the kitchen afterwards. Will be paid according to Nicaraguan wage laws.	\$1,960
	<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$23,860</b>
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Onions	28 lbs per month for 12 months.	\$171
Cheese	12 lbs per month for 12 months.	\$257
Oranges	200 oranges per month for 12 months.	\$82
Peppers	5 gallons per month for 12 months.	\$205
Milk	50 gallons per month for 12 months.	\$1,633
Sausage	30 lbs per month for 12 months.	\$368
Bread	2070 rolls per month for 12 months.	\$1,225
Eggs	50 cases per month for 12 months.	\$1,837
Oil	5 gallons per month for 12 months.	\$122
Gasoline	Amount needed per month for 12 months.	\$120
Miscellaneous	Used for materials such as dish soap or any increase in the electricity bill, at \$50.00 a month for 12 months.	\$600
	<b>Total Non-Personnel</b>	<b>\$6,620</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$30,480</b>

**Sustainability:**

Life Together Nicaragua will continue to apply for other grants and would hope for the opportunity to continue working with current funders. The organization has recently started partnering with Convoy of Hope, which is helping to supply rice and soy, mashed potatoes, beans, vitamins, pasta, natural fruit and baby food. Convoy of Hope is a non-profit organization that was funded in 1994. Their mission is to feed children through partnering with other organizations. Life Together Nicaragua has also started partnering with Amazon Smile, which allows people to donate when they purchase something off of Amazon, a popularly used online store.

**Capacity:**

Life Together Nicaragua already runs a successful, five year old program that is quite similar to the proposed breakfast program. This means that Life Together Nicaragua already has a facility, has an experienced kitchen staff (who could either expand their hours or train a new kitchen staff), and the kitchen is fully equipped with pots, pans and other kitchen utensils. Life Together Nicaragua also has an experienced project director, Timothy Taylor, and a doctor, Reymundo Otero, who is familiar with weighing and measuring the children in the program, although he currently works as a volunteer.

## Appendix A - Map of Cristo Rey<sup>5</sup>

Cristo Rey is located roughly three miles East of Tipitapa.



<sup>5</sup> Map from [https://www.viamichelin.es/web/Mapas-Planos/Mapa\\_Plano-Tipitapa-\\_Managua-Nicaragua?strLocid=31NTF6bGJoMTBjTVRJdU1UazJNRE09Y0xUZzJMaE1TIRVMA==](https://www.viamichelin.es/web/Mapas-Planos/Mapa_Plano-Tipitapa-_Managua-Nicaragua?strLocid=31NTF6bGJoMTBjTVRJdU1UazJNRE09Y0xUZzJMaE1TIRVMA==)