



2010  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

the rainbow  
**NETWORK**

## A Message From The Executive Director



Dear Donors and Friends:

When we see photos of starving children somewhere in the developing world or watch news reports with graphic stories of poverty made worse by a tragedy such as the earthquake that hit Haiti a year ago, we can't help but wonder why such pain exists. All of us who have visited the villages in Nicaragua where we work come away with the same kind of profound question; "Why in this day and age of great prosperity, do people still have to live like this?"

While I don't have answers for those questions, I do know that in situations like those we face in Nicaragua we are given an opportunity to respond with God's greatest gift, which is love. Because of your generous support we continue to fulfill our mission to share in the love of God by partnering with Nicaragua's poorest people in health-care, education, economic development, and housing.

As I look back on 2010, I am reminded of all the opportunities the Rainbow Network has had to serve the poor of Nicaragua. I am humbled by the generosity of you, our partners, whose prayers and financial support have allowed us to continue Christ's work in the midst of very difficult economic times. I am very thankful for our dedicated staff and volunteers who have helped us serve increased needs even while our funds have been down.

This annual report offers only a snapshot of the many ways we were able to serve the poor of Nicaragua last year because of your support. My prayer is that you are blessed as you see how God took your gifts in the face of poverty and used humble vessels like us to create miracles of hope in Nicaragua.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Oman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Oman  
Executive Director



# Programs

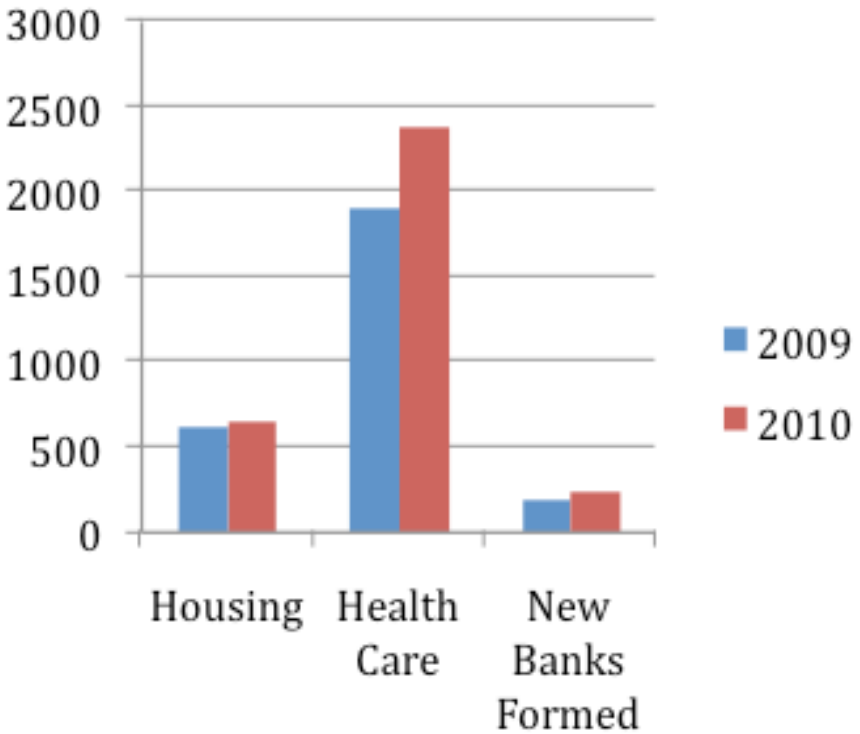
## Get a Boost in 2010

**D**espite the economic downturn and the fact that less money was donated to Rainbow Network this year, we were able to invest more directly into most of our key programs in 2010 than we did in 2009.

A combination of cuts to US spending, increased fundraising in Nicaragua, and structural reorganizing allowed us to focus on our goals.



For example, we added a second dentist to our team in 2010 increasing the number of dental patients we saw by 56%.



**% of Increase in Program Demand**

New Banks Up 24%  
 Medical Patient Consultations Up 25.6%  
 27 New Homes Built

# Cash Funding

## Declines by 12% in 2010

**T**here's no good way to put it, Rainbow Network raised 12% less cash in 2010 than was donated in 2009. There were a number of factors involved including, of course, the economic downturn and high unemployment rates faced by our US donors.

One positive point we'd like to share is that things do appear to be turning around. In the fourth quarter of 2010 we reversed our downward trend and raised 12.3% more than in the fourth quarter of 2009. January 2011 was up 7% from January 2010. We are hopeful that 2011 will be the year that Rainbow Network and many other worthy causes reverse their drop in fundraising.

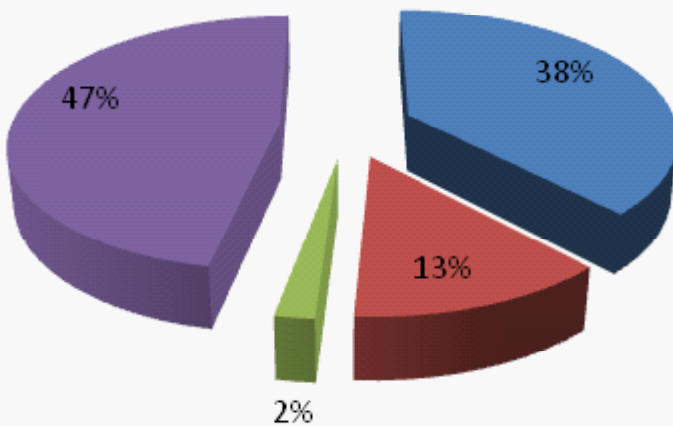
Just imagine what we will be able to do together with the new found efficiencies like US spending cuts, increased fundraising in Nicaragua, and structural reorganizing combined with a potential increase in funds over last year!

Support by foundations continues to be a strong source of funding for The Rainbow Network. The recent trend of creating family foundations and charitable trusts makes classifying some donors more difficult than in past years; Is a family foundation a family or a foundation?

In 2010 Rainbow Network classified these organizations as foundations and this accounts for a portion of the difference in levels of support between the two types of partners. Classified another way the two types of support would appear nearly equal

## % of Total Funding

■ Individuals   ■ Churches   ■ Business Partners   ■ Foundations





Bicycles added to our gift in kind program this year through the support of *Wheels for Life*, which donated the funds to purchase new bikes like the one pictured here. The bikes were given to students and community members for use in transportation to school and work.

Medications for our pharmacies can also be provided as an in-kind gift.



# Gifts in Kind

## Donations Increase by 85%

**W**hat is a “gift in kind?” Think of it as stuff. It’s all of the school supplies, medications, vitamins, tools, clothing, shoes, toys, and equipment that are given to Rainbow Network to help us fulfill our mission. Gifts in kind help us do our work by providing the tangibles our staff need. If all of the necessary notebooks, for example, are donated, then Rainbow Network doesn’t have to use donated money to purchase them and we can use that money to buy pencils, crayons, or maybe even provide a surgery for a patient in need.

2010 was our third straight year of increase in donations to our gift in kind program. Rainbow Network has employed a targeted effort to increase this type of support since early 2008 when it became clear that cash funding would likely become more difficult to obtain.

Boy are we glad we did! The gifts of food, school supplies, and other materials have enabled us to keep our programs strong throughout the economic crisis of the last several years.

# Nicaraguan

## Fundraising Up

In 2009 Rainbow Network announced we would begin increasing our efforts to find financial support for our ministry in the country of Nicaragua. We've approached business owners, plantation owners, and others. We are very proud to report that in 2009, our initial effort, we raised \$9,085.00. In 2010 that number has increased by more than 240% to \$30,948.00!

Note: These numbers only reflect true cash gifts. When one takes into consideration other gifts made by Nicaraguans like land donated to build houses in El Parasio, the use of trucks for transporting material, the time of thousands of volunteers, and other such gifts, it is quite clear that Nicaraguans are ready to help however they can to build up their nation's impoverished communities.

CO. D. B. A. T. I. O. S.

1432

HONDURAS

Tegucigalpa

NICARAGUA

León  
Managua

Antarenas  
San José

COSTA RICA

Lima  
Co



# Strategic Partnerships

Key to Rainbow Network's  
Future

Partnership has always been one of the keys to Rainbow Network's success. We've worked with congregations, agencies, individuals – anyone who wanted to help. 2010 was no exception as Rainbow Network's leaders worked to further our existing partnerships and to forge new ones.

Some examples include our continued efforts alongside the organization Cross International. Together in 2010 Cross and Rainbow provided nutrition for thousands and built 25 new homes. Cross will fund the building of 25 additional homes in 2011 and continue their support of our nutrition programs as well. BD Pharmaceuticals became Rainbow Network's newest Corporate Partner this year with a grant of \$5,000 in support of our medical program in rural Nicaragua. This partnership engaged young leaders in that company in the selection process and Rainbow Network is proud to have been selected for their support.

Our relationship with the Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, WI is another fine example of the partnerships Rainbow developed in 2010. In addition to a commitment of financial support of \$60,000 over three years, the folks at

Gunderson are supplying Rainbow Network's doctors with additional training, equipment, and support. We look for great things from this newly minted strategic partnership.

Our congregational ministry partners supported Rainbow Network again in 2010. For example:

Davidson United Methodist (Davidson, NC) joined our family of Village Partner Congregations by committing to partner with the people of El Parasio for a three year term.

Arch United Methodist (Hannibal, MO) spearheaded a drive among many of Missouri's UMC congregations to raise the funds to build 25 new homes in Nicaragua.



# Number of Communities Declines but Demand within Increases

If you've paid close attention to our statistical updates this year you probably noticed one key change – the number of communities served. Rainbow Network started 2010 serving 124 rural communities. We have entered 2011 serving 118. You probably would like to know why, and we think we ought to tell you.

In 2010 Rainbow Network reduced our Nicaraguan work force. The plan was drafted and carried out by our Nicaraguan staff leaders in a way that they felt would increase our organization's efficiency and not detract from the quality of our ministry.

We streamlined operating procedures and combined a few territories which increased the work load of our field supervisors, but helped us do more with less. Still, there is only so much physical space you can ask a small team to cover with the regularity required to operate our intensive programs. So, the local staff used a matrix of criteria to determine which communities were the most in need of our services and which might be ready to go it alone. At the end of that process seven communities were deemed independent enough for Rainbow Network to celebrate their success and then focus our strength on their neighbors.

True to our staff's predictions we kept the most dependent communities in our program and as the economic crisis hit Nicaragua the people there needed our services desperately. This contributed to the fact that more people in the communities we serve have fallen in need of a meal a day for their children or needed our help to see the doctor. Thanks to some difficult decisions in both the USA and Nicaragua we were ready to help them.

While a decrease in the number of communities served might seem like a detraction at first, and while we don't pretend that we planned on leaving these seven villages in 2010, it is also true that Rainbow Network's goal has always been to enter a community, build a basis of a local economy through education, housing, health care, and micro loans, and then to step aside and move on to other areas in need. Rainbow is now in our 16th year. It is our hope that in the coming years we will see more communities "graduate" from our ministry as they develop beyond needing our core programs. It is equally our hope that Rainbow Network will be in a position to replace each exiting community with a new village of partners ready to start their own path out of poverty. With your help, we will be ready.



# US Spending

## Cut to Allow for Program Growth in Nicaragua

**R**ainbow Network has cut our US expenses again this year; this time, by an amazing \$160,324.

It hasn't been easy. Difficult decisions have been made, fewer communications offered, we were graced with a voluntary decrease in our office rental costs by our landlord, and staffing positions have been eliminated. It has not been easy, but the strategy has worked and enabled us to continue to fund several key aspects of our ministry in Nicaragua.

All of us at Rainbow Network are grateful for every partner we have and we struggle daily to balance making sure you hear from us as often as you should with the expenses of communicating. Please know that we are always at your service and you are free to contact us at anytime with questions or concerns that you might have. We will respond as quickly and forthrightly as we can.







# Circle of Hope 2010 Members: Individuals and Families

Joel Anderson  
Larry & Doris Andrews  
Jerry & Joan Atkisson-Lucietta  
Rudy Auner  
Eric & Jeanette Bacher  
Benjamin & Debra Bainbridge  
Richard & Romona Baker  
Gerald & Betty Baldner  
Ron & Lorna Bishop  
Bart & Cathy Boatright  
Max & Delys Bodenhausen  
Tom & Kathryn Boone  
Jon & Jennifer Bormann  
Gary & Sue Brewer  
Bob & Jan Brown  
Michael & Gail Brownsberger  
Hazel Burditt  
Tom & Brenda Cardin  
Bob & Peg Carolla  
Stephen & Linda Cox  
Bob & Wenyan Drake  
Jim & Patti Echols  
James Ferguson  
Steven & April Fohey  
Marv & Annette Friedewald  
Darren & Susan Gilmore  
Walter & Kay Green  
Elyse Guffey  
Jay & Lisa Guffey  
Mark & Dorothy Harsen  
Art & Karen Hawes  
Jim & Marilyn Hofmann  
Roger & Donna Hofmeister  
Susan Holliday  
Dean & Lisa Hollis

Mark & Lynn Hollis  
Eugene Hunt  
Robert Hutchison  
Dan & Ginny Imhof  
Dick & Joyce Jaspers  
Nancy Jester  
Kent & Lee Johnson  
Kevin & Karen Johnson  
Paul Jones  
Jim & Jane Kanan  
Paul & Susan Kihlmire  
Bill & Betty Latham  
Jim & Barb Leonard  
Paul & Judy Leonard  
Steve & Marsha Limbaugh  
Pat & Patty Logue  
Bill & Katherine Love  
Craig & Jody Lyon  
Chuck & Becky Mason  
Ken & Helen Merrill  
Bill & Ginya Moore  
William & Julie Moore  
Barbara Myers  
Robert & Carol Newman  
Wade & Barbara Newman  
Luke & Cynthia Nixon  
Jim and Deborah Oman  
Mark & Sara Owen  
Joe & Kay Parrish  
Greg & Michelle Perkins  
Randy & Becky Perryman  
Jim Price  
Sara Reiter  
Vernon Renner





Ed & Renee Robertson  
Dennis & Andrea Rottinghaus  
Lucy Sauer  
Ed & Bonnie Schanda  
Dale & Carol Sechler  
Dennis & Vickie Siders  
Benjamin & Kristi Stringer  
Phil and Jane Ann Stocker  
Larry & Lynette Thomas  
John & Kathie Thompson  
Janice Todd  
Art & Lo Ann Trask  
Randy & Cathy Van Landuyt  
Bryan & Jennifer Wampler

Marvin & Michelle Wanders  
Dan & Joline Wellendorf  
Mel & Barbara West  
Susan West  
Jeff & Kelly Wike  
Edward & Susan Williams  
Samuel & Kathleen Wittmer  
Lisa Wold  
Mike & Janet Wold  
Gordon & Nancy Ann  
Zaagsma

*The Circle of Hope is Rainbow Network's exclusive giving circle made up of members who have given \$1,000 or more in the calendar year.*

# Circle of Hope 2010 Members: Ministry Partners

American Nicaraguan Foundation  
Arch United Methodist Church  
Ava CUMC - Global Market  
BD Corporate Giving Program  
Brentwood Christian Church  
Buffalo Christian Church  
Charlie & Mary Beth O' Reilly  
Family Foundation  
Community Christian Church of  
Springfield  
Community Christian Church  
Community United Methodist Church  
Cox Health Foundation  
Cross International  
Culbertson Family Foundation  
David E Maguire Foundations, Inc.  
Davidson United Methodist Church  
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center  
Elizabeth and Friends Plymouth  
Rotary Foundation, Inc.  
First & Calvary Presbyterian Church

First Christian Church Greenfield, MO.  
First Christian Church Peterberg, IL.  
Flanagan Financial, Inc.  
Henry E. Niles Foundation, Inc.  
Herbert Sauer Trust  
Heifer International  
Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust  
Louis & Peaches Owen Family  
Foundation  
Mark Roberts Family Foundation  
National Avenue Christian Church  
New Home Baptist Church  
Nixon & Lindstrom Insurance  
Macon United Methodist Church  
St. Andrews United Methodist Church



Rockville United Methodist Church  
Rotary Club of La Crescent  
Schweitzer United Methodist Church  
Smith Chapel UMC  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church  
Strake Foundation  
John F. & Mary A. Geisse  
Foundation  
Tin Roof Foundation, Inc.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chesterfield, MO.  
Vitamin Angels  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
West Foundation, Inc.  
Wheels 4 Life



The Rainbow Network  
3834 South Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[www.rainbownetwork.org](http://www.rainbownetwork.org)

**NONPROFIT**  
**US POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**PERMIT #1123**  
**SPRINGFIELD, MO**

