



Elicenia Starts Over Again



“Even though Hurricane Julia destroyed my first business, it did not destroy my new knowledge and skills, which I’ve been able to use to overcome the loss.”
- Elicenia

⇒ *CEPAD helped 212 women start small businesses in 2022*

⇒ *234 women participated in CEPAD’s Family Garden Program in 2022*

The occasional job of washing her neighbors’ clothes to feed her family just wasn’t enough! When CEPAD came to the community of Elicenia del Carmen Obando Calero, she eagerly joined the Women’s Entrepreneurship Program with visions of regular income to take care of her three growing children, whom she’s raising alone.

Elicenia learned valuable skills about operating her own business, and received a microloan of \$195 to open her very own corner store. She was so excited! But tragedy struck last fall when Hurricane Julia made landfall. She lost her house and her business. Instead of letting the hurricane take away her plans for the future, Elicenia began to think outside of the box to create a new path for herself. She decided to become a disciple of a CEPAD farmer and a family garden to learn how to grow her own produce, and sell it.

Elicenia now has a small garden where she grows tomatoes, peppers, squash, and watermelon. In the six weeks she has been harvesting, she has earned \$125 so far, through her creativity and resourcefulness. The land she planted on belongs to a farmer friend, and one of the women in CEPAD’s Family Garden Program is sharing her water capturing system so she can water her plants. CEPAD provided some seeds, and Elicenia provides the labor.

This is the core hope behind CEPAD’s work; that no matter what challenges communities face, they would be able to use their new knowledge and skills to overcome, even if that looks different than what they originally planned.

Generous gifts helped Elicenia to establish both her first and second small business. Thank you, donors!

Donor Spotlight: Don Mosley



Don first became aware of CEPAD during a peace delegation he led to Nicaragua in 1984. He contacted and arranged for Gustavo Parajón to speak to several peace delegations which had traveled to Nicaragua. Don has been supporting and working with CEPAD since then. Out of one of their collaborations grew the Walk in Peace program,

through which they were able to rehabilitate hundreds of amputees and other victims of the Central American War. Says, Don, “Thanks to the integrity and compassionate creativity of CEPAD, we have since managed to channel hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid to hurricane victims, people in need of medical help, hundreds of young people needing educational support, and much more.” To read Don’s complete reflection on his connection with CEPAD, visit cepadusa.org/stories. Thank you, Don, for being a beacon of light and hope and changing lives in Nicaragua!

Marlon is Growing More!

One of the tools CEPAD uses in the Food and Environment Security program is crop diversification. Many rural farmers, including Marlon, have traditionally only grown two or three basic crops. By participating in CEPAD’s program, they receive a new variety of plants and learn how to make plant nurseries as well. Marlon is now growing 29 different kinds of crops, including: tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, carrots, plantains, onions, radishes, fruit trees, citrus trees, and root vegetables.

What’s more, rural farmers learn how to graft their fruit and citrus trees, which can provide a more bountiful harvest. One tree can grow two or three different kinds of fruits using this method. What’s more, Marlon’s plants are growing with organic products.

Says Marlon, “I’m applying conservation techniques to the soil and water to reduce soil erosion. I take care of the earth by not burning my land. I make my own organic insecticides using chili, garlic, onion, and tobacco. It helps to clean the soil and reduce contamination. I also collect animal droppings to make organic compost to use on my fruit trees, forest trees, and vegetable plants.” -Nicole Opgenorth



It was recently announced that Former President Jimmy Carter has entered hospice care. While we lift him and his family up in prayer, we would be remiss if we didn't share some of the personal connections Jimmy Carter has had with CEPAD and its founder, Dr. Gustavo Parajón.

President Carter visited Nicaragua in 1986, following the establishment of Habitat for Humanity International in that country. He encouraged people at a time when the ongoing Central America War was wearing people down. Carter picked up a hammer and, with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, installed a door. Together they presented the keys for completed homes to two families who had invested with their own "sweat equity" into the project.

CEPAD was the in-country partner for Habitat for Humanity as it built thousands of homes across Nicaragua alongside families in need of decent homes.

During the Nicaragua trip, President and Mrs. Carter joined the Parajóns in their home for breakfast. Dr. Parajón's widow noted how with the four of them alone (the Secret Service stayed outside) they

talked like they were best of friends. President Carter was especially interested in hearing from Gustavo Parajón about reports he'd heard about the alleged persecution of religious communities--something CEPAD had played a major role in addressing both in problems with the government and in exaggerations by

U.S. pro-Reagan communities.

President Carter also preached a short sermon in Spanish at the First Baptist Church in Managua. Before the service he met with a Wit-



Jimmy Carter and Gustavo Parajón

ness for Peace delegation. Afterward the Carters and Parajóns ate together, deepening their relationships and explored possibilities for a peace agreement between Ortega and Contra leaders.

In the recently published biography on CEPAD's founder, President Carter commented, "Gustavo Parajón, a true Christian peacemaker, dedicated his life to putting his faith into action with intelligence and compassion."

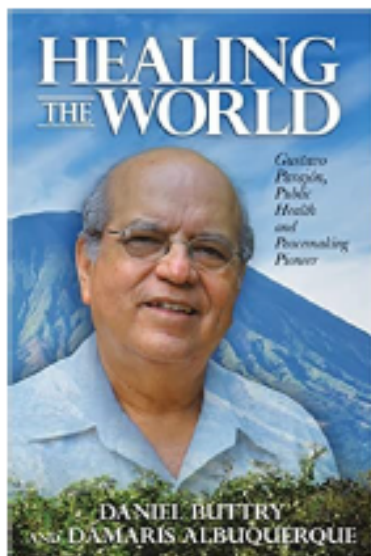
Our Mailing Address is Changing!

We will start using a mail forwarding service to receive correspondence and your generous gifts so that our staff in the Chattanooga, TN area can receive and process them. This means that we will no longer use the PO Box after September 30, 2023. Please make note of the new mailing address, which you may start using right away:

CEPAD-USA
9214 Railroad Avenue
Ooltewah, TN 37363

New Biography on CEPAD's Founder

Pastor Daniel Buttry and CEPAD's former executive director, Dámaris Albuquerque, have co-written a biography on the life of Dr. Gustavo Parajón. The book is entitled, "Healing the World: Gustavo Parajón, Public Health and Peacemaking Pioneer". It is available online in paperback and hardcover editions at Bookshop.org, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. The latter two also have ebook editions. Signed paperback and hardcover books can be purchased through Daniel Buttry. \$22 for paperback, \$30 for hardcover, plus shipping--\$3 for one book, \$5 for more than one. Payment options: send check to Daniel Buttry, 2300 Neibel St., Hamtramck, MI 48212, or Venmo: @Sharon-Buttry-1; PayPay: <https://www.paypal.me/Sbuttry>. Contact info for Dan Buttry is danbuttry@gmail.com or 586-879-8146. The book can also be purchased at CEPAD's office in Nicaragua.



The book can also be purchased at CEPAD's office in Nicaragua.

Thank you!

Your gifts empower families and change lives for generations.



CEPAD-USA
9214 Railroad Avenue
Ooltewah, TN 37363
www.cepadasa.org
(423) 417-0100
director@cepadasa.org

CEPAD-USA Board of Directors

Gilberto Aguirre, President

Harriet Hall, Vice-President

Jack Ahearn, Treasurer

Douglas Orbaker, Secretary

Peggy Becker

Debbie Breeding

Helen Brown

Jo Buescher

Penn Garvin

John Ed McFadden

Jim Wood

Staff

Kimberly Crider, Executive Director