

## **Payacuca, Nicaragua: Spring-Fed Water System**

**Organization: El Porvenir**

**<http://www.elporvenir.org>**

**Managua, Nicaragua**

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**Start and End Dates: November, 2008 – June, 2009**

**Amount Requested: \$11,990**

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### **Abstract**

The proposed work in Payacuca, Nicaragua, will enable this rural village to create a water delivery system that will bring clean drinking water to their homes, improve sanitation, inculcate community health and hygiene practices, and initiate the community watershed protection through reforestation. ACJF funding specifically provides the materials and technical expertise so the community can undertake a major challenge they envision: pumping fresh water from their low-lying springs to a holding box and from there--*miracle!*--distributing it directly to spigots at their own homes.

Families in Payacuca now struggle to obtain water, the women lugging heavy water buckets for drinking, cooking and washing uphill, a chore taking as long as two hours each day. Payacuca is an isolated village of 145 families within the very poor municipality of Terrabona, 58 km southeast of Ciudad Dario. The water the women are carrying from the wells and water holes is not fit for human consumption. The water sources are not protected from contamination and often have no water in the dry season. Their latrines are inadequate and further pollute their environment. The community, especially the children, suffer from ill health due to water-borne and insect-borne diseases.

The people of this village are acting to make this dream bringing clean water to their families a reality. They have the ground water source and the electricity to pump it uphill. They have formed a water committee, petitioned El Porvenir. They are willing to do the work. What these subsistence farmers lack are the funds for the materials—concrete, pump, PVC pipe, hardware—and the technical expertise to install the system.

A \$11,990 investment in materials and El Porvenir expertise will reap significant long term benefits in health, quality of life and community pride for the entire Payacuca population of 1160.

