



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM THE TEAM

As co-founders, when we talk about the Nica Nadadores program with family and friends, we collectively claim that the kids in our program are the best kids in the world. This isn't false bravado or a halfhearted way of promoting our cause. Nica Nadadores student-athletes truly are the humblest, most deserving children.

Fortunately, this year the world got a little taste. We'll let you read more about how we expanded our horizons in the coming pages, but first we want to acknowledge that 2018 was the most difficult year for the country of Nicaragua in recent decades.

In the first four months of the year, our dialogue at swim practice, our message to volunteers, the theme of leadership seminars, and topics of discussion at team dinners was and always will be pointed toward doing things with a purpose. That purpose revolves around empowering our swimmers to become the special individuals that Nicaragua needs.

Then April came, and Nicaragua crumbled. Amid violence and political turmoil, the future for the youth of this country was under siege.

Despite the situation, however, the principles that we've been instilling in our student-athletes continued to shine brightly. Our team embraced each other. They were prepared. While schools, businesses, and even the government shutdown, our routine remained the same. Our kids stayed focused, knowing that they would not sacrifice their goals in the face of adversity. They were not discouraged by the intimidating facts that made most of their peers ask themselves, "what hope do I have?"

Amidst chaos our team didn't waver. They found faith in their preparation. The group that we talk about so proudly has matured into a generation that this country will soon rely on.

In 2018, our student-athletes showed resolve—pushing the boundaries of their potential to new heights. After reviewing this report, we hope that you can speak as proudly as we do about Nica Nadadores.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize our efforts.

Timmy Kyle Scot



YOUR IMPACT

Nica Nadadores student athletes have a truly unique support system. Our approach is simple—we work with schools and families to ensure that participants receive all the support they need in order to succeed. Whether it's tuition, supplies, activity fees, or transportation to and from school, our program provides the resources to match our students' drive. Here are just a few examples of how your support is having an impact on the ground:

Dariana Melendez

- Thanks to donor support, Dariana was able to switch from her former school to a more rigorous academic environment at Nicaragua Christian Academy in Nejapa this year.
- Last year she was in our learn-to-swim program, and this year she is raising the bar by training with the principal training group!
- Dariana is also in charge of giving weekly swim lessons to all of our 6-year-old and under kids!



Jostin Perez

- Jostin was sidelined in January and February with a broken arm, but still came to practice to do lower-body workouts until he recovered.
- He has the top GPA in his 7th grade class at Nino Jesus de Praga.
- After returning to full strength, Jostin won three 1st-place medals in September at the Nicaraguan Novice National Championship!

ENGLISH PROGRAM

In July of this year, Nica Nadadores launched a new English program aimed at preparing our participants for future educational and employment opportunities. We are excited by how quickly some of them are already mastering the basics!

WHY ENGLISH?

In Nicaragua, the unemployment rate is over 6%, and an even larger portion of the population is underemployed or holds unstable jobs in the informal sector. Speaking English can open the door to gainful employment in some of the country's fastest growing industries. We also hope that this program will help some of our top student-athletes go on to swim at universities in the US!



HOW IT WORKS

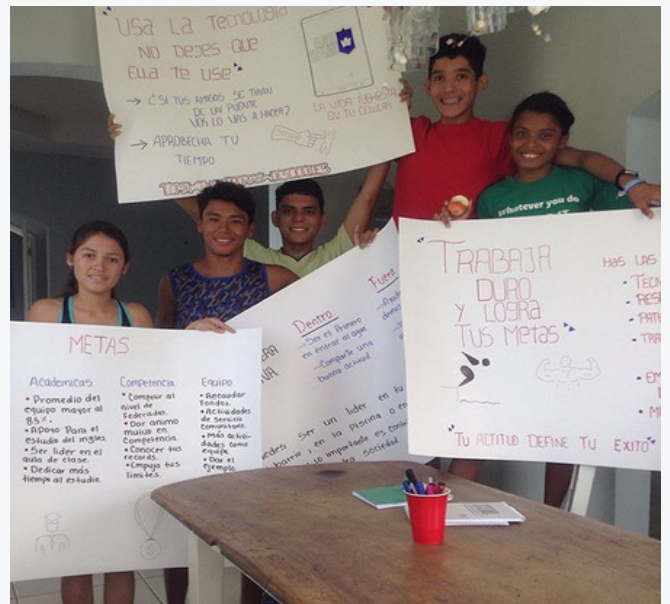
Classes are offered every day at the pool and all swimmers are required to attend at least 2 hours per week. Classes are broken up by age and ability so that everyone has a chance to participate. Since the program launched, swimmers have completed over **125** hours of English classes!

LEADERSHIP

Nica Nadadores is invested in teaching tangible leadership skills so that our swimmers are prepared to mentor and coach younger swimmers, as well as being exemplary members of their communities. This year, selected swimmers had the chance to participate in various leadership workshops where they explored important topics and discussed ways to become stronger leaders!

DECEMBER RETREAT

In December, five team leaders had the chance to participate in the first ever leadership retreat! Led by Timmy Hayes, the group spent 3 days discussing technology use, peer pressure, goal setting, leadership, and stroke technique.



LIDER WORKSHOP

In March, six of our student coaches participated in a seminar led by the Leadership Institute for Education, Development, and Research (LiDER).

They talked about the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of being a strong leader and reflected on their own leadership experience.

LEADERSHIP

CENTRO DEL LÍDER

Our October leadership presentation was open to the 12 teens in our main training group – not just selected team leaders. In this lesson, Jose Bolaños centered the discussion around surviving vs standing out. The swimmers learned how to harness their attention through meditation and breathing techniques. This session was extremely helpful for developing a positive mentality during swim practices.



PREPARATION

Some of our older swimmers have had the chance to prove their leadership skills all year by helping to run swim practices!

“I was away from Nicaragua for three weeks in September and October. Our program didn’t miss a beat while I was gone, which really demonstrates the progress toward one of our main long-term goals: a fully sustainable operation administered by homegrown participants.”

- Timmy Hayes, Co Founder





Name _____

Review

Compare the English and Spanish words (emparejar las palabras en inglés y español)

- a. Tail
- b. Notebook
- c. Annoying
- d. Thursday
- e. Orion
- f. Small
- g. Dress
- h. Uncle
- i. Eggs
- j. Coat
- k. Wife
- l. Pen

Part 1: Vocabulary - Part the English and Spanish words (Emparejar las palabras en inglés y español)

- 1. Jueves
- 2. Vestido
- 3. Abogado
- 4. Tío
- 5. Esposa
- 6. Cuaderno
- 7. Lápiz
- 8. Año
- 9. Pequeño
- 10. Huevo
- 11. Huesos
- 12. Cereza

Part 2: Articles - Write the correct article for each word (escriba el artículo correcto para cada palabra)

- 1. elephant
- 2. necklace
- 3. apple
- 4. horse

- Write the plural form of each word (escriba la forma plural de cada palabra)
- 1. eraser
 - 2. eraser
 - 3. eraser
 - 4. eraser
 - 5. eraser
 - 6. eraser
 - 7. eraser
 - 8. eraser
 - 9. eraser
 - 10. eraser
 - 11. eraser
 - 12. eraser

Write each sentence using the verb To Have

- 1. I have a pen.
- 2. She has a notebook.
- 3. They have a horse.
- 4. He has a necklace.
- 5. We have an apple.
- 6. You have a tail.
- 7. It has a wife.
- 8. They have a coat.
- 9. He has a dress.
- 10. She has a small house.
- 11. We have a big house.
- 12. You have a big house.



ACADEMICS

Education is at the core of the Nica Nadadores mission. Our expectations for performance in the classroom were higher this year than in any other year.

CHALLENGES

During the political crisis, most of our secondary school and university students had a two month pause in class. Since much of the city was shut down, schools thankfully resorted to online courses instead of throwing away the year. It would have been easy for our student-athletes to take advantage of the opportunity to slack off, but we worked hard to make sure that all assignments were completed. Since a very small percentage of participants have a computer or access to internet in their homes, we transformed Nica Nadadores headquarters into a homeschooling and tutoring center.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 66% of students improved their overall grade average and the team grade average increased from 78% to 80%
- 9 new scholarships were created
- 9 computers and over 90 iPads were donated to ensure that our kids have the resources to succeed in school
- 64% of Nica Nadadores swimmers are on full academic scholarships





GERALD

In 2018, Gerald Ortiz became our first true staff member. In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of his Nica Nadadores university scholarship, Gerald coaches, mentors, tracks team metrics, and leads volunteer activities. Gerald is an excellent communicator and has even played a crucial role in promoting our program to audiences in the US.

In an interview with board member Shane Colella, 14-year-old swimmer, Maverick Guadamuz, detailed why he admires Gerald: “He has the necessary traits to be instrumental in this program. He’s always encouraging us even if he’s not the fastest. Timmy trusts him. We trust him.”

Nica Nadadores is supporting Gerald in both his Systems Engineering degree and his passion for coaching. Through the program’s network, we continue to look for opportunities to provide training and development for these passions.



COMPETITION

By the time most swimmers in the USA hit ten years old, they've got plenty of experience competing. Unfortunately, opportunities to race here are limited. With that said, we've prepared our swimmers to compete at all levels and with attitude. This year we got to compete beyond the borders of Nicaragua.

Competitions

Medals Won

Best Times

7

70

100%





CONQUERING THE WORLD

In addition to local competitions, Nica Nadadores also got to send 8 of our swimmers to compete abroad in the US and Panama this year! This not only gave our athletes the opportunity to compete at a higher level, but also allowed them to meet new people and experience different cultures.

LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

In May, 5 of our boys traveled to Philadelphia where they got to practice with some local swim clubs, live with host families, tour Lehigh University, attend class at Southern Lehigh High School, compete at the PAAC Spring Thaw, ride some rollercoasters, and tour New York City! It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved and showed our swimmers the opportunities available to them if they continue to work hard.



PANAMA

Fernando, Hamilton, and Sarai qualified for the CODICADER Championships in Panama this September! They competed head-to-head with Central America's fastest swimmers as representatives of Team Nicaragua.

CHARLOTTE LATIN SCHOOL

This year we'd like to give an extra big shout-out to our friends at Charlotte Latin School (CLS) in Charlotte, North Carolina! After sending an initial group of students down to Nicaragua to work with us last year, CLS decided to come back for more in 2018! This year, their school raised an incredible **\$22,000** to support Nica Nadadores!



The CLS support didn't end there. Alum and Boston College swimmer Hope Dragelin traveled to Nicaragua in March with her teammates Maria Abrams and Sydney Douglas. The girls led a reading initiative during their visit, getting over 20 of our younger swimmers involved in reading for fun.

This is a habit that we are very excited to encourage, as it is hugely beneficial but rarely practiced in our communities.



This year's group of CLS students helped us build a shower area at our home pool, brought over 800 pounds of school supplies, and created a space at the pool where our swimmers can study and do homework outside of practice. We truly could not be more grateful for all the support CLS has provided over these past two years!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Organizationally we are also more prepared. With the addition of this Board of Directors, we have started to formalize our short term and long term goals. In case you missed our 2018 Executive Report, you can meet the new board members here.

Lauren Stival



Lauren graduated with an MBA from Duke University where she was also a swimmer. She has been a long-time supporter of Nica Nadadores, and made her first trip to Nicaragua in January 2018. She currently lives in St. Louis, MO where she works in investor relations.

Chester Dudzinski



Chet is a former attorney and father of 3 collegiate swimmers. He was also a national deck official for USA Swimming and served on the House of Delegates for Allegheny Mountain Swimming. He and his wife currently reside in Upper St. Clair, PA.

Graham Greytak



Graham was a collegiate swimmer at the University of Virginia and is now the CEO of HireRising. He became involved with Nica Nadadores after visiting Nicaragua in 2016. He and his wife live together in Phoenix, AZ.

Shane Colella



Shane has over 20 years of experience in visual storytelling using photography, rich media development, and motion pictures. Since 2016, he has used these talents to help share the Nica Nadadores story and increase awareness of our mission.

2018

Thank You!

It's thanks to the support and generosity of individuals like you that Nica Nadadores was able to have such a successful year. We are proud of what we have achieved and can't wait to see what the coming year has in store!



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