

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# FROM THE FOUNDERS

It's easy to say that 2021 was an all-time year for Nica Nadadores. Especially after 2020 when we were just focused on keeping our heads above water.

Gerald Ortiz, Paola Medrano, and Dania Ramos became the first university graduates of our program. In August, Fernando Munguia left for Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois to pursue a pre-med degree and swim among the Division III college ranks. Families embraced change by investing in technology and in-home Wi Fi to ensure that virtual learning thrives for their elementary aged children. These are milestone achievements that reinforce our mission.

In the pool? Wow... Nicaraguan Age Group records and international success highlight an emerging group of future studs that have transitioned into some of Central America's fastest youth swimmers. The leaders we boasted about in last year's Annual Report are shining examples of dedication to a team-first culture that younger generations are buying into. Success in the pool is not how we measure progress, but it is an expected (and welcomed!) byproduct.

Despite our successes, there remain challenges to overcome. Although we finally hosted our first summer intern since the pandemic, we are eager to offer exchange opportunities abroad once again. Nica Nadadores is one of the most impactful organizations that no one knows about, and we need more people to experience our program firsthand.

In the meantime, we hope this update reconnects you with the leadership, empowerment, and community-building that's going on in Chiquilistagua, Nicaragua.

Sincerely,  
Timmy, Kyle and Scot

## MISSION

To empower underserved youth in Nicaragua through the sport of swimming and educational advancement.

## ACTION

We push student-athletes daily to lead, improve, and aspire in the pool, classroom, and in their community.





# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

*We all have a lot to learn from Nica Nadadores participants.  
They are agents of change to a community living in poverty.*

*Our volunteers, advocates who have connected with our program  
first-hand hold valuable insight on what sparks change.*





# ADVOCATES

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## ON COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

"When we look at Nica Nadadores we see an especially strong and vibrant community. The student athletes contribute their talents and countless hours of hard work in the pool, the classroom and in community service.

**They cheer for each other on the good days and cheer each other up on the bad ones.**

Families contribute some financial and lots of emotional support. They care not only about their own children but about the other children, families and coaches. Though we are not in Nicaragua we, and other donors, feel welcome in this community. Personally, we share the hopes of the community and feel pride in the successes of the student athletes.

**We feel fortunate to be able to contribute to the development of not only champion swimmers but of educated, confident, strong young men and women who promise to be leaders in their community, their jobs and their country."**

**-Liz Herr and Fred Lewis**  
Donors Since 2017

## ON WHAT TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE:

"I would create a leadership class for the older kids to participate in once a month. The class would teach core leadership values to the swimmers such as

**ownership of their sport, integrity, and the power of communication in teamwork."**

**-Amy Draglin**  
Summer Intern, 2021

# SWIMMERS AND PARENTS

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## ON NICA NADADORES VALUES:

"We teach our son to be humble, friendly, respectful, and honest. Part of the reason Nica Nadadores is so important to our family is because we're surrounding our son with a support system that encourages him to grow in a healthy way. Anthony doesn't feel like he's better or worse than anyone and more importantly he knows that his role on the team is a valuable opportunity for his future.

**It's a team that wins because they care the most."**

**-Martha Tellez**

Mother of Anthony Tellez

## ON WHAT TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE:

"I wish each swimmer could have all their own equipment. I'm appreciative of having access to everything we need to train and compete, but I feel that if we had our own equipment, **we would learn to take better care of what we have and could make things last longer.**

Also, it'd be great to take more trips to the beach in 2022!"

**-Josue Martinez**

Student-Athlete, 15 years old



# CONNECTIONS: BY THE NUMBERS

16

—

New episodes of: From the Deck, our YouTube vlog. These videos feature swimmers excelling within our Nica Nadadores family. It's a fun way to connect with our program and get to know our kids!

209

—

Individual donors contributing to our 2021 operational budget. Our relatively small network makes a HUGE impact.

4,849


—

Social media followers from Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube pages as well as our Newsletter listserve. One of our goals in 2022 is to grow our reach and spread the word about Nica Nadadores!

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55 subscribers

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**FROM YOUTUBE**

Video Title	Views	Time Ago
Nica Nadadores From The Deck - Episode Twenty	72 views	2 months ago
Nica Nadadores From The Deck - Episode Nineteen	42 views	3 months ago
Nica Nadadores From The Deck - Episode Eighteen	24 views	4 months ago
Nica Nadadores From The Deck - Episode Seventeen	31 views	4 months ago
A beautiful tribute from Amy's intern experience	29 views	4 months ago
Nica Nadadores From The Deck - Episode Sixteen	54 views	7 months ago

# THE YEAR OF THE POOL

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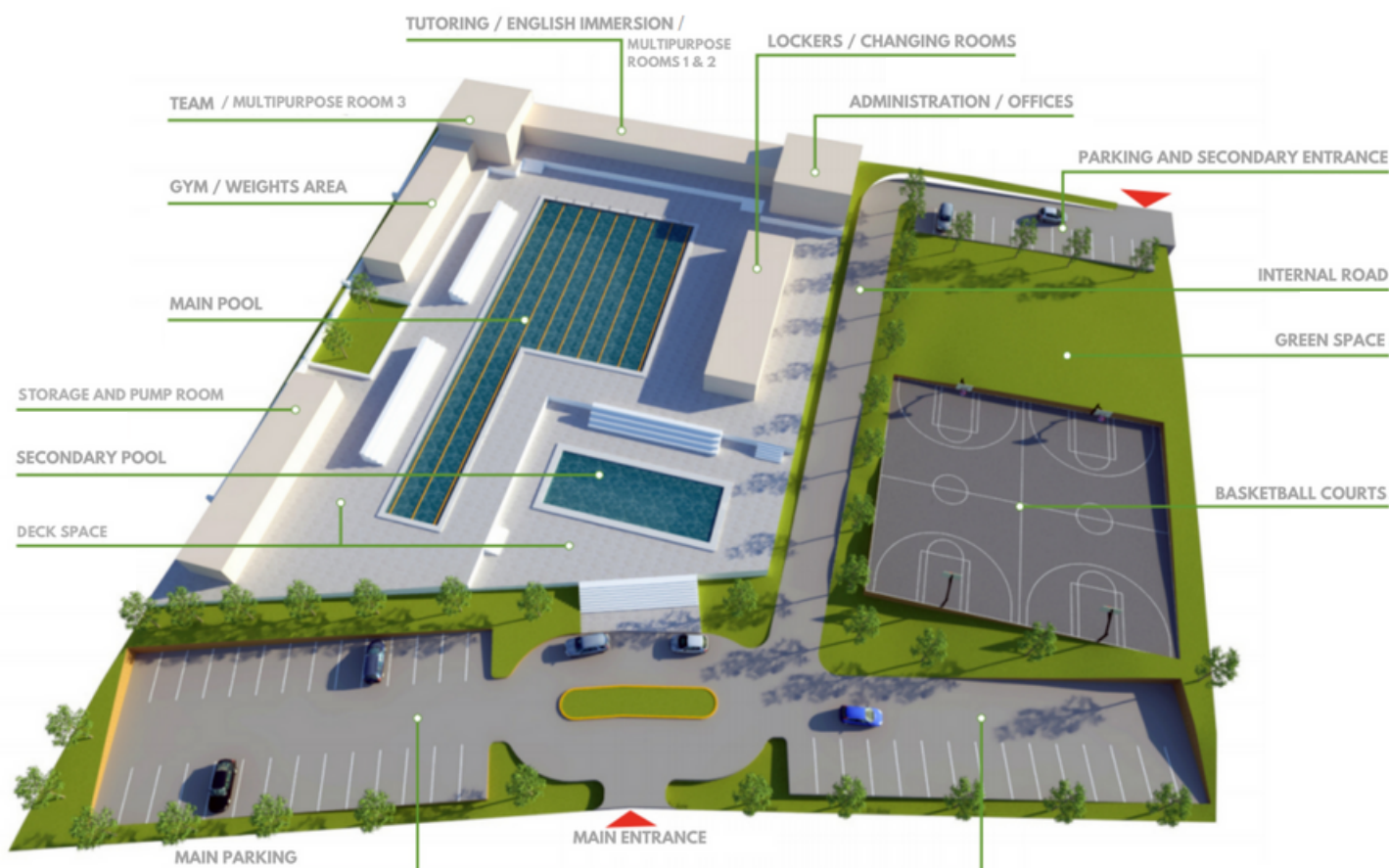
There's an obvious answer to the fundamental question of how can we expand and improve the connection within our community.

Answer: Scale up.

It has always been part of the 20-year vision to expand our operations to a dedicated, multi-purpose facility that would enhance every facet of our program.

Until now, progress toward that campaign has chugged on behind the scenes. In the past year, we traveled for fundraising missions, consulted with different contractors, and established a team of advisors to guide us.

We still have work to do, but **THE YEAR OF THE POOL** is upon us.



# PROJECT SUMMARY

**Nica Nadadores** | A youth development organization using the sport of swimming to empower the next generation of leaders in Nicaragua. Nica Nadadores is a U.S. based 501(c)(3) public charity.

The community need and demand for our programs exceed what can be delivered with our rental of a three-lane 20-yard pool. Outside of the pool, classrooms and learning space are needed to expand academic and leadership programs.

In 2019, Nica Nadadores purchased 2.1 acres of land in the heart of Chiquilistagua with plans to establish "Los Nica Nadadores" -- a community center equipped with a competitive training pool, multi-purpose facilities for fitness, educational, and community programming; and a dedicated auxiliary pool for community-wide learn-to-swim.

## THE NEED

Much like the members of the community we serve, Nica Nadadores has been graciously making the most of what little resources are available. We began in a kidney-shaped backyard pool with a garden hose used as a lane divider. We rent our current site, a three-lane 20-yard pool, from a faith-based organization.

Since its founding in 2014, Nica Nadadores has enriched the lives of over 330 kids and invested more than \$500,000 into its communities. However, there are hundreds of kids that have been turned away due to lack of space.

Beyond the need for more pool lanes, the success of our programs is contingent on offering strong outside-the-pool support: expansion of English immersion classes, tutoring and academic assistance, and on-site leadership programming.

Over the past seven years, Nica Nadadores has shown that it can execute on big plans. However, there is so much more we can do for our current and future scholar-athletes and low-income youth.

## THE SOLUTION

To enable our programs to grow and expand, Nica Nadadores needs a dedicated aquatics and community outreach facility. Without facility expansion, our intended outcome of empowering generations of youth in Nicaragua will ultimately stall.

The complete vision includes amenities to benefit the surrounding community and families of Nica Nadadores swimmers. With additional space, we will adapt operationally so that we can extend our impact to the kids we've turned away, without losing the family relationships that we value.



## FACILITIES | AT A GLANCE

- **Main Pool**
  - 6-lane 25m + 2-lane 50m
  - Bulkhead for conversion to 8-lane 25m competition + 2-lane 25m for warm-up and warm-down during competition
  - Infinity edges; 74,000 gallons; proper lane lines; starting blocks; epoxy grout; two 5hp pumps; two 35' sand filters
- **Auxiliary Shallow Pool for Learn-to-Swim**
- **Outbuildings for Support**
  - Pump house + equipment & storage structure
  - Changing rooms & showers
- **Dedicated Fitness Space for Dry Training**
- **Multi-Purpose Rooms**
  - Classrooms; tutoring; English immersion
  - Community space for meetings and special events
- **Volunteer Housing**
- **Office / Administration Space**



"My son used to be highly introverted. He didn't relate to many other boys. But the confidence he's gained through Nica Nadadores has made him show leadership among his peers and his younger brother who also swims. This team is a family and has truly changed the way I'm raising my sons."

### Johanna Zeledon

Mother of two student-athletes



# Thank you

We are so appreciative of everyone involved in shaping the Nica Nadadores legacy.

As Nica Nadadores moves into a new stage of growth, we are committed to channeling your generosity into impactful, life-changing work.

- The Nica Nadadores

