

Notes on Little Corn Island Learning Center....

2004 Dr. Brad Martin takes the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Eyeglass project to Corn Island, my mom returns; I hear her telling my sister many times that her church should start a project with Corn Island or Little Corn Island.....

My momand we are involved with this whole project because of her ...



Sequence of events after that.....

1. Several years ago my mother had the idea of my sister's church in Two Rivers, Wisconsin helping out with a project in Corn Island or Little Corn Island, why that geographic area, I am not sure??
2. 2006 Library project begins developing out of the Learning Center program – a natural progression.
3. June 2010, Dr. Roy Dunlap Sr. attends an event in memory/honor of my mother, Sherin Bowen, and we have conversations about his past volunteer experience in Nicaragua – he mentions his son is now living in Nicaragua – managing a hotel on Little Corn Island.
3. Next month, July 2010, we had an inquiry about our library project and if we (W/NP) would be interested in collaborating to provide a library on Little Corn Island.

Hmmmm..... kind of a far-fetched idea but perhaps something to consider.....

Here is how it went.....

Friday, July 30, 2010 **To:** Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners Office **From:** Scales, Fred (Greenville)
Subject: Little Corn Island library

Hello; I am with a mission group from here in eastern North Carolina, and we are currently planning our 2011 project. One of the proposals that we are considering, is to build a library on Little Corn Island, Nic. We have experience in construction, medical, dental and education, but not libraries. The kids and adults on the island have suffered from the lack of a basic education as I am sure you have seen in the projects of your Partner Cities Program.

Wednesday, August 18, 2010 **To:** Scales, Fred **From:** Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners Office
Good Morning Fred, Thank you for your inquiry, and your interest in providing reading opportunities for the residents on Little Corn Island. I am sorry for the delay in my reply, but I have just returned from Nicaragua with a high school and educators group. Just to clarify, we have not designed library buildings but rather started the actual library within our existing Learning Centers, by providing the materials needed (books, check-out system, bookshelves) a very basic package to extend learning opportunities that are already taking place in the communities we work in. I don't believe we have a Learning Center in that area, but I will check with our coordinator in Managua and see what the options might be. You must have a network or contact people who live there as you indicate their choice is a free standing building?

Thursday, August 26, 2010 **From:** Wiza, Amy **To:** Scales, Fred **Subject:** RE: Little Corn Island library
Good Morning Fred, It was very nice to talk with you recently about the lending library on Little Corn Island. Since our conversation I have been in contact with a friend of our family, who happens to have a son that lives on Little Corn Island, and has a hotel/resort of some sort. I am in the process of finding out if he has interest in being one of the contact people and helping to gather a group of local people who would be interested in maintaining and operating a Learning Center. We have many Learning Centers throughout Nicaragua, and I will attach a brochure that provides further details, along with the lending library brochure. The centers often are part of someone's home, a community center, a school, or wherever the local people can find a place to meet and hold classes. A natural progression of the LC's has been the addition of a lending library. My friend, Dr. Roy Dunlap plans to go to Little Corn Island early Sept. and has agreed to carry or help to facilitate the project should we decide to move forward with a library in the school you mentioned for now. I just wanted you to know I am further exploring your idea, and welcome your thoughts.

Thursday, August 26, 2010 **From:** Scales, Fred **To:** Wiza, Amy **Subject:** RE: Little Corn Island library
Hi Amy; Thanks for the brochure. I would be very comfortable, bowing to your expertise and contacts with regard to this project. My contact on LCI is Scot Smyth who is the owner of the Little Corn Island Beach and Bungalow. I think that it could be very useful to have multiple sources of information as we study this idea.My reason for getting involved is that I feel strongly that people who show that kind of initiative deserve to be helped.

September 2010: Dr. Roy Dunlap Sr. and his wife go to visit their son on Little Corn Island

Monday, September 13, 2010 **From:** scot smyth **To:** Scales, Fred, Wiza, Amy **Subject:** RE: Little Corn Island library
Hi Fred and Amy, for your benefit Amy and to refresh your memory Fred, let me address the email from Amy below in regard to the "Reading Room" project on Little Corn Island. Fred and his friends stayed at our resort a while back and that is how they became familiar with the "reading room" dream.... We are the number one raiser of funds for the project on the island. We do this well because we care and we know the islanders who are ramrodding this project are doing it for the right reasons and the money goes to the designated purpose. My name is Scot Smyth. Kristine Gilfoyle (my girlfriend) and I purchased property on LCI in Jan 2009 and constructed (I built our hotel from scratch and have experience getting construction materials to the island and how to get things done in this environment) and have since opened Little Corn Beach and Bungalow Eco Friendly Resort. After being open for 9 months we are currently rated the #1 hotel in the Corn Islands (Trip Advisor.com). We are permanent residents of Little Corn Island. Kristine has completed her residency and has her Cedula and I am in the process of getting mine. We own the hotel and the property and live on site. We have quite a bit of experience on LCI creating and managing projects here. In the

temporary structure they have now, people of all ages (5 to 45) come to read, look at picture books or be taught to read. We understand the desperate need for this facility based on the fact that a number of our all Nicaraguan staff cannot read! I hope this help answer some of Amy's questions. Kindest regards, Scot and Kristine

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 From: Wiza, Amy To: scot smyth Cc: Scales, Fred Subject: RE: Little Corn Island library

Good Morning Scot and thank you for your email. Very interesting and I appreciate your taking time to share this information.As I mentioned, W/NP has not previously had many projects in this geographic area, except for an Eye Glass Mission a couple years back. When I first wrote to Roy Jr, after Fred contacted me, below were my reasons. You may want to visit www.sherinbowen.com to better understand why my mother's initial idea is one that I would assist with if the need is there. I think Roy Sr. and his wife may have left yesterday. Thanks again, and certainly I will help where I can in helping to provide more access to reading materials for the community of Little Corn Island. If you want more information on some literacy projects, let me know. Take care, Amy

Friday, September 24, 2010 From: Scales, Fred To: Wiza, Amy Subject: RE: Little Corn Island library

Hi Amy; I have been a little busy this week, and so I am just getting around to reading your mother's autobiography. Extraordinary. I am really sorry that I will not have an opportunity to get to know her except through this document in front of me. I certainly hope that we can "work together and make a difference". I'm wondering if we should change the approach to this project. Your learning centers offer so many opportunities for self- sufficiency as opposed to just starting a reading room/ library.I'm getting the feeling that this needs to happen for both your momma and the kids of Little Corn Island. In the meantime, have a good weekend and I hope we can get together. fred

November 23, 2010 From: Wiza, Amy To: Managua Office; Cc: Lynda Pracht; Michael McCord, Pres W/NP Subject: Little Corn Island Project

Good Morning, I talked with Fred Scales yesterday and he told me about the nice visit to the Managua office and appreciated the time you spent with him. To bring you up to date, initially I was not so sure about pursuing the project on Little Corn Island with his group mainly due to logistics and not having a contact in that geographic area. After my conversation yesterday with Fred, it seems it may be a viable option depending on how you feel about it. Fred and his group's plan is to finance a building (approx \$10,000) with 4 rooms to provide space for classrooms, library, learning center and whatever else they come up with. They would like W/NP to have a Learning Center and want to work with us in whatever way they can help facilitate this to happen. The question is, do you want to have a Learning Center on Little Corn Island and how did you feel about your meeting with him? He suggested you contact Yovanie Dixon for further details regarding the learning center/library 8-848-7971. Please advise on your suggestions/thoughts so I can know if this should be presented at the December 4 Board Meeting. – Amy

December 2010 – May 2011 much correspondence on details of project, and a few snags along the way.

June 2011 Fred and crew complete the foundation work for the building

June 30, 2011 From: Scales, Fred To: Wiza, Amy Subject: RE: LCI update

I hate to keep bouncing these dates around, but there are a lot of "moving parts" to this project.
(that is an UNDERSTATEMENT Fred ☺)

August 2011 Fred and crew spend a very labor intensive week on Little Corn Island constructing a building and set the foundation for Learning Center/Lending Library.

February 2012 W/NP Learning Center workshop on Little Corn Island, 16 volunteers from Wisconsin, 3 staff from Managua and 50+ Little Corn Island participants. (see file called Little Corn Island LC Workshops part 2)

Notes from September 2011 Wis/Nic Partners E-newsletter.....

Site for Little Corn Island Learning Center



It is simply amazing what happens when you bring hard workers with humble spirits together. Below is the product of much planning and a very intensive week of hard work by the residents of Little Corn Island and a volunteer work crew from North Carolina. The group, lower left, focused their recent efforts on Little Corn Island after the Island elders confirmed their greatest need and desire - a community center for learning to take place.



A lending library, sewing classes, and bicycle repair are in the works upon completion of the building later this summer. Perhaps next February (13-23) we may have a workshop at this new center as part of the Annual Learning Center Trek, contact W/NP if you would like to join us, or help support the Little Corn Island Learning Center or Lending Library wnp@uwsp.edu

So who is this group from North Carolina accomplishing amazing results.....

We are a diverse group of Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, and one atheist. Our common link is the denial of self in service to others. That, together with Dana Eddings' 20+ years of successful projects seems to be enough to gather a team every year. Maximum results with minimum of committee meetings. Doesn't sound to impressive in writing, but it seems to work real well. Crude, but effective I guess. - fred

Photos from February 2012 Learning Center Workshops on Little Corn Island.....

(see separate document with photos)

