



Fact Sheet on the Casa Materna

(in response to the most frequently asked questions)

Goal/Mission of Casa Materna:

To reduce maternal and infant death in the region of Matagalpa, Nicaragua by providing services for low income mothers with high-risk pregnancies who come from the rural communities of the region.

1. Programs provided:

- Basic Services for pregnant mothers in the Casa- approx. 750-800 annually
 - 24 hr/7 days a week service
 - 15-40 mothers at a time (including 5-10 in the hospital)
 - Casa Materna has beds for 26 mothers
 - All births take place in the Regional Hospital
 - Average stay at the Casa Materna is 11-12 days
- Outreach Education with rural midwives- 250-300 total
- Follow-up with 400 Casa mothers in 12 rural communities
- Outreach to Adolescents

2. Number of Staff- 14 total

- 3 nurse educations
- 1 part-time OB-GYN
- 3 drivers
- 1 accountant
- 1 psychologist
- 1 lay midwife
- 1 nutritionist/cook
- 3 community educators/support staff

3. Services provided to mothers in the Casa Materna

- Food
- Shelter
- Daily medication evaluations (and medications as needed)
- Infant-maternal health care related classes/workshops
- Activities: sewing, art, literacy classes, etc.
- Prenatal Exercises & Walks
- Transportation to and from the local hospital
- Mothers also help with the daily cleaning and cooking at the Casa Materna

Casa Materna - Mary Ann Jackman

Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Striving to decrease maternal mortality in rural Nicaragua



4. Rate of Maternal Mortality
 - Nicaragua: 170/100,000
 - United States: 11/100,000
 - Many women's groups believe that the actual rate in Nicaragua might be considerably higher due to under reporting
 - "maternal mortality" is defined by WHO as death of a women while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management
5. The number of mothers to date- 14,000+ (April 2010)
 - The first Casa Materna births were October 29th and 31st, 1991
6. There have been two maternal deaths
 - Nicolasa Zeledon in April 1997- a 43 yr old mother gave birth to her 16th child and tragically died 4 days after returning to her home community
 - Susana Zeledon in November 2009- high risk due to previous pregnancies, when she was warned of severe blood loss issues. After giving birth to this 3rd child, despite multiple transfusions, nothing could be done to stop the hemorrhaging and she tragically passed away.
7. Initial funding for the purchase of the Casa Materna came from the Instituto de la Mujer (Women's Institute) of Madrid, Spain in 1990
 - The house itself was also a (50%) donation from the people of Cuba as it was previously the Cuban consulate in Matagalpa.
8. The 'Casa Materna Mary Ann Jackman' was named in memory and in honor of Mary Ann Jackman Barrios, a 27yr old Nicaraguan mother of 2 who died in January 1987 as the result of an accident when she was 6 months pregnant with her third child. It was Mary Ann who gathered together the group of women from which the idea of the Casa Materna would later evolve.
9. Annual Operation budget- approx. \$182,000 (2009)
 - Food \$32,000
10. More than half the annual budget comes from funding from the U.S. Friends of the Casa Materna based in Michigan.
 - Other funds come from solidarity groups in many countries around the world. The Casa Materna receives no money from their government.
 - Funds are also received from solidarity groups in many countries throughout the world
 - The Casa Materna's bed and breakfast, "La Casita" help to raise funds within Nicaragua