

# NICARAGUA

*EL Chague 1 Community*

**TURNING POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH**

# EL CHAGUE 1 COMMUNITY

LEON, LEON, NICARAGUA

Latitude: 12.37747, Longitude: -86.87461

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## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

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The community members of El Chague 1 suffered greatly from the lack of safe water in their community. The 16 household could claim only one hand-dug well as their own. It was old, dysfunctional, and contaminated. Aware of this, they tried to supplement their water with water sources in nearby communities. However, the hand-dug wells in the surrounding area were all in the same condition as their own. They continually searched farther and farther for respite, only to find none available.

They had no choice but to use contaminated water for all of their water needs. As a result, the community members contracted many waterborne diseases. They often suffered from diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Other unseen dangers also lurked within the water including parasites.

These illnesses robbed the community members of their health and time, making them miss valuable working hours and hindering their abilities to provide for their families. Their hearts ached as they watched their children suffer through more virulent forms of these diseases. The children's younger immune systems made them more susceptible to illnesses and caused them to miss school, endangering their hopes for a better future.

The community members knew they could not allow their families to continue to suffer so acutely because of the water crisis. Something had to be done to change the situation. Yet, the community members knew they lacked the resources to make that change happen on their own.

Leaders in the community soon heard about the work that Living Water International was doing



This hand-dug well spreads illness throughout the community.



This is one of the homes that makes up the El Chague 1 community.

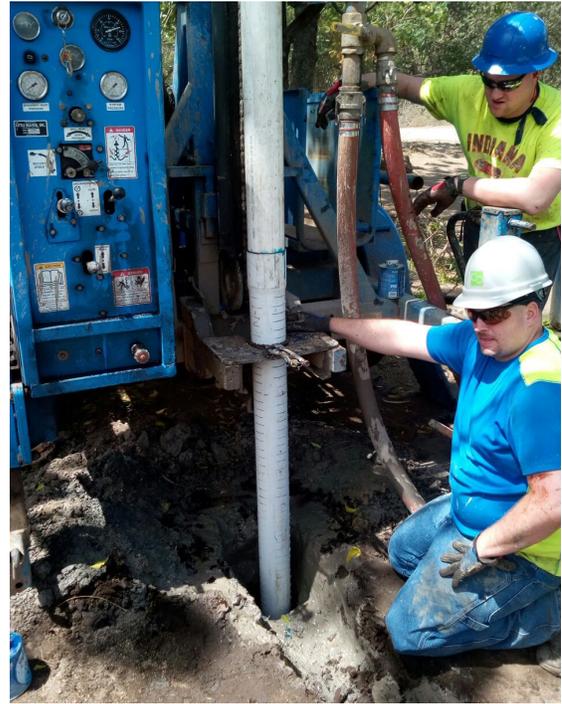
in their region. They reached out for help, requesting that a well be built for their community. Living Water Nicaragua was moved with compassion for the community. They traveled to El Chague 1 to assess the situation.

The Living Water staff found that the community members were ready to emerge from their dire water crisis and prepared to take charge of sustaining a long-term safe water solution. Turning Point Community Church, your gift made it possible for Living Water Nicaragua to announce that the community would receive a new well!

HOUSEHOLDS                    **16**  
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS                    **women**  
TERRAIN                                    **rural**

The community members were overjoyed to welcome the Living Water staff, who returned to El Chague 1 with a drilling rig and a Living Water Trips team. The Living Water team drilled 41 meters into the earth to reach an aquifer of safe water. They installed a PVC pipe, gravel pack, and sanitary seal. They treated the well with a shock chlorination and tested the water's quality to ensure its safety. The well was capped with a hand pump and handle. Finally, the Living Water team laid a concrete base, and the well was complete.

The community members celebrated! They now had safe water in their community. Their water crisis was ended because of you, Turning Point Community Church!



The Living Water Trips team helps dig a new well.



Construction is under way.

**CONSTRUCTION  
DETAILS**

**ALTITUDE 89 m**

**DEPTH DRILLED 41 m**

**STATIC LEVEL 13 m**

**CASING MATERIAL PVC**

**CASING EXTERNAL DIAMETER 100 mm**

**PUMP TYPE HAND PUMP**

**SANITARY SEAL DEPTH 20 m**

**GRAVEL PACK DEPTH 20 m**

**SHOCK CHLORINATION YES**

**PLATFORM MATERIAL CONCRETE**

**WATER QUALITY  
TESTS**

**TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS 197**

**PH 7**

**HARDNESS 120**

**COLIFORM BACTERIA ABSENT**



A community member practices pumping water for the first time.



The Living Water Trips team celebrates the completion of the well.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The Living Water staff guided the community in establishing a water committee. The members of the committee were selected by the community to act as a governing body over the well. They were also given the responsibility of maintaining the well and of collecting a small, agreed-upon fee for its usage. The fee will be saved and used to cover any future repairs the well might need. However, as a preventative measure, Living Water Nicaragua helped the committee set a maintenance schedule and an operating budget. To implement this, the committee chose a water point caretaker who will see to the day-to-day matters concerning the well. The Living Water staff will stay in contact with the water committee to help them in their sustainability efforts.



This community member will serve as the water point caretaker.

“Our lives will be completely different now that we have safe water. We will no longer suffer from waterborne diseases. Our children will be able to drink safe water every day, thanks to this blessing.

The teaching about how we should to take care of the well and... the hygiene lessons taught us many things that we did not know. The Bible lessons taught us the power of God. Our community saw his love through this well, which he knew we needed, and through the group of Americans, who were very nice people.”

— *Graciela Olivas Betanco, 40-year-old housewife*



Graciela expresses her gratefulness.

## SANITATION & HYGIENE

Living Water Nicaragua and the Trips team members led a sanitation and hygiene training for 65 people. The training featured a series of lessons that presented information through the use of conversations, demonstrations, and visual aids. These interactive methods helped the community members better understand how their new safe water resource could be used to improve their health.

The Living Water team provided a vital lesson about what makes water safe and unsafe to drink. This led to a discussion about the way that germs can negatively impact the human body. Using visual aids, the Living Water team explained how germs are transmitted. They explained that handwashing is the best way to block the spread of germs and prevent unseen threats from entering their bodies. The Living Water team demonstrated proper handwashing technique, then held a practice session for the participants to hone this skill.

Aware that diarrhea had been a devastating fact of life for the community members, the Living Water team helped the participants better understand the cycle of dehydration and diarrhea. The Living Water team equipped the community members in their fight against this illness by showing them how to make an oral rehydration solution out of safe water, salt, and sugar. They distributed 16 specialized spoons to help the community members measure the solution's ingredients.

The Living Water team provided several other prescriptive lessons. They emphasized the importance of proper nutrition and good oral hygiene. They showed the participants how to correctly care for the well. They also demonstrated safe methods of water transportation and storage.



The children enjoy the crafts they made during the training.

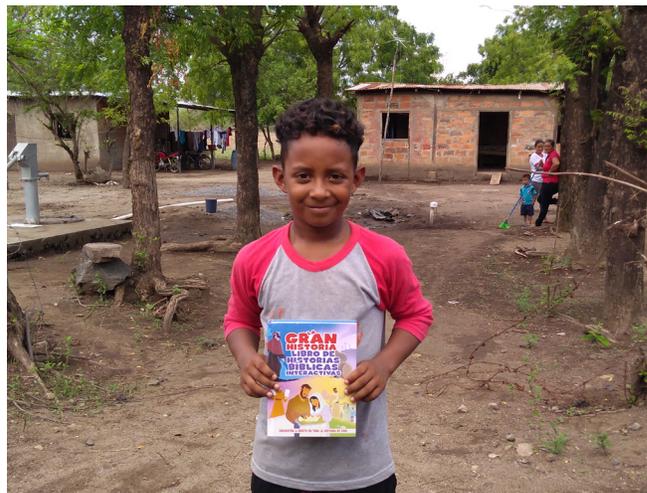


Young community members display the artwork they created.

## IN JESUS' NAME

Turning Point Community Church, your gift provided an outpouring of the *living water* of Christ within the El Chague 1 community. This occurred during an evangelism session that was attended by 65 people. The Living Water staff and Trips team presented the gospel through a new Bible-sharing technique called Bible storying. This technique makes the Bible come alive through the use of narration, audience repetition, question-and-response, and memorization.

This enabled the participants to become purveyors of God's word. They learned the Bible stories of "The Samaritan Woman at the Well," "Jesus Walks on the Water," and "Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet." The nature of God, his miraculous power, and his loving-kindness were made clear to each person in a new and relevant way. Additionally, the well you gave the community members will stand as a memorial of a time when God's love and the love of his people became tangible in their lives.



This Bible and many like it were distributed by the Trips team.

## YOUR IMPACT

Thank you, Turning Point Community Church, for providing safe water to the El Chague 1 community! No longer will the water they drink steal their health, livelihoods, and futures. Instead, the safe water you provided will enable them to recover their health. It has restored their hope and enabled them to see and feel just how much God loves them.

Your gift can provide an abundant 30 liters of safe water per day for each of the 96 water users who are now able to depend on the well! With access to this resource, they will be able to implement the training you provided in order to improve their health. Furthermore, they can rest assured knowing they have been equipped to be good stewards of this vital resource.

Turning Point Community Church, thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus' name!



The El Chague 1 community is forever changed because of your love.