

## Gerardo Completed Mural Project

This past year we were happy to partner with the Jubilee House in Ciudad Sandino to commission artist and friend Gerardo Arias to paint a series of new murals at Casa Ben Linder in Managua. The project is now complete and is a beautiful addition to the facilities there, providing hope, inspiration, and beauty to that city.

Here is some information about the murals that is provided by the artist. "We start with the representation of the family upon which the well-being of the community depends, and the community must be more environmentally friendly. We use a double meaning of the word 'plant' - natural plants with the ecological theme and electric generation plant based on solar panels. We have the central sun represented as an "on" button and the electrical impulses transmitted through the branches and the electric cable can represent the different ways of relating to people: it can be empowerment, solidarity, friendship, all needed to carry out a project. We have a solar panel, which is in the shape of a leaf and we have the leaf circuits. A plant at the bottom with an electrical plug base representing the next generation inheriting cleaner energy. The entire mural is painted with the cubism technique. We have the representation of masculinity through man working hard for his people. The participation of women, who have strong bodies pulling the cables with great force. The child who represents progress, benefiting from electrical energy. The books creates an explosion of colors representing learning and wisdom. The position in which the child holds his head tells us he might be a poet, as this is the position of our great poet Ruben Dario [also the sign for Ruben Dario in Nicaraguan sign language]. We have the turbines representing wind energy. In the background you can see the movement of water and wind. The last panel was painted first, the darkness that was just beginning to be electrified. In the last panel, which I painted first in 2012, depicts angels that represent international solidarity with Nicaragua, present since the 1980s. The woman raising her hands in symbol of progress, her vision for her son. Again, the community is working together, Benjamin Linder is depicted in the center person who has the electrical plug. The colors and movement represent water, hope, light and emotional balance. In the middle of the mural, as in all of the murals I paint, is the representation of the dove of peace."