# A Vica Life



### **OUR STORY**

Nica Life was founded to break the cycle of poverty in Nicaragua by creating jobs and opportunities in under-served communities. Artisans are paid a fair wage and a portion of proceeds are donated back to our education programs.



### THE ARTISANS

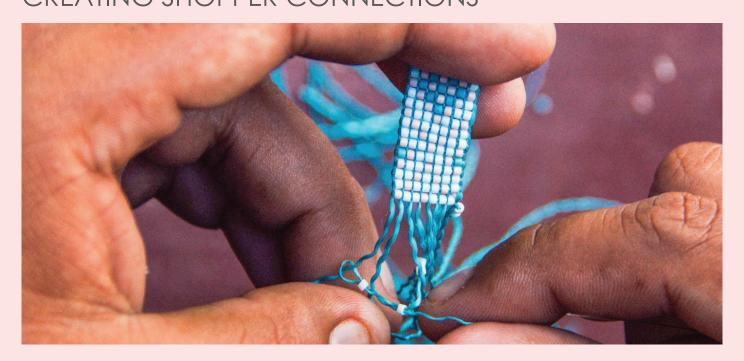
The majority of our artisans are women, and several of them are mothers supporting children. We also employ young women working towards an education. To learn more about the artisans and their individual stories visit www.nicalifeproject.com



### **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Our first program was a tablet program for children to learn English. It has grown to include scholarships to English School and Scholarships to private school for our artisans' children. Learn more about our programs by visiting our Education Page.

## WHY RETAIL STORES LOVE NICA LIFE CREATING SHOPPER CONNECTIONS





### **CONNECTING SHOPPERS & ARTISANS**

Nica Life has a great story! Every Nica Life piece is signed by the artisan who made it, allowing shoppers to learn about her story and life in Nicaragua. We ship a deck of our artisan cards with every order to foster this in-store connection.



### SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Shoppers love the Nica Life Education Bracelets because 50% of the profits are used for scholarships and education workshops. Shoppers are seeking out products that show off both their style and their values.

## CRISIS IN NICARAGUA WORKING TOGETHER TO WEATHER THE STORM



#### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NICARAGUA

Citizens began protesting government actions in April and were met with resistance from government paramilitary forces. Since the clash began, more than 300 people have died, 1000 have been injured, and hundreds have disappeared. Citizens are blocking the roads to keep the paramilitary out of their communities, however, this creates dangerous road conditions as cars are forced to stop without knowing who is stopping them. People on the roads have been robbed and beaten. Rapid decline in tourism has caused countrywide layoffs in hotels, restaurants and shops. Our staff spends the majority of their time shuttered in their houses.

### NICA LIFE JOINS FORCES WITH UPNICARAGUA

Sales of Nica Life products within Nicaragua ended abruptly as tourists fled and shops closed. In addition, Nica Life cannot get in or out of Nicaragua, creating production challenges. When speaking with the founder of UPNicaragua, we realized other organizations are facing the same challenges and would need new and consistent income streams to keep programs open and employees working. This prompted a formation of the partnership with UPNicaragua. Together we have launched the Education Angels program. We are now able to keep in regular contact with our supporters without them needing to travel to Nicaragua!







#### THEIR STORY

UPNicaragua creates access to educational & emotional development opportunities for low income girls in Granada. They believe these opportunities positively alter the path of girls & create community leaders.



#### WHAT THEY DO

UPNicaragua provides mentoring, tutoring, and a learning structure for girls enrolled in the program. They provide the support needed to be sure girls stay in school and supplement their education in subjects such as English, computer science, yoga & creative expression.



#### WHO THEY SERVE

Their program serves girls from 10-18 years old. These girls come from low income families and live in at-risk neighborhoods. Girls in these communities struggle because of the lack of access to quality education & strong roll models.

## ONE SUBSCRIPTION, TWO CAUSES INTRODUCING OUR EDUCATION ANGELS PROGRAM





### **How it Works:**

- Sign up for a \$25 monthly or quarterly subscription
- Proceeds will go towards funding our educational programs in Nicaragua
- Receive a beautiful, handmade thank you gift each month (valued at \$15-\$30) and updates on the programs you are supporting!



### **Your Impact:**

Each recurring donation to UPNicaragua and the Nica Life Education Fund is enough to provide:

- A 35% scholarship for a girl in UPNicaragua &
- A 50% scholarship to English or Private School

### PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

### **FAIR TRADE**

Providing a living wage is a key component in reducing poverty. Buying fair trade gaurantees the people making the products can feed their families. Supporting fair trade also ensures that workers have safe working conditions.

20 FAIR TRADE
JOBS CREATED



- PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS
- 3 ENGLISH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS
- 10 STUDENTS IN CODING CLASSES
- 20 STUDENTS IN TUTORING & MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

### **EDUCATION**

When people have access to basic life and literacy skills, economies grow more and poverty rates decline. Children who have the chance to learn have more opportunities and higher earning potential. Our education programs are developed to break the cycle of poverty and to develop future community leaders.

### **OUR TEAMS**



### LIZ & JERRY - NICA LIFE FOUNDERS

Liz Thomson & Jerry Wang wanted to use their background in business management to create a different kind of company, one that works for their employees and the community. As a result, Nica Life was born.



### **XIOMARA - UPNICARAGUA FOUNDER**

Xiomara Diaz is an active community leader. In addition to founding UPNicaragua she is a co-founder of The Garden Café, which works to promote positive impact of tourism. She is also a member of Vital Voices Nicaragua.



### SANTA - NICA LIFE & UPNICARAGUA OPERATIONS MANAGER

Santa came to Nicaragua in 2011 with European Volunteer Service. She fell in love with the people of Nicaragua and has been involved with social projects ever since.



### **NICA LIFE TEAM**

The Nica Life artisans are strong and inspirational people. They are involved in their communities and spend time volunteering. Many are mothers and are working to improve the lives of their children.



### **UPNICARAGUA TEAM**

The UPNicaragua team is made up of people working to improve their community; from tutors, community leaders mentoring girls, and hard working artisans making the products that fund the program.

