



# Chacocente Update

FOR OUR FRIENDS!

A Look at What's Happening at Project Chacocente, Masaya, Nicaragua

February 2010



Brett Favre



Cheryl Avery

## Managing from Afar: Ensuring Leadership and Transparency

This year, we'll be using a different model of management for Project Chacocente, and it should result in the development of stronger leadership skills in the Nicaraguan staff that runs the Project.

Cheryl will be visiting Chacocente four times during the year, taking a couple of weeks each time to train staff, review goals and accomplishments, teach the families, observe children's classes, worship with the families and celebrate life's blessings.

"I already feel that I'm managing better than before because I have to spend more time with the Nicaraguan directors planning and discussing strategy, and not just responding to fires," says Cheryl. "With modern technology, like Skype and email, it's easy and cost effective to talk with the staff daily."

The "four pillars" of management (as they call themselves) in Nicaragua are Gabriel Godinez, project director; Juan Carlos Paiz, family coordinator; Omar Hernandez, delegation and sponsorship coordinator; and Xavier Martinez, school director.

"We are much more organized this year," Cheryl says, "and now that we are an NGO (non-government organization), we're using an accountant to prepare our financial reports. It's a more transparent process."

Cheryl Avery Returns —

## "If Brett Can Do It, So Can I!"

Dear Friends ~

Last fall, when Brett Favre returned to football after retiring the season before, a lot of people thought he was crazy.

Well, I too am back...and my friends are making comments about my own sanity.

Last January, I was diagnosed with Traumatic Stress and consequently stepped down as the executive director of Project Chacocente. I honestly felt so broken, I didn't think I could be put back together again. But I guess the Lord had a different idea.

One crisp afternoon last November, he took me from the darkest depths to the mountain top. Since that day, I have felt energized, joyful and eager to get back to work. The Spirit has been burning like wild fire in my

life, and God has been putting special people in my path to move Chacocente forward. My goal is nothing less than starting Chacocente II — with 15 new families — in 2011. There are still things to finish with the original families of Chacocente, and with the Board's help, and the Lord's help, we'll do that.

I will be writing to you more often this year to let you know how our plans are developing and how you can be a part of the excitement.

But before I sign off, I want to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and incredible work last year when I was ill. And I would like to thank all of you for your patience and support. We couldn't do this without you. May God continue to bless your lives. *Cheryl*