Los Laureles, outside of Managua, Nicaragua has 5,000-odd residents. There are six schools with almost 1,600 students and 45 staff. But there was no library. The one place where books were collected was shared with one of the schools’ principals. This project built a 40’ x 25’ structure that can be divided in two with movable walls. It will serve as a library for all six of the schools in the community. ODFL and its Nicaraguan partner, Seeds of Learning, have completed 12 sets of classrooms throughout Nicaragua. These have dramatically improved the educational opportunities for tens of thousands of students.
Laying in trenches for foundations and early walls

One of the work crews gets to it

Students pitch in before and after school
Walls going up

Inside before and after the floor is poured

Starting to look like a real library building
This will last for 30 years, helping some 50,000 students

Construction was delayed by the civil unrest in Nicaragua in the spring and summer of 2018. When completed on the inside, the library will include new latrines with running water, shelves for the books, 8 large group work tables, 48 chairs, computers, and multimedia facilities. All will be the first-ever for the students, school, and community.

The building will last 30 years. That means it will provide more than 50,000 student-years (1,600+ students * 30 years) of library access to students who have never had such a luxury. The cost of the building is $12,500, meaning students can access a library for less than $.25 per student per year (= ($12,500)/(50,000)). Is it worth $.25 to give a student access to a library for a year? We think it is. We hope you do, too.

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It’s Working!