One Dollar For Life (ODFL) announces completion of its 100th project

One Dollar For Life (ODFL) just completed its 100th project. The California-based nonprofit builds small-scale infrastructure projects in developing world countries from donations as small as $1 (hence its name).

The 100th project is a community library complex in the Nicaraguan village of Los Laureles, outside of Managua. The library will serve almost 1,600 students from five schools in a community of 5,000.

When fully furnished, it will include shelves for books, 8 large work tables, 48 chairs, computers, and multimedia facilities. It will be used on the weekends for adult education classes, and in the evenings for civic gatherings. It is the first such facility the community has ever had.

ODFL and its Nicaraguan partner, Seeds of Learning, have completed 12 classrooms and library structures in Nicaragua. These dramatically improve educational opportunities for tens of thousands of Nicaraguan children. Nicaragua is the 2nd poorest country in the western hemisphere.
Nicaragua is just one of the countries where ODFL works. It has completed dozens of similar projects in Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, Indonesia and Nepal. It also builds medical clinics, water systems, computer labs, and other small-scale, high impact infrastructure systems.

ODFL raises funds from American donors in amounts as small as $1. It was started at a high school in Los Altos, CA where a teacher wanted to show his students the power they really had to change the world. It has grown into a national phenomenon where anybody, anywhere can contribute.

According to ODFL’s founder, Robert Freeman, “Our goal is to enlist millions of individuals in small acts of altruism. It is our bet that doing so will subtly change the culture, shifting it just a little from selfishness toward greater generosity.”

One of ODFL’s main projects provides reusable sanitary supplies to girls in some of the poorest countries in the world. According to U.N data, as many as 20,000,000 girls drop out of school every year because they have no way to deal with their period.

ODFL provides thousands of girls in Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, and Nepal with a kit of reusable supplies that help them deal with menstrual flows. The kit lasts three years. In most cases, that is long enough for the girl to be able to finish school.

More than 400,000 people have donated a dollar to help ODFL fund its 100 projects. ODFL has also raised money from private foundations to cover its operating expenses—phones, website, literature, etc.

Because of this, 100% of every dollar an individual donates goes into their designated project.

An ODFL Media Backgrounder is available here. A more detailed treatment of the Los Laureles library in Nicaragua is available here. To see all of the projects ODFL completed in the past year, go here.

###