



## LA LUMIERE SCHOOL

*Character • Scholarship • Faith*

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### **La Lumiere School Service Trip – Making a Difference in Nicaragua**

**La Porte, Ind. - March 31, 2009**

For the third consecutive year, students and faculty from La Lumiere School participated in an eight-day service trip over their spring break to Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Volunteers included students from as close as La Porte and as far as Germany. Students on the trip included Brendan Daly of Hinsdale, IL; Clare Kaminski, Calvin Kesling, Jessica Kilcoyne and Natalie Szymkowski of La Porte, IN; Jack Caplice of Michigan City, IN; Evan Schrauben of Canton, MI; Sander Wintgens of Dusseldorf, Germany and Hans Guentert and Brad Miller of South Bend, IN.

The group participated in an effort to address the need for clean water for school children in Nicaragua, delivering simple water filtration systems to remote community schools. According to the World Health Organization, every day 5,000 children around the world die due to unsanitary water. Safe water and sanitation coverage continues to be a serious challenge in Nicaragua, particularly in rural areas and remote villages. The education of children also poses significant problems for the country. UNICEF statistics claim it takes an average of 10.3 years to complete the mandatory six years of schooling, and only 29% of children complete primary schooling.

The La Lumiere group worked through the Fabretto Children's Foundation whose mission is to enable impoverished Nicaraguan children and their families in under-served communities to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential through programs promoting nutrition, health, education, community and character development.

In addition to visiting 6 schools through the potable water project, the La Lumiere School students and faculty performed manual labor helping prepare a garden at one of the foundation's main centers in San Jose de Cusmapa, and working to improve a road leading to one of the remote schools near the Honduran border.

The students were inspired to do more by what they witnessed. Juniors Clare Kaminski and Jessica Kilcoyne wrote “Even though these schools were so bare with libraries the size of a closet, they stand as a symbol of hope for the future growth of Nicaragua. The schools are giving children a chance to learn, even though they do not have the necessary supplies to do so.”

La Lumiere plans to continue the partnership with the Fabretto Children’s Foundation and the children of Nicaragua through a sponsorship of a remote school and continued service trips to build a future together.

#### About La Lumiere School

La Lumiere is a coeducational lay Catholic boarding and day school that provides a comprehensive college-preparatory school education for qualified young men and women from a rich diversity of backgrounds. It seeks to develop character, scholarship and faith, while remaining both independently accredited and faithful to its Catholic heritage. Current enrollment is 180 students. It is situated on a beautiful rural estate 8 miles north of La Porte. Please visit [www.lalumiere.org](http://www.lalumiere.org) for direction and additional information.

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