

Power Post

The mission of GIRLPowR is to empower girls globally to achieve educational access and follow their dreams.



August 2017

This GIRL's Power Is Nursing a Future of Possibilities

Meet **Elizabeth Rivas Padilla**, a nursing student attending Escuela Fonseca Amador, SILAIS, Boaco University. Since joining in April 2014, Elizabeth is one of the initial and longest-standing members of GIRLPowR in Nicaragua.



Elizabeth Rivas, GIRLPowR graduate

Elizabeth, 18, is also one of five GIRLPowR members who graduated from our program and secondary-school in December 2016. Elizabeth has transformed into a confident, self-assured young woman who is following her dream of one day serving people in her own community.

Due to her involvement with GIRLPowR programs, Elizabeth stated she learned to be "responsible" while also learning to have "good self-esteem". Elizabeth participated in the career development field trip and interviews with professional women which she says helped her find her career and educational path for her future. Elizabeth stated, "I also learned that I was going to study what I want and not what others suggested for me."

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SAVE THE DATE! GIRLPowR's 4th Annual 'Around the World' Fundraiser

Thursday, Nov. 9th, 2017 5:30-9 pm at Rococo Theatre

Silent & live auction, complimentary food, cash bar, live music performances by Gerardo Meza, Mesonjixx and more!

Note from the ED

Julie Reager

I am always humbled by the outpouring of giving to local non-profit organizations on Give to Lincoln Day! This generous support helps our community grow stronger and more prosperous, and creates a safer more inclusive environment for all of us. I would like to thank everyone who donated to GIRLPowR and the Lincoln Community Foundation during GLD2017 – you helped us raise \$2350! These funds are helping us pro-

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San Jose de los Remates Vice-Mayor, Mayor, Julie Reager, Lizette Alcantara, and Tomas Evelio Burgos.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Janice Ayala

It didn't take Janice Ayala long to find a way to help shape the future since moving from her native Puerto Rico to Lincoln in 2015.

Having worked in the pharmaceutical industry for many years after earning a bachelor's in industrial microbiology, she met GIRLPOWR ED Julie Reager early this year and found a path toward helping others reach their dreams. When she's not providing support for the athletic department at Scheel's, she's using her bilingual and fundraising talents to empower girls in Lincoln and Nicaragua.

"I believe the future of this world lies in our children, and GIRLPOWR empowers girls, providing



Janice Ayala
GIRLPOWR volunteer

the tools and motivation to pursue their education for a better life and a better world," she said. Besides serving on the Fundraiser Committee, Janice has translated im-

portant documents for land acquisition in Nicaragua for GP, as well as supported Spanish-language curriculum for girls groups.

A lover of all things Italian, namely the food and wine, Janice enjoys time with her husband exploring Lincoln's bike trails, doing Pilates, and reading.

"Our volunteers, like Janice, not only help do the 'heavy lifting' of our work, but they make it so much fun," Julie said.



**Students in Nicaragua are ready for school
with their new backpacks.**

BUILD A BACKPACK

Looking for an affordable and fun activity for your friends, coworkers, service club, or family? Consider building a backpack to start a young girl off on the right foot this coming school year in Lincoln, Nebraska and Nicaragua. Items needed include: ***school backpacks** suitable for girls aged 8 to 18 years, pencils, pens, Crayola markers, erasers, ***small journals** (from dollar stores), scissors, crayons, ***glue sticks**, rulers, paints and brushes. Our goal is to raise 103 filled backpacks! Call GIRLPOWR or e-mail to arrange pick-up of the filled backpacks, or drop off your donation at Prairie Life Fitness, 70th & A at the GP display. Your thoughtfulness is guaranteed to put a smile on the face of a young girl and ensure she is prepared to fully participate in all school activities (*** denotes highest need item**).



Reager receives University Sertoma accolades

On July 24, The University Sertoma Club in Lincoln bestowed their highest honor for a non-Sertoma member—the Service to Mankind Award—to GIRLPowR Executive Director Julie Reager in recognition of her effort and dedication to empowering girls in rural Nicaragua and in Lincoln. Along with a handsome award plaque, the University Sertoma Club generously made a \$500 gift to GIRLPowR.

In her award speech, University Sertoma Debra Hendrichs eloquently challenged her audience to reflect on and celebrate the power of one: “How many times do we see an international problem, and think the problem is too big for us to take on? What difference could we possibly make? And I remind you to think of what Julie Reager has done.”

Please join us in congratulating Julie on this merited recognition, and thanking the University Sertoma Club for making the award and supporting GIRLPowR.

- GIRLPowR Board of Directors



Julie Reager is recognized for GIRLPowR's work and impact.

You're Invited: Bicycling Fundraiser

Three things to do Thursday, August 17:

1. **Ride your bike (with buddies).**
2. **Slake your thirst.**
3. **Support GIRLPowR .**

So, it's a kind of pub crawl on your bike: fun. And your exercise will help power GIRLPowR. The guest brewery is Zipline. All proceeds benefit GIRLPowR Inc.

The fun starts at Moran's Liquor Works to register (enjoy free samples) and collect your first raffle ticket. Cost



is a \$5 donation (or more) to GIRLPowR (4:30-6:00 pm).

Three more destinations await. For more information, find the Tour de Brew LNK Facebook page or website: <http://www.tourdebrewlnk.com/join-us.html>. Bring your bike, buddies, and helmet. Oh, and some cash.



Lincoln After-School Programs to Expand

The 2017-18 school year is right around the corner, and here in Lincoln GIRL-PowR is working with Community Learning Centers (CLC) planning the next round of girls' after-school empowerment clubs at three Lincoln Public Schools.

CLC, which uses LPS schools as a hub of children and family services, continues to be a close programmatic partner of GIRLPowR in Lincoln.

We are thrilled to again offer GIRL-PowR after-school clubs for 4-5th graders at Belmont and Arnold Elementary Schools, and are excited to launch our



first after-school program for 6-7th graders at Goodrich Middle School.

GIRLPowR after-school programs are offered in economically distressed neighborhoods, and are void of fees that can be a barrier to student participation.

GIRLPowR clubs complement girls' academic learning and development at school with a safe and trusting outlet to explore their interests, improve their self-esteem, and inspire a vision for audacious dreams!

LEFT: Belmont Elementary after-school programming offers a taste of "I-Can-Do-Anything" cake.

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vide three GIRLPowR after-school clubs this school year in Lincoln.

On our recent trip to Nicaragua, we provided 7-piece school uniforms and backpacks to 23 GIRLPowR participants, and met 6 new participants. We also provided new translated curriculum and lesson plans to our facilitators in Kumaica Sur and Kumaica Norte, and hosted workshops on making jewelry from recycled materials. We met with the parents of several GP participants and heard about their daughter's successes, and discussed the importance of the girls' education and development. During a meeting with the mayor and vice-mayor, the mayor vowed to continue to support GIRLPowR graduates with college scholarships and promised a gift of a small plot of land in Kumaica Sur to build a GIRLPowR community center. Looking ahead, we plan to organize small groups of GIRLPowR friends to travel to beautiful Kumaica to volunteer and help us construct the center – stay tuned! We hope our funding and support continues to grow with the demand and need for our services, so that we never have to turn a girl away.

With Appreciation and Respect,

Julie Reager

