



JOURNEY TO NICARAGUA

■ CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Jesus spent years working as a carpenter. Work is important to help people fulfill their potential. And everyone must receive a fair wage to provide for themselves and their families.

ENCOUNTER CESIA

Cesia Lea Gomez is from the rural town of Somoto, Nicaragua, close to the Honduran border. Although it is a beautiful farming community, there are few job opportunities for young people, especially women. Many leave their communities to find work, but Cesia wanted to stay home with her parents and youngest sibling. With her mother's encouragement, Cesia decided to pursue her dream of starting a business.

The CRS YouthBuild program helped her achieve that dream. YouthBuild's core values—family, service, opportunity and leadership—guide what participants learn, and the kinds of relationships they build with one another. The program helps them build the confidence to pursue their goals.

Once very shy, Cesia is now a leader in her community. With what she learned in YouthBuild, she has built a thriving business making and selling cattle feed. She dreams of expanding her business throughout Nicaragua, and leads workshops in her community to help other young people.



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

SHARE THE JOURNEY

Access to dignified work that pays a fair wage allows people to remain with their families and build up their communities.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Population: 5,907,881

Size: 49,998 square miles; slightly larger than the state of Pennsylvania

- The largest Central American country, Nicaragua includes lakes, volcanoes, rainforests, farmland and other natural resources.
- Unfortunately, its turbulent history—including corruption, foreign intervention, economic exploitation and natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes—has kept Nicaragua's poverty rate among the highest in Latin America.
- Since 2007, CRS Nicaragua has worked with YouthBuild to help young people in need learn leadership, job and business development skills.



For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch a video about Cesia at crsricebowl.org/stories.