



Alicia Huente (second from left in photo), or “Mama Licha” as she is known in the community, lives in Estell, a town in the northern highlands of Nicaragua. Currently, she runs a clinic out of her home, open 24 hours a day to everyone in her community. She is a health and human rights activist and sees all patients regardless of their ability to pay (her monthly income is less than \$40). She offers full scope women’s health care services including annual exams, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, contraception counseling and pre-natal care. She also provides vaccinations to area children and couples parenting classes.

Her vision is dear and her resolve is untouchable. She is beloved by the community and has worked as a nurse and a midwife for 34 years. On her reputation alone, she has acquired the bare essentials to be able to offer services from her home.

There is a great need for reproductive health services in Nicaragua. The country has the highest fertility rate in Central America, as well as one of the highest rates of maternal mortality and cervical cancer. In 2002, YSN’s Bethany Golden, and Angela Rogers created a non-profit organization for human rights projects and women’s health initiatives in Nicaragua, and adopted Mama Licha’s Clinic as their first project. Initially, the two YSN students acquired over \$40,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies, generously donated by Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Remedy Project.

By January 1, 2003, Bethany and Angela raised an additional \$10,000 donated mostly by members of the Yale community. The funds will allow Mama Licha to begin construction of a new facility on her property, cover transportation costs to ship medical equipment to Estell, and provide the operating budget for the first year of the clinic. In the future, Bethany and Angela plan to support Mama Licha’s effort to expand the new clinic to include outreach to youth on reproductive health, train rural midwives, and create a new birth center.

For more information about the Mama Licha Nicaragua Project or to make a donation, please contact Bethany and Angela at [bethany.golden@yale.edu](mailto:bethany.golden@yale.edu) or [angela.rogers@yale.edu](mailto:angela.rogers@yale.edu).