

PICO INTERNATIONAL



2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Friends of PICO International,

We are proud to share stories of PICO leaders from each of our international projects who are working so those in greatest need can build their own future. Marie St. Fleur, Epiphanie Mukamuganga, and Lucila Solano are three among hundreds of leaders – youth, women and men – who are organizing their communities and making a difference for thousands of people in Haiti, Rwanda, and El Salvador. In these three countries, as in PICO federations throughout the U.S., the dedication of leaders to opportunity, equality, and justice makes organizing a uniquely powerful tool for building community and advancing positive change. Working as a team, leaders listen and engage their community, challenge public officials to build partnerships, and undertake concrete projects for the common good.

You are a critical partner in this work for justice. We truly appreciate your love, prayers, time, and financial support. Enjoy these stories of the people you've helped to help themselves. Thank you!

John Baumann, SJ,
Founder & Director
PICO International

Alberto Velazquez,
Executive Director
PICO Central America

John Rutsinditwarane,
Executive Director
PICO Rwanda

Francois Pierre Louis,
Executive Director
PICO Haiti

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PICO RWANDA

This year, PICO Rwanda celebrated 10 years of successful work. Twenty-three years after the genocide, PICO is helping Rwandans fulfill its vision for economic development and women's empowerment. Leaders are modeling a democratic approach that claims space for ordinary people to name their priorities, organize their communities, and hold government officials accountable.

In 2006, people in Mumeya met Pastor John. Speciose remembers, "He passed by our area and talked about PICO and self-development. We were hopeless people that were unnoticed by the government. When leaders wanted to get votes, they would promise wonders such as secondary schools, electricity, roads, water, and a hospital...we would be so excited, we would all vote for him. But, once we voted for them, they never returned." That meeting changed the future of Mumeya. "Through work with PICO every one of the things that had been promised and more, have completed through our own work." Government officials have asked Speciose and Mumeya leaders to train people in 30 villages. PICO Rwanda's goal in 2018 is to establish a training institute.

Last year, the Nyange Women's Cooperative completed construction of a trench kiln to bake roofing tiles and the storage shed that will house their clay mixer, tile press, and completed tiles. They pressed local government officials to secure ownership of the land needed to harvest clay and build the kiln. "I used to be afraid. Being part of the group gave me confidence to speak to officials," says Dorosera. By year's end the Nyange women were elated with the progress they had made. This year women will complete a roadside rest stop to attract people and move toward their vision of a roofing tile business to overcome crushing poverty.

In March 1000 people gathered to dedicate the Rusumo Health Clinic. Catholic, Muslim, and Adventist leaders united to overcome government resistance and provide the thousands of hours of labor to complete the clinic. When they received the national "Umuganda" award for community service, Rusumo leader Francois Rushagaza said, "This clinic came at the right time. The number of people that come here is incredible. After working with PICO, I understand the importance of skills and helping others in a community and society." This year leaders plan to bring water to the clinic, establish a maternity ward, and build an elementary school.



"This project has changed my life because ignorance is a disease... Now, we are happy and work together. We are able to build houses....people who do not live in the cooperative come to buy tiles from us and they live in better houses too. We have done a lot for this community. It has been great." - Mukamuganga Epiphane

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COFOA: THE PICO PROJECT IN EL SALVADOR

COFOA also celebrates 10 years of work. The people of El Salvador continue to struggle with the legacy of war – violence, extortion, and fear. Political polarization results in continued repression, patronage, and corruption. Many people respond by hiding or fleeing. COFOA leaders are choosing another path - organizing to build a culture and practice where people are determining their own priorities, seeking partnership, and holding officials accountable to the common good.

Violence and environmental degradation are overwhelming issues impacting the daily life of every Salvadoran. While building effective local models for violence prevention and access to safe water, leaders realize they do not yet have the power to make needed national change. COFOA's goal in 2018 is to expand into additional departments and work in collaboration with other faith groups to exercise power and impact presidential elections and secure a national water law.

Thousands of people were resettled by the Salvadoran government on land that was made available after the war. Many never received clear title to their property. COFOA leaders are at the forefront to advance national legislation to make sure that 183 families in Galilee gain legal title to their properties. For the past year, leaders have organized and pressed government officials to formulate and advance the legislation required to untangle this mess. Victory means residents will own property valued at \$1.4 million.

With a vision to develop their ocean beach community as a tourist attraction, COFOA leaders from Puerto Avalos secured a commitment from the mayor of Jiquilisco to secure \$270,000 to complete paving the road between the two towns. "It is important for us today that the mayor has put his signature on this covenant with the community. It signifies the results of all the meetings and work that we have done to hold ourselves and our government accountable," says Fr. Antonio Lopez. Similar victories are being celebrated by leaders in El Llano and nine communities in Usulután. Next year, leaders expect to see the completion of the long promised bridge over Rio Roldán.



"... Organizing has had a very big impact on me.... it has helped me to develop myself socially and personally.... we have achieved many amazing things that we would have never imagined." -Lucila Solano, Santa Teresa, El Salvador

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OPODNE: THE PICO PROJECT IN HAITI

Two hundred years ago, Haitians birthed the spirit of self-determination and self-reliance with the only successful slave revolt in the hemisphere. The country has been under assault ever since. For four years, leaders of OPODNE have worked to destroy a culture of corruption and dependency and re-birth Haiti's promise. When dedicated leaders persevere, they make a huge difference for the common good.

"When Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Marie hit, we did not lose hope. When cholera struck, we helped our neighbors. When government is not there for a big crisis or daily needs, we figure out what we can do for ourselves. As OPODNE leaders, we have stuck together for three years. We are determined to be the change we need," says OPODNE President Jean Mirvil. This year, OPODNE seeded another economic development cooperative, a vegetable farm, in Caracol. OPODNE's goal in 2018 is to seed projects in all 11 communities in the Northeast Department.

For four years, Florice Tyrell and other leaders in Terrier Rouge dreamed about starting a restaurant. Political instability and elections marred by violence in their town prevented leaders from securing needed funds. Without any financial assistance, leaders organized monthly community cleanups. The town, once so inundated by trash and debris that flood channels were blocked, is now clean and a source of pride. This gave them the confidence to open a household goods wholesale cooperative, marketing to small entrepreneurs in the community. Generating profit for the co-op and its members, leaders plan to return to their dream of a restaurant next year.

In Capotille, the peanut co-op on hold for a year because of drought has restarted and now 10 acres have been tilled to plant bananas, expecting their first harvest in 2018. In Mombin Crochu, the World Bank withheld a \$100,000 grant because there was no elected Haitian government. In the interim, they managed a micro-lending project, lending funds to farmers to buy seed and to women selling goods at the public market. In Caracol, 40 leaders started a vegetable co-op. On unused land and with seed capital from OPODNE, they are raising carrots, cabbage, squash and beans. They have a contract to sell their produce to the local school providing a healthy diet and generating income. Each project hopes to expand next year.



"The people of Mombin Crochu feel that OPODNE is already making a difference in their lives. They were discouraged with farming because they could not sell their crops. Now they can," says OPODNE leader Marie Saint-Fleur.

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DONOR APPRECIATION

We are grateful to donors who supported our work in 2017. Every gift of any amount is important to us. Thank you!

Claudia Albano, Sharon Allen, Bill & Colleen Anderson, Jeanne Anderson-West, Dorothy Arata, Manuel & Lydia Arias, Julie Armstrong, Dean Arneson, Kendall & Sonia Baker, Frank & Maggi Baker-Riley, Mervin & Pat Baker, Kevin Ballard SJ, Joe & Jane Barr, Keith Barton, Dorothy Baumann, Frank & Anne Baumann, Henry Baumann, Joan Baumann, John Baumann, Larry & Susie Baumann, Marty & Judy Baumann, Mary Elise Baumann, Michael & Rita Baumann, Robert & Karen Baumann, Peter & Kay Bennett, Hank & Connie Berberian, Bea Bernstine, Rich & Kristi Berryessa, Gene Bianchi, Mark & Carol Bichsel, Edna Bick, Timothy & Elaine Bohan, Pat & Maria Boyd, Jackie Boynton, Bill & Susan Brandt, Johanna & Steve Brekke-Brownell, John & Noreen Brennan, Rosemary Brennan, Sharon Brostrom, James Brown, Sherese-Monique Brown, Whitney Buchmann, Catherine Buege, Gene Burdick, Consuelo Cabugos, Arnold & Daisy Cabugos, Michael Callahan, Morgan Zo Callahan, Stephen Callahan, Robert & Maureen Carlson, Kevin Cassey SJ, Cas & Jackie Castagnola, Steve & Maureen Catton, Dino & Mary Certa, Amy Chance, Dominic Cirincione, Greg & Sandra Cleva, David Clisham, Norm & Barbara Collins, Paul Comiskey, June Marie Conlon, Jim Conlon, Tom Conlon, Ira & Joselyn Coogler, David & Leann Cooke, Jo Corcel, Juanita Cordero, Mercedes Cortes, Kim Crimmins, Bishop John Cummins, Fred & Lisa Dalton, Irma Dalton, Frank & Ludi Damrell, Robert & Margaret Davenport, Bekah Davis, Lydia Davis, Damita Davis-Howard, Jose & Pauline Debasa, Vincent & Mary Decoursey, Maureen Delaney snjm, Rosemary Delaney snjm, Shevlin de la Roza, Christel Detsch, Bill & Ginny Dolan, Natalie Donnell, Joan Doyle snjm, Patti Doyle snjm, Danny & Polly Duncan-Collum, Ann Dykzeul, Mary Eden, Roger & Barbara Edwards, Adam & Alison Farris, Pete Ferraro, Lew Finfer, Paul Fitzgerald SJ, David & Virginia Fleming, Jim & Carol Floyd, Don & Mary Foree, Rob Forrest, Maria Fowler, Glenn & Marilyn Frizzell, Roberta Furger, Barbara Gable, Ray Gagne, Pat Gallagher, John & Tania Gallagher, Bob & Roberta Ganonn, Melissa Gee, Jack & Denise Girardi, David Gleason, Beth Gonzales, Andrew & Ann Gore, Jane & John Gould, Kenneth & Teddy Gray, Kim & David Grose-Moore, Anna Marie Gruba, Dennis & Susan Gruba, Diane Gruba, Ray & Helen Gruba, Steve Gruba, Antonio Guillen, Eric Gut, Ralph & Anne Gut, Kathleen Hamilton, Matt & Michelle Longosz Hammer, Hugh & Joan Hart, Jeanne Haslam, Robert & Judith Haslam, Pastor Steve Herder, Sr. Marina Hernandez, Ray Higgins, Alan & Shirley Holloway, Patti Holmes, Loretta Holstein, Zach & Saskia Hoover, Joseph Hughey, John & Ruthanne Hunt, David & Kathleen Hurty, Hank Imwalle, Jack Izzo SJ, Dan Jackson, Timmie & Rosanne Jaimes, Marilou James, Claudia Jimenez, Jerry Johnson, Michael Johnson, Robert & Dionye Johnston, Fran Jurcso, John & Cathy Kalin, Aileen Dacvinsky, Jim & Gina Keddy, John & Annelly Kelleher, Steve Kelly SJ, Rusty & Anita Varela Kennedy, Charlie & Maureen King, Steve & Estela Klink, Pr. 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Swanson, Heidi Searts, Jack & Karin Taggart, Misi Tagaloo, Janice Taylor, Rudy & Lily Tenes, Terri Thomas, Catherine Trevalle, Bill & Carol Trujillo, Jeff & Cindy Trujillo-Houde, Ray Valerio, Dave & Mary Ann Van Etten, Sarah Van Roo, Angela Velazquez, Jerry Wade SJ, Phillip & Maryrose Wall, Patricia Walsh, Brian & Sharon Wartman, Fred & Jo Ann Wentker, Bob Werner, Tom Weston SJ, Tom & Susie Wenstrup, Pr. Carl & Dianne Wilfrid, Maury & Bonnie Wolohan, Ron Wolsfeld, Wesley Woo, Felicia Yoda, George Yoder, Alia Zaki-Ludwig, Darlene Zane, John & Antonina Zoria, Ansera Foundation, Thousand Oaks Ascension Lutheran, Grass Valley Peace Lutheran, San Francisco St. Mark's Lutheran, Pleasant Hill St. Mark's Lutheran, Sacramento Good Shepherd Lutheran, Thiensville WI Grace Lutheran, Lincoln Grace Lutheran, Homewood IL Evang. Faith Lutheran, Oshkosh Zion Lutheran, Murray Residence Jesuit Community, West Coast Companeros, Presbyterian (USA), Hampshire Zion UMC, Christ the King Catholic Church, Vermont Rotary, St. Mark's Catholic Church, Sisters of the Holy Names, Oakland Community Organizations, Project Salvador, Together Colorado, Raskob Fdn.

Your generosity is changing the world. We are grateful for those who are going the extra mile. Here are some examples.



Matching Gift: Special thanks to John & Susan Sobrato for their general support matching gift that helped us exceed our end of year individual donor campaign fundraising goal.

Donor Circle: The Andersons and their friends formed the Chicago Donor Circle. They provide all the support needed to provide training for the women in Nyange so they can develop the tile-making project.

Event Sponsor: The Masterson, Rice, Baumann, and other families; the congregations at St. Columba and Christ the King Catholic, St. Mark and Imani Community, St. Mark and Peace Lutheran, and other churches hosted receptions or sponsored fundraising events.

Capital Donors: The Taggart Family provided capital funds to help build the "Doc Taggart Health Clinic in Rusumo. Others provided capital funds for the kiln in Nyange and seed capital for the sorghum co-op in Haiti.

Institutional partners: Santa Clara U Engineers without Borders Club designed the clay mixer and tile press for Nyange leaders; the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship interns taught Mumeya leaders to develop a business plan for their farmer's co-op.

Please consider exploring one of these ways of multiplying your investment by inviting others to join you. We are prepared to support you. Our biggest need in 2018 is to build donor support for our work in Central America and Haiti.

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2017 YEAR END IMPACT REPORT

PICO International
Provides Consulting, Fundraising, & Communication



3 International Locations



\$405,000 Raised



37 Communities Served



1300 Leaders Trained



\$11 Million Leveraged

PICO International Projects

★ Rwanda

Funds Donated

\$135,000

Communities Organized
6 Communities



Leaders Trained
100 Leaders



People Activated
5000 People



Funds Leveraged
\$1,320,000

Projects Developed
2 clinics, 3 schools, 4 homes, community center, roofing tile facility, roads & welding school constructed; access to water & electricity; 3 co-ops organized

People Served
120,000

★ El Salvador

Funds Donated

\$50,000

Communities Organized
20 Communities



Leaders Trained
800 Leaders



People Activated
15000 People



Funds Leveraged
\$9,640,000

Projects Developed
Roads, bridges, parks improved; health, job, & police services provided; national water policy proposed; voter education & political participation increased

People Served
328,000

★ Haiti

Funds Donated

\$55,000

Communities Organized
11 Communities



Leaders Trained
400 Leaders



People Activated
2500 People



Funds Leveraged
\$250,000

Projects Developed
Road building, tree planting, clean-ups, youth activities, and teacher training; 5 computer centers; 3 micro lending & 6 economic dev co-ops organized

People Served
394,000



"Together we have worked so hard to build houses for each other...I can see how far we have come... We know each other and through the cooperative we are helping each other..." Beatrice, Nyange, Rwanda



"... As COFOA leader I have felt so happy because now I am able to be in relationship many people ...and in unity we have the power to achieve our goals.—Milgras Gomez, San Marcos Lempa, Usulután, El Salvador



"We did not exist before OPODNE. OPODNE teaches us how to take initiative. We don't have to wait for anyone." – Jean Baptiste Luckney, Mombin Crochu, Haiti

THANK YOU!