

## Shirley Case School to be completed in August



Karen Cleave, left, and Brenda Weber posed with some of the children of Monte Olivo at the school site. Cleave and Weber were part of group of four local residents who volunteered to build the Shirley Case School in Nicaragua.

By [Heather Nelson - 100 Mile House Free Press](#)

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Four local residents, including Karen Cleave, Brenda Weber, Alec and Deb Case, along with seven other Canadians travelled to Nicaragua to volunteer with the building of a school in honour of Shirley Case.

Shirley was tragically killed while doing humanitarian work in Afghanistan in 2008.

Her friend, Jessica Chaikowsky, brainstormed a plan to celebrate and remember Shirley, and teamed up with a Canadian-founded company called SchoolBOX to help build the Shirley Case School.

"Jessica wanted to honour Shirley and all that she had done," says Shirley's mom Deb Case.

"Shirley really believed in what she was doing. She devoted her life to help children break out of poverty through the power of education."



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Deb adds the school will have three classrooms, a multipurpose room and a library.

The building is made out of cement blocks and with no running water or electricity near the construction site, she notes all the water had to be packed in five-gallon buckets with no handles, hauled and delivered by horses.

"There weren't any cement mixers or power tools on the job," says Case who, along with her husband, Alec, recently returned from two weeks of volunteering with the building.

"All the rebar was tied and bent by hand."

The construction continues only through generous donations, Deb says, adding the fundraising still continues with Iian Levy biking across Canada for SchoolBOX, raising awareness and school kits for the children.

There is also a Facebook fundraiser, she notes, where with every time someone clicks on "like" a \$2 donation is made to the school project.

"Throughout our volunteer experience, we had the opportunity to talk with, play and work with the young students who will be attending the school."

She adds they also had the opportunity to work alongside the students' parents and other community members.

"They are all very excited to have a playing field and a new school, and they were all extremely grateful for our involvement in the project."

The building site is located in Monte Olivo, a remote village in northwest Nicaragua. The school will have 118 students when completed, which is slated for August.

For more information, go to [www.schoolbox.ca](http://www.schoolbox.ca), or the Shirley Case School Project Facebook page.