

Please take a few minutes to watch David Adler's short video "[To a World of Respect: *Sí a la Vida*](#)." You can hear directly from many of the boys that *Sí a la Vida* is helping -- boys who originally had little hope for a better, safer, healthier future.



Geovani Gutiérrez, his daughter and Jonathan Roise

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of our 20th anniversary year, I think of Jonathan Roise -- his initiative to found the project, his wonderful skill with the boys, and his hopes and dreams for *Sí a la Vida*. One of those dreams was to be able to more systematically track and aid the *reintegrados* (the boys who are reintegrated back into Nicaraguan society). Jonathan envisioned a seamless transition, where *Sí a la Vida* helps the boys finish their high school diplomas and get technical or professional training, and gives them support as they face the challenges of adulthood.

Currently, only part of this dream is a reality. *Sí a la Vida* works hard to successfully get the boys back into their families or to find some other safe place for them when they leave the project. We offer scholarships for further education and training. Most of the boys have done well. Many have completed computer courses or attended trade schools. One is a university graduate! But unfortunately, we lose track of many of the kids. They move frequently and change or lose their cell phones. They don't always check in with *Sí a la Vida* or attend the monthly *reintegrado* meeting in Managua. Sadly, one boy is in jail, and one was killed on the dangerous streets of Managua. No matter what the future holds for these young men, we want to stay in touch and help them when we can.

I would like to tell you about Geovani Gutiérrez, one of the early graduates from *Sí a la Vida*. Now 34 years old, Geovani lives in San Silvestre, a small community near our center on Ometepe Island. He is no longer the troubled kid he was in 1995 when he arrived at the project. Geovani was dedicated to Jonathan, whom he called “Papa,” and he welcomed the opportunities that *Sí a la Vida* offers. Geovani worked as a *Promotor*, or Mentor, for the boys on Ometepe. With a scholarship from *Sí a la Vida*, he completed a welding program and driving school, earning a diploma and a driver’s license.

For many years he worked as driver for the project, ferrying boys and materials from Managua to Ometepe. He took boys to doctor’s appointments and made shopping excursions for supplies. Every Sunday, he took the boys on a field trip, to the beach or to play soccer. And he also worked as a handyman at the center. His always smiling face was well known to the boys and to the community.

Today, Geovani is an upright family man, and he named his first child after Jonathan Roise. Geovani works as a driver for various companies, using skills gained at *Sí a la Vida*. He credits the project and Jonathan for turning his life around. We are proud of the man he has become.

We would like to stay in contact with all the boys the way we have with Geovani. But, of course, that takes money -- money we don’t have. Juanita Gutiérrez, our General Coordinator, has written a proposal for improving our contact with the *reintegrados*, but it is not funded. We look to you to help us raise funds for that initiative and for ongoing support.

Please consider a donation to help continue the work of *Sí a la Vida*. This vital project does not have the benefit of major grants or corporate funding. Your contribution truly makes a big difference! Please use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.asalv.org.

Rick Allstetter
President of *Amigos de Sí a la Vida*



Here are some of the *reintegrados*, boys, staff and board members at *Sí a la Vida*, Fall 2014. *Reintegrado* Jonathan Pavon, second from right, performs as a clown at events and even on public transportation.