

INVESTOR REPORT

Spring 2016

honey

las tías
ventures
matagalpa, nicaragua



Sweet Success

A Note from Rich Johnson, CEO & Co-founder, Spark Ventures



20 jars of honey
sold at Wine Tasting



4 Impact Trips
scheduled for the first
half of 2017



Our deep involvement in Zambia and Nicaragua has lead to profound impact for the communities we serve, and life-changing connections forged by those who have traveled with us to see our work in action. Recently, I've been very excited about new ways that we are making our work tangible to our community of supporters. Selling honey from our apiaries in Nicaragua at a recent event, we were able to let people *literally* taste the results of our social enterprise work. And in a few short weeks I will be headed off to Nicaragua with our first group on a new kind of Impact Travel - allowing them to take an active role in planting trees on the farm.

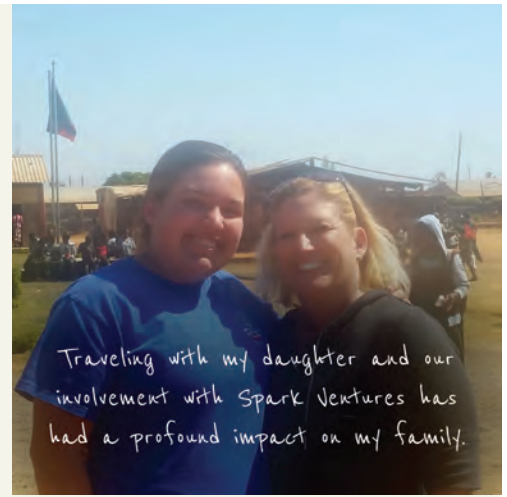
We are excited to expand the number of supporters in our community who have had the opportunity to see our Nicaraguan work first-hand. I hope you will consider joining me on one of these trips - we already have a good number of travel options on the 2017 calendar!



My favorite part of my job is being the first to teach the little ones their alphabet and numbers.



I would love to be remembered as someone who really wanted to bring change in the lives of the most vulnerable in our society.



Traveling with my daughter and our involvement with Spark Ventures has had a profound impact on my family.



I didn't realize how inspired I would be by seeing the power of what women can do when they come together.



I'm proud to watch the children we serve grow into business owners & professionals.



My hopes & dreams are that the children and staff at Hope School will fulfill their potential.

#4allmoms

Mother's Day Campaign Raises Funds for Cacao Tree Planting

A recent Mother's Day campaign featured incredible and inspiring women from the Spark Ventures community. Spark Ventures is transforming the future for 500+ youth through sustainable social enterprise projects and could not have this profound impact if not for the community of mothers who support these efforts. From the incredible female leaders in Zambia & Nicaragua who work tirelessly to provide quality community programming to the kids they serve, to the influential women who have traveled with Spark Ventures and returned as advocates, the Spark Ventures mission is supported by an inspiring group of moms.

Offering the opportunity to purchase a tree in honor of a mothers everywhere and the incredible work they do, through the #4allmoms campaign, Spark Ventures raised funds for the agribusiness in Nicaragua.



Some of the children don't have a maternal figure, so here they receive care that they don't have at home.



Getting to know the dedicated women who do this work, I find it hard not to jump on a plane for a visit any chance I get.



#4allmoms
sparkventures

Impact Travel in 2017

UN Declares 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

Spark Ventures is thrilled with the recognition that responsible and sustainable travel has been receiving in the past few years. As our Impact Travel offerings have evolved and blossomed, so has the international community's respect for travel of this kind. Countless travelers each year are recognizing that the impact of their travel purchases can have a profound impact on our shared global community. This is well illustrated by the UN's recent declaration that 2017 is the "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development."

With a deep, ongoing commitment to the communities we work in, traveling on an Impact Trip with Spark Ventures is a powerful way to support community development and engage directly in social enterprise work. With an ever growing list of trips on the calendar, there is bound to be a travel opportunity right for you and your schedule.

Upcoming Impact Travel

November 9-13, 2016 - Nicaragua - *Women's Young Professionals Trip*

January 22-30, 2017 - Zambia - *Alumni & Friends Trip*

February 8-12, 2017 - Nicaragua - *Executive Trip*

March 15-19, 2017 - Nicaragua - *Young Professionals Trip*

June 10-17, 2017 - Nicaragua - *Sustainable Agriculture, Planting Trip*

For more information on Impact Travel, contact Arnold:
aduijzer@sparkventures.org or 773.293.6710

Come, Fly Away with Spark
sparkventures.org/travel



Meet Matt Freund

Inspired by Spark Ventures

Matt Freund is a founding member of the Associate Board and will attend The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business in the fall. His involvement in Spark Ventures has helped shape the direction he hopes to take his professional career, so we asked Matt to share a bit about what Spark Ventures means to him:

What have you gained from your involvement in the Spark Ventures Associate Board?

Working on the Associate Board has shown me that my individual efforts can have a true global impact. From teaming with a diverse group of passionate individuals to support Spark events to spreading Spark's story through my network to traveling to Nicaragua to see the fruits of what we've supported, working on the Associate Board has been a fulfilling experience that has expanded my worldview and broadened my sense of personal impact.

How has your involvement in Spark Ventures shaped your future professional decisions?

Working with Spark has shown me how providing support to organizations to create sustainable solutions in disadvantaged communities can begin to transform those same communities. My involvement with Spark has inspired me to search for this same sense of impact in my own career, which is why I'm pursuing an MBA with the aim of working in impact investing post-graduation.

What about Spark's model are you most excited about?

I am most passionate about Spark's focus on empowering its partners to enhance the scale and effectiveness of their efforts in their communities in a sustainable manner. This ensures every dollar of support and minute of time given by myself and other Spark supporters is a sustainable investment that will grow beyond our initial contribution.

We wish Matt the best at Booth! If you're interested in learning more about our Associate Board or any other leadership roles, please reach out to Arnold (aduijzer@sparkventures or 773.293.6710).



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