



Acoyapa is located in Chontales department, approx. 2 ½ hrs from Managua.

Learning Center Name	Location	Responsible Contact
91- CENTRO DE APRENDIZAJE ZULEMA DUARTE AMNLAE ACOYAPA CHONTALES Inicio 26/01/07	Acoyapa , Chontales casa de la Mujer Zulema Duarte	Resp. Fátima del Socorro Córdoba Suazo Coordinadora Municipal y Directora de la casa de la Mujer Zulema Duarte Contacto Martha mejía Duarte Tel : 25100941-87163176 Fatima 87163176-84445542-25100941

The site visit to the Casa de la Mujer Zulema Duarte Learning Center (LC) on June 14, 2013 included attending the Graduation Ceremony for 53 students; 17 in Bakery, 18 in Cooking and 18 in Sewing.

Course requirements for graduation include 120 class hours for Bakery and Cooking and 160 class hours for Sewing.



Fatima Cordoba, LC coordinator, arranged with the technical school institution (INATEC) to provide an official certificate to the students so they can apply for work and have a certificate when required.

W/NP has limited resources, yet is able to support the LC's initiatives for new projects, provide in-kind donations of materials and sewing machines as they are available and offer sewing machine repair training. The LC coordinators and students have recognized the ongoing support and are very grateful.



The Zulema Duarte LC works with children, youth, women and men. For the remainder of the year, July to December, the LC will offer different workshops including sex education classes that provide valuable information for the well-being of the citizens of Acoyapa . The Zulema Duarte LC has a network of 200 brigadistas (volunteers) that have monthly workshops to help educate the community about preventing teen pregnancy and domestic abuse.



Carel Jarquin (in photo on left), age 26, a special needs person and sewing student graduate is grateful with Casa de la Mujer Zulema Duarte LC for providing opportunities for women in Acoyapa.

Many women did not have the opportunity to learn some skills when they were girls either due to early pregnancy or their parents did not have enough money to send them to school, so the Zulema Duarte LC is giving them a second opportunity in life.

Carel's family was always supporting her and encouraged her to enroll and participate in the sewing course. She was accepted and attended the course to achieve one of her short term goals, *"...to be independent and try to generate my own income for my personal expenses and help to my family as well. I would like to improve little by little my sewing skills and become a fashion designer."* Carel has graduated from high school and now she would like to go to the University in the city of Juigalpa, 20 minutes from Acoyapa. Carel said, *"Participating in Casa de La Mujer Zulema Duarte LC classes and different activities has improved my life, developed my skills and self- esteem."*



Much like Carel, many ladies have had the opportunity to attend this Learning Center, about 400 ladies per year have been impacted from the town of Acoyapa and rural areas.

Zulema Duarte is one of the LC's that keeps activities all year long and they want little by little to improve their building facilities, with first priorities being the roof and new electrical wiring system.

Please contact wnp@uwsp.edu if you would like to help support the activities at this Learning Center.

Zulema Duarte LC graduation day, waiting for the graduation activity

