



## LA LUMIERE SCHOOL

*Character • Scholarship • Faith*

P.O. BOX 5005 • LAPORTE • INDIANA 46352-5005

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### La Lumiere School's Fifth Annual Service Trip to Nicaragua

**La Porte, Ind. – April 11, 2011** – For many, spring break is an opportunity to travel south for a little sun and fun. For a fifth consecutive year, a group of La Lumiere students chose to head a little further south, to Nicaragua, on a service trip to assist the Fabretto Children's Foundation. The Fabretto Children's Foundation enables impoverished Nicaraguan children and their families to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential through programs promoting education, nutrition, health, and community development. In a country where almost half of the population lives on less than a \$1 a day, and 80% live on less than \$2, Fabretto provides a beacon of light for those in need.

While in Nicaragua, the La Lumiere students focused their efforts on improving the facilities of the school founded and supported by the Fabretto Foundation in the region of Cusmapa. The Cusmapa center provides education and after school activities for 2,200 children. It is common for a Nicaraguan child to receive only one complete meal each day, and it is typically provided by their school. Over the years, La Lumiere students have planted several school gardens to ensure that the Fabretto children receive a balance diet. This year, the students expanded a garden planted by previous La Lumiere visitors. Shubhra Murarka, a junior from La Porte said, "It was great to see the thriving garden planted by our group two years ago and to know that the little patch of dirt we were tilling would one day provide food for the Fabretto students."




In addition to clearing land and planting a garden, the La Lumiere students started the construction of a new classroom building. Due to the remote location of the school and the total lack of modern tools or equipment, the construction proved to be very difficult. Building supplies, such as bricks and mortar, had to be hauled up the hill by hand. "There was not a power tool in sight – if we had access to the tools found in a typical garage in the US we could have constructed three classrooms in the time it took to frame one," commented Conor Luck of La Porte, a second year veteran volunteer.






At the end of a long day of hard labor, the La Lumiere students were surprised to find that they had energy left to entertain the Fabretto school children. In fact, many students feel that the time they spent playing with the Nicaraguan children created their most treasured memories. The La Lumiere students delivered sports equipment and arts and craft supplies donated by the La

Lumiere community to the children. Jessica Ann Murray, a senior from Michigan City, was moved by the children who had so little, “It was amazing to see how grateful the children were for such simple gifts.”

The La Lumiere student body currently funds scholarships for three students at Fabretto. The volunteers had an opportunity to meet the scholarship students and walked away feeling pleased with what their donation provided, but are determined to do more. La Lumiere plans to continue the partnership with the Fabretto Children’s Foundation by raising funds for scholarships and continuing its annual service trip to the region.

The following students traveled to Nicaragua; Jessica Ann Murray, Michigan City; Rebecca Kilcoyne, La Porte; Daisy Costello, Chesterton; Allie Sarwark, Burr Ridge, IL; Shubhra Murarka, La Porte; Anulé (Joy) Ndukwu, Chesterton; McKenna Sklut, Chesterton; Patrick Kennedy (faculty); Evan Schrauben, Canton, MI; Jin-uk (Tim) Heo, Korea; Jonathon Miltenberger, Michigan City; Conor Luck, La Porte; John Lake, La Porte; Jim Caplice, Michigan City; and Katie Huss (faculty).

Picture	No.	Details
	1	Rebecca Kilcoyne, La Porte; Daisy Costello, Chesterton; McKenna Sklut, Chesterton
	2	Pat Kennedy (faculty)
	3	Shubhra Murarka, La Porte

		4	Allie Sarwark, Burr Ridge, IL
		5	Evan Schrauben, Canton, MI
		6	Anulé (Joy) Ndukwu, Chesterton in the foreground and Shubhra Murarka, La Porte
		7	Jim Caplice, Michigan City
		8	Jessica Ann Murray, Michigan City; Rebecca Kilcoyne, La Porte; Daisy Costello, Chesterton; Allie Sarwark, Burr Ridge, IL; Shubhra Murarka, La Porte; Anulé (Joy) Ndukwu, Chesterton; McKenna Sklut, Chesterton; Patrick Kennedy (faculty); Evan Schrauben, Canton, MI; Jin-uk (Tim) Heo, Korea; Jonathon Miltenberger, Michigan City; Conor Luck, La Porte; John Lake, La Porte; Jim Caplice, Michigan City; and Katie Huss (faculty).

## **About La Lumiere School**

La Lumiere School is a co-educational, independent boarding and day secondary school providing a college-preparatory education based in character, scholarship and faith. Our rigorous education, personal relationships, and focus on values create a rich learning environment for students. They are known by faculty, staff and other students from all grades. This familiarity enables our students to make lasting connections, engage in academics, participate socially and

define their path. Founded in the Catholic tradition in 1963, the student body consists of over 200 students from a rich diversity of backgrounds. It is situated on a beautiful rural estate, 25 miles west of South Bend, 60 miles east of Chicago, and 8 miles from both La Porte and New Buffalo. La Lumiere School is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA).

More information about La Lumiere School can be found at [www.lalumiere.org](http://www.lalumiere.org)

Contact: Susan Sullivan Yemc  
Development Associate  
219-326-7450. ext. 218  
[syemc@lalumiere.org](mailto:syemc@lalumiere.org)