

In Nicaragua for a week in July 2017...

- A group of students from four different osteopathic medical schools and I served the farming villages of Chacreseca, Nicaragua.
- Inspired by their strength and graciousness, I tried to capture their stories in a story of my own.
- *Leaving to Return* is about how serving the world softens us. By discovering ourselves in people from every walk of life, we return to a purer humanity – one more capable of healing and love.

Leaving to Return

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Some snapshots...

- *As our clinic days unfolded in different districts of Chacreseca, Nicaragua, the profound poverty did not become a highlight of our trip, but rather a shadow behind the people's resilience.*
- *After an elderly man was diagnosed with parasites, I humbly accepted his belief that he couldn't pass the worm until the next full moon as he slipped his Albendazole tablet into his wallet.*
- *While a young girl's mother received a pap smear, I entertained her with math problems and patty-cake. She tugged at my braid and then grabbed her own to which I smiled, Somos lo mismo – We are the same.*