



*I love that the Fellowship provides support for Fellows to facilitate concrete positive change in communities that matter to us. Especially in this pivotal time after graduation, I hope to grow and learn for a better tomorrow.*

# Simone Cavanaugh

*McGill University*

*Families of children with disabilities, Rural Nicaragua*

In an effort to dispel myths about disability and focus on capacities, to enhance understanding of the local legal and human rights framework, and to introduce and provide opportunities to practice concrete advocacy skills, I plan to conduct a series of advocacy workshops with families of children with disabilities in rural Nicaraguan communities. Families who participate in these workshops will then be equipped to facilitate them in their own communities.

I have worked with children with disabilities in Nicaragua for five years through an organization I founded: Pivot International. My own lived experience as a woman with a disability and working in disability advocacy in Canada prompted me to help children in Nicaragua to reach their full potential and help families access the information and support to enable their kids' positive development.

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