



### **James Shepard-Kegl**

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James Shepard-Kegl is a co-director of Nicaraguan Sign Language Projects, Inc., a non-profit organization that conducts Deaf empowerment projects in Nicaragua, fosters the spread of Nicaragua's indigenous signed language and trains Deaf Nicaraguans to become teachers and sign language role models. James lived in Bluefields, Nicaragua more or less from 1995-2003 and was instrumental in establishing the first Deaf school for children in that part of the country. Since 1999, Nicaraguan Sign Language Projects has also been active assisting Deaf school programs in Condega, Nicaragua.

James works professionally as a pilot for the New England Federal Express feeder. In his spare time, he is developing a Nicaraguan Sign Language grammar manual. James and his wife Judy Shepard-Kegl, who teaches sign language linguistics at the University of Southern Maine, have been friends of Valerie Sutton since forever.