25th Anniversary Events

**April 10 to May 10 Earthathon 2009** - For you, for Nicaragua, for the Earth! New Haven/Leon Sister City Project invites you to join Earthathon! Take action to help build a sustainable future locally and globally. The event will raise funds to support small development projects in rural Nicaragua by getting individuals and groups to collect pledges for their green activities. For more information, a calendar of events, or to download a pledge form/brochure go to www.newhavenleon.org.

**May 3rd Sunday 3-5 p.m. *House Party*** Join us for a potluck and socializing. Cheryl Doss, an international economist with a specialty in women's issues, will speak on development issues in Africa and Nicaragua @ 4pm. Home of board member Susan Bennett, 1 Killam's Point, Branford. Too early for swimming but not too early to enjoy the beautiful Short Beach area and friendly company. *RSVP yes only*. Patty: 562-1607 or pnuelsen@newhavenleon.org. Rain or shine.

**May 30th Saturday 1-4 p.m. *Critical Literacy Workshop with Ira Shor*** Much of what we learn about the world in the US - whether from schools, newspapers, television, etc. - is often distorted, heavily favoring certain perspectives and leaving out many less powerful voices. Using the tools of critical literacy, we will unpack what we've learned and explore perspectives that may have been left out. First in a three part series. Ira Shor, an English professor at Staten Island College, City University of New York, worked with Paulo Freire, and has been teaching and writing about education for fifteen years. To register or for questions contact Chris at nh@newhavenleon.org.

“Critical literacy challenges the status quo in an effort to discover alternative paths for self and social development. This kind of literacy--words rethinking worlds, self dissenting in society--connects the political and the personal, the public and the private, the global and the local, the economic and the pedagogical, for rethinking our lives and for promoting justice in place of inequity.” —Ira Shor

**July 19th Sunday 1-4 p.m. *Picnic/Potluck*** Come celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NH/LSCP and the 30th anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution. The triumph of the people of Nicaragua and democracy over the 40 year dictatorship of the Somoza family. Live music and a speaker. Help us make it green: bring your own utensils, plate, cup, and napkin. At the home of Allie Perry and Charlie Pillsbury, 247 ST Ronan Street, New Haven. *RSVP yes only*. Patty: pnuelsen@newhavenleon.org or 203-562-1607. Rain or Shine.

Additional house parties and events will be scheduled in the Summer and Fall. Please note: Times subject to change.
“Washing one’s hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral.”

Paulo Freire

Dear Friends,

For over 25 years, the New Haven León Sister City Project has been working with different communities in and around León, Nicaragua. After 25 years of effort, delegations, projects, and protests, most people in Nicaragua are still struggling. Many mothers work without stretch to feed their children; fathers need to work extremely demanding jobs - often in other Central American countries - to make ends meet; many rural children only make it to the 3rd grade. Clearly, the scale of the problem - rooted in powerful economic and political forces - is larger than all the commitment and generosity our small community of Nicaraguans and US citizens has been able to summon to date.

Yet, along with many Nicaraguans, we continue - with your involvement - to side with the Nicaraguan people and their struggle for basic economic and political rights. We are working to expand our education program offering children and adults in Goyena - the rural community outside León where we’re focusing our efforts - opportunities to learn in creative ways. We will continue to support community development projects that address housing, water, and school needs. Many in the US are being invited into a long-term relationships with people in Nicaragua through delegations and internships, and we are looking to increase the number of people active in the US in a campaign to support sugar cane workers from León and Chinandega who have organized to demand better working conditions.

We are also expanding activities in Connecticut to involve more people in the Project, including a brand new Earthathon! (see Calendar on facing page) and a series of talks this year on critical literacy and popular education.

As you may know, Sydney Frey has moved on to grad school and is living in Managua. We have hired Erendira Vanegas from León to take over from Sydney and coordinate the delegations in Nicaragua. We also hired Cristina Cantú to help with the development and outreach work here in New Haven.

Twenty five years ago a small group of New Haveners organized the NHLSCP not to solve Nicaragua’s huge challenges, but because they wanted to be part of the movement of Nicaraguans who were working for a better world. We continue to be faithful to that commitment today and, in the face of larger challenges, find concrete and creative ways to improve people’s lives.

Below are highlights from 2008. Thank you for continuing with us on this journey and for continuing to take sides!

Sincerely,

Joy Gordon
Co-President

Roy Money
Co-President
Program Highlights for 2008

The primary work of the NH/LSCP in León, Nicaragua is to support programs and projects that supplement the efforts of the formal education system in the community of Goyena. This includes:

Preschool The program serves 32 children, and offers in-home support to struggling families and children, capacity-building efforts for the local teachers, nutritional assistance for the students, and support for the school infrastructure.

After-school Program Facilitation of an 84 student after-school program for first, second, and third graders, with emphasis on small-group work and attention to those with learning difficulties.

Youth Leadership Support of a youth leadership committee and of the group’s educational workshops and recreational activities. Activities include sports and dance instruction.

Continuing Education Offer trainings to parents and teachers in rights of children, indigenous culture, parenting skills, and confronting domestic violence. We also provide support for local facilitators of adult literacy groups.

In 2008, we also:

- Raised funds to support bringing a pilot secondary school to Goyena, and backed community efforts to pressure Ministry of Education to open a school in Goyena in February 2009. The school is now serving 87 students.

- Constructed a water tower (see photo on facing page) to provide clean water to the school and clinic with financial support from South Church in Middletown, and labor provided by the community and a delegation from the Hopkins School.

- Organized a “Toxic Sugar” letter/postcard writing campaign to pressure the World Bank and Nicaragua Sugar Estates (NSEL) to address concerns of sugar cane workers (ASOCHIVIDA) suffering from chronic renal insufficiency (CRI). The communities are working with the Center for International Environmental Law and are now negotiating with NSEL for the first time. Over 1,000 workers have died from CRI.

- Offered a workshop on Nicaragua and “U.S. Policy and the Roots of Migration,” at Quinnipiac University with Gloria Alba Andino Lopez. The October event was organized by Sandy Torres (a QU student volunteer). Lopez, who was on a speaking tour of New England with Witness for Peace, spoke of her own community and the struggles of people there. Lopez comes from a farming family in Esteli, Nicaragua, and heads a small farmer’s association there.
2008 Delegates and Interns

The NH/LSCP has been organizing delegations to Nicaragua since its founding in 1984, and has sent over 1,000 delegates inviting them to think critically and creatively when making connections between their own lives and the lives of Nicaraguans. Peace & Justice Interns are of college age or older and have relevant skills/experience and the desire to gain an understanding of Nicaraguan struggles for social justice within a broader historical/economic context.

**PIER Teachers Delegation**

Elena Serapiglia
Barbara Connolly
Beth Therien
Heather Bellubuono
Kim Brown
Leslie Abbatello
Maria Valentín
Rachel Sexton

"I spent many of my days in the pre-school and first grade classrooms, working with young students who are deprived of fundamental necessities for living a complete and healthy life. Despite the children's dire circumstances, their faces radiated hope, and they always wore big, charming smiles…..Volunteers frequently visit countries like Nicaragua, but the trips are fleeting and only stay a short time. I want to continue to work with the community of Goyena, to help begin sustainable projects that the community can carry out over the years, I am arranging to lead a delegation to Nicaragua in December 2009."

Zoe Black
Hopkins Delegate 2005, Intern 2008

**First Congregational Church Middletown**

Kathy Novak
Dan Novak
Corrie Novak
Jennifer Bowers

**Hopkins Delegation**

Silas Meredith
Susan Bennett
Nicholas Andreassi
Beatrix Bennett
Coral Bennett
Eric Coffin-Gould
Frances DeCamilli
Matthew Joseph
Connor Martin
Kelsey Martin
Anna Milne
Greg Monahan
Lauren Ruotolo
Emma Scymanski

**Yale ReachOut**

Chhitij Bashyal
Christine Saffold
Jessica Johnson
Keily Miller
Alexis Blissett
Markus Jackson
Naomi Bland
Rebecca Cooper
Tiffany Mason

**Fairfield University**

Alex Caram
Kristin Villanueva
Ericka Rojas
Amenda Legros
Alex Erhardt
Aytza Pacheco
Janine Martire
Laura Sabia
Astrid Krogstad
Steven Bachelor
Dina Franceschi
Alejandro Martinez

**Peace and Justice Interns**

Rebecca Markovitz
Zoe Black

**NHLSCP Board and Staff**

Susan Bramhall
Joy Gordon
Chris Schweitzer
¡GRACIAS POR LOS PRIMEROS 25 AÑOS! Gracias a ustedes, amigos nuestros, continuamos nuestra obra. Ustedes han aportado de tantas maneras: trabajo voluntario, viajes a León, asistencia a eventos, palabras alentadoras, servicio en nuestro consejo administrativo, así como ofreciendo sus hogares para eventos y hospedaje. También han sido generosos y firmes en su apoyo monetario. Han logrado que estos 25 años sean posibles. Gracias a ustedes y a nuestros amigos Nicaragüenses, hemos podido forjar esta relación basada en el respeto y la dignidad. Es esta relación que da espíritu a nuestro trabajo, sea que los proyectos tengan éxito o no. Afortunadamente, muchos de estos proyectos son exitosos. Los invitamos a que nos sigan acompañando por los 25 años que siguen y más.

THANK YOU FOR THE FIRST 25 YEARS! Thanks to you, our friends, we keep the work going. You give in so many ways: volunteer work, travel to León, attendance at events, encouraging words, service on our board, as well as offering your homes for gatherings and hospitality. You also are generous and steadfast in your financial support. You have made these 25 years possible. Thanks to you and our Nicaraguan friends and staff, we have been able to make visible a relationship that is respectful, dignified and mutual. It is this relationship that gives soul to our work, whether individual projects succeed or fail. Happily many do succeed. We invite you to accompany us and the people of León for 25 more years and beyond. Adelante!

Donors in 2008

Ginger Chapman and
David Thompson
Cathy Chapman & Victor Polk
Olive Chupka
South Congregational Church
Joseph Cirasulu
Katrina Clark
Shannon Clarkson
The House of Grace Catholic Worker
Frank Cochran
Paul Cochran
Elena & Patrick Coffey
Doug Coffin & Kathy Gould
Mary Colwell
Sally Connolly & Semeon Tsaltbins
Barbara Connolly
Kate Cook
Jenn & Andrew Cook
Judy & Rob Cope
Laura Cryan
Jerome Czech
Pietro Decamillli & Claudia Buzzi
Wendy Delucxa
Fran Dennis
Eleanor & Miriam Devine
David Dickson & Susan Hill
Paula Diehl
Joe & Lilian Dimow
Loretta Dipietro
Frances Dittes
Victoria Dodd
Mildred & Jay Doody
Cheryl Doss & Doug Gollin
Patricia Drax
Rob Dubrow & Melinda Tuhus
David Duffner
Sean Duffy
Lucy Duffy
Maribeth & Frank Dulfer
Bill Dyson
Deb Elkin
Sherrill & John Ellis
Alice Ellner
Elliot & Emma Ephraim
Kai & Joanna Erikson
Gloria Esteus
Bob & Alice Evans
Robert & Lucille Evans
Edith Fairgrieve

Evelyn Farbman
Jim Farnam
Kathleen Farrell
Catherine & John Forrest
Joan Forsberg
Teresa Freeman
Rebecca Friedkin
Elizabeth Gardner
Bob Gelbach & Kathy Davis
Liz Gersten
Thomas & Geraldine Gaimo
Tish Gibbs & Bill Collins
Frances Giffin
Gary Ginsberg & Elaine Shapiro
Kitty & Richard Gladstone
Jeremiah Goldstein
Joy Gordon
William Graustein
Paul Bloom & Millie Grenough
Jermaine Griffin
Nora Groce-Kaplan
Frances Grodzinsky
Ioanna & Diniti Gutas
M.T. Hallaran
Hildegarde Hannum
Richard & Lonna Harkrader
John & Dorothy Herzog
Anne Higgins
Lesley & John Higgins-Biddle
Barbara Hobbs
Rob Hoffnung
Susan Holahan
Carrie Holman
Robert & Carla Horwitz
Houghton Mifflin Publishers
Mary & Arthur Hunt
Lucile Hutchinson
Charrisse Hutton
Karl Insogna
Cathy Jackson
James Johnson
Lynn Johnson
Mary Johnson
Gill Joseph & Patricia Pessar
Sally Joughin
Merrily Kaplan
Jonathan Katz
Lucy Katz
Eunice Kaymen

Linda & Drew Keyes
Edna Kliger
Ruth Kliger
Neil & Pat Kluepfe
Anne Somsel & Stephen Kobasa
Carolyn Kovel
Stephen & Kathryn Kraffmiller
Henry Kraybill
Tony Labruzza
Jane Hindenlang & Joel Lachance
Ladies Home Mission Society
Maxine Lampert
Rick Goodwin & Rachel Lampert
Susan & Richard Landon
Jeffy Larson
Kate & Arthur Latimer
Molly Le Van
Hannah Leckman
John Leinenweber
David Cross & Nancy Lesh
James Leslie & Julia Urunaga
Woody Levin
Lowell Levin
Robiin/Barbara Levine-Ritterman
Peg Lewis
NicoLicata
William Scott Long
Adriane Lonzarich
Henry Lowendorf & Susan Klein
Sam MacDowell
Michael Baron & Ruth J. Macgraw
Sherman Malone
Al Marder
Patricia Markiewicz
Virginia Maurer
Jane Mayfield
Pete & Alicia McKinnis
Letitia McPhedran
Kathleen McGtigue
Silas Meredith
Meredith-Watson Family
Sylvia Metzler
Ron & Cathie Miller
Mary Lesser & Roy Money
Maria Moniello
William Morico
Chuck Shepard & Derry Moritz
Carol Amico & Scott Morrow
Al Mueller
Donors continued...
Bonnie Muller
Judith & Charles Naden
Sam & Lola Nash
Kenneth & Barbara Neuberger
Liz Neuse & Francis Braunlich
David Newton
Trish Niece
John & Sherry Nieman
Kathryn & Dan Novak
Patricia L. Nuelsen
Luisa & Joe Odell
United Church on The Green
Charissa Pacella
Genoveva Palmieri
Frank & Paula Panzarella
Madeline Parker
Robert Parker & David Carter
Elizabeth Patton
John & Linda Pawelek
Art Perlo & Joelle Fishman
Allie Perry & Charles Pillsbury
Susan Pfeil
Leon Plantinga
Norine Polio
Robert A. Pollard
Martha Porter
Walter Scott & Nancy Power
Liz Prete
Nathan Price
Bennett Pudlin &
Margaret Judd
Jennifer Pugh
Jaime Ramos
Betsey Reid
Joan Reilly
Carolyn Robinson
Sue & Steve Rosen
Beth Rosen &
John Buell
Beth Roth
Peter A. Rubins
Nina & John Ruckes
Amy Ruhlman
Eric Melit & Tina Santoni
Anne Scheffler
Anne F. Schenck
John & Karen Schneider
Peter & Ursula Schultheiss
Richard Schulz
Arleen Schwartz
Paul Schweitzer
Dan Schweitzer
James & Jane Schweitzer
Mark Scott
Elena Serapiglia
Dr. Ann Serow
Derek's Electric Service
Maria Sestito
Gary Sevitsky
Rachel Sexton &
Leslie Abbatiello
Shalom U.C.C.
Michael Sheehan &
Denise Saldaña
Jean Silk
Ruth Silver
Judy Silverman
Toni Smith
Gaddis & Barclay Smith
Richard & Kerala Smith
Olivia Snyder-Spaker
Michael Soares
Humbert Polito &
Barbara Sorrentino
Gary & Janet Spinner
Peter Standish
Evan Stark & Ann Fitcraft
Carlos Tellaria &
Janet Stearns
Alec & Jane Stevens
Glenn & Amy Stevens
Lee & Peter Stolzeman
John Sudol
Diana Swett
Patricia Helm &
Richard Taylor
Beth Therien
Paul Thomas &
Elsa Calderone
John & Nancy Thursby
Sei Tokuda
Victoria Traube
Jennifer & Eric Trucksess
Jeffrey Trucksess
Jim & Susan Trucksess
Maria Tupper
Claudia Vestal
Barbara Warell
Karen Bonine &
Richard Weiner
Irm & Morris Wessel
Rob & Sally Cole Whiffen
Joan Whitney
Cynthia Willauer
Lisa Kalner &
Randolph Williams
Elizabeth & Mike Wills
Karen A. Wisniewski &
Robert Boucher
Tim & Susan Yolen
David Young

NHLSCP Financial Statements FY 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>95,435</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred support and liabilities</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>54,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Restricted</td>
<td>40,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Fund</td>
<td>8,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>94,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Equity</td>
<td>95,435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and Revenue</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$127,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Revenue</td>
<td>$74,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$1,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In kind Services</td>
<td>$6,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$209,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$164,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>$25,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$18,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$208,074</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Income (Loss)   | $1,821 |

Support and Revenue: 2008

- Contributions: $127,760
- Service Revenue: $74,144
- Investment Income: $1,071
- In kind Services: $6,920
- Total: $209,895

Expenses: 2008

- Fundraising: $18,130
- Supporting Services: $25,808
- Total: $208,074

Net Income: $1,821
New Haven/León Sister City Project

**Board of Directors**

Allie Perry  
Susan Bennitt  
Ray Pagliaro  
Jermain Griffin  
Roy Money, Co-President  
Virginia Chapman  
Susan Bramhall, Treasurer  
Mike Soares  
Joy Gordon, Co-President  
Henry Lowendorf  
Susan Power Truckseas

**León Staff**

Maria Antonieta Chevez, Administrative Coordinator  
Ivett Fonseca, Education Coordinator  
Erendira Venegas, Delegation Coordinator  
Rene Venegas, General Coordinator

**New Haven Staff**

Cristina Cantú, Development Assistant  
Patty Nuelsen, Director of Development  
Chris Schweitzer, Program Director

The New Haven/León Sister City Project is a 25 year old progressive, bi-national, grassroots organization that fosters a partnership between the communities of New Haven and León, Nicaragua. Our mission is to promote social justice. Our work is focused in the rural community of Goyena outside León.