New Haven/León Sister City Project
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NEW HAVEN/LEÓN
Sister City Project
Annual Report

Save the Date!
Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the NH/LSCP
AN EVENING OF STORIES/Un Noche de Cuentos
Saturday, October 18, 2014 4-7 pm

New Truck Needed!
Support 30th Anniversary effort to replace our school bus, supply truck, teacher taxi, ambulance, tour van, etc, etc... No donation too big. Thank you!

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NH/LSCP supports education and sustainable development in Nicaragua and New Haven.

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2013
When the school year began in February, teachers and students in Goyena found a wonderful addition to the primary school. Not a new building, not even a new room added, but something wonderful, nonetheless. Part of a classroom had been turned into a library. So what’s the big deal?

There has never been a library in Goyena, a village of 200 families. Books in homes are all but nonexistent. For years the need for a library has been recognized and talked about. Delegations and individuals have donated Spanish language books. Staff in New Haven have amassed nearly-new reference books, in mint condition and beautifully illustrated. Four years of Spanish language National Geographics donated by a local friend of the Project have regularly made it to Leon along with the books. All these resources have been kept safe in storage. Respected, valued but unused. There had been no place to gather them for use by the community. So what happened?

Years of advocating at the Ministry of Education (MINED) by the community and our Leon staff have borne fruit. MINED saw our efforts and persistence. In due time, their response has been to provide the space and a full time qualified librarian. In addition to the books, the NH/LSCP has provided the bookshelves and computers. Collaboration, patience and perseverance, frequently undervalued virtues, have won the day. Goyena now has a valuable community resource... parents, children, secondary school students all benefit from the library.

And you fit into this picture, too, with your generous financial gifts. Your belief in our mission for 30 years has supported our programs, staff, the Leon vehicle, computers, telephones, internet service and all that it takes to maintain a bi-national organization. The NH/LSCP would not exist without you. You are part of our present and our past. We are confident you will move with us into the future. Many thanks. Patty Nuelsen

**NH/LSCP Financial Statements FY 2013**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Current Assets</strong></th>
<th><strong>142,315</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Equity</strong></td>
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**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**

**Support and Revenue**

- Contributions: 124,850
- Net Service Revenue: 24,013
- Investment Income: 849

**Total** | **149,712**

**Expense**

- Program: 121,153
- Supporting Services: 7,639
- Fundraising: 14,440

**Total** | **143,232**

**Net Income** | **6,480**

*Does not include In-Kind Services* $ 6,831
Donors in 2013

Foundations & Grants
Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
Mayor’s Community Arts Grant
New England Biolabs Foundation
Trico Foundation
Peace and Justice Fund
New Haven Community Foundation

Contributors
Anonymous (179)

Rev. Harry & Manette Adams
Jean-Christophe Anew
Shelby Atmam & Susan Bramhall
Bo Appicelli
Kimball Carwight & Shelli Baldwin
Regina Barbara
Louis Barsiyi
Oliver Barton
Wendy Battles
Linda Baugh
Betty Bazin
Victoria Comins
Paula Diehl
Anthony Bialecki & Marjorie Davi
Judy & Rob Cope
Sally Connolly
Jill Cohen
Frank Cochran
Mary & Arthur Hunt
John Watson & Susan Meredith

Take care.

**Chief Seattle**

Dear Friends,

This year marks 30 years that a community of people both from New Haven and Nicaragua have been working to create a better world. There seems - from my six-year perspective - to be a good deal of constancy and commitment that has helped keep the NHLSCP active and engaged over the decades.

The times are different now but we continue to look at both the personal and systemic roots of injustice and invite participants to go deeper in this ongoing effort. We continue to look at the realities - both here and in Nicaragua - and try to develop projects that help us all move ahead.

In the 1980’s, many were appalled by a U.S. policy toward Central America that supported death squads, displacement, military dictatorships and was hostile to any government that tried to create a balance between the needs of the people and foreign interests. The constant human rights violations and having a clear goal, cutting the aid to repressive governments, helped mobilized many.

The present forces hurting Central America - unfair trade policies, capitalism, climate change, political and military threats - are more hidden and opaque. The solutions are long term including the very urgent need to create an economy that is more centered on human needs and respects long term environmental well-being.

One NHLSCP effort to confront these systemic challenges is our growing Women and Gender Program, which is training women to train other women, creating a network of reflection/support groups, and mobilizing women to demand policy change. Another growing social justice effort is the creation of a range of greenhouse gas cutting and public climate change education efforts. These include the WalkBikeTransit campaign which uses public art and advocacy; the New Haven Healthy City Healthy Climate campaign organized with five other local organizations; and the Nicaragua Carbon Offset Fund which invites us to take responsibility for our greenhouse gas pollution.

Of course, we continue the rural education programs, community-based theater, delegations, internships, and leadership development we’ve been doing. And we continue to welcome people in.

Hopefully you can join us too, especially as we celebrate 30 years of great solidarity work!

Take care.

**Chief Seattle**

Recently trained trainers gather at end of workshop that they lead on Forum theater.
Air Pollution, Cook Stoves and Climate Change.
The same solution to climate change - burning less fossil fuel - is also great for lessening respiratory disease. In Goyena, like much of the world, people cook with inefficient open wood burning fires which cause significant family health problems. The new Nicaraguan Carbon Offset Fund invites people in the U.S. to offset their excess greenhouse gas pollution by donating to the Fund which invests in clean cook stoves - cutting back on unhealthy smoke and climate changing pollution. Two sister efforts - the WalkBikeTransit campaign and the New Haven Healthy City/Healthy Climate Challenge in New Haven - likewise invite people to take steps towards more healthy lifestyles and less greenhouse gas emissions.

Challenges and Responses
Moving Ahead

Forum Theater and Building Leaders.
The Theater Project has continued to thrive, introducing more and more people to this type of interactive theater. Also, the first set of trainees are now offering trainings, including with immigrant groups, youth, and those dealing with mental illness. We are also looking at using theater as part of delegations to help build group communication and analyze social justice issues.

Water and CKD.
Chronic kidney disease continues to be a deadly challenge and significant energy is going into finding the cause. But scientists suggest that drinking more water is a good preventative step. But there are some concerns about bacteria in the local water supply. So NHLSCP is exploring ways to educate people about the bacteria, offer simple options (like putting water in a clear plastic soda bottle in the sun for six hours kills the bacteria) to get clean water, and possibly improving the water system at the school.

Women and Gender
Violence against women and girls continues to be a very serious challenge in Nicaragua with many trapped in abusive situations. Poverty only exacerbates the dynamic and often limits options. Also, many of the leaders in the community are women. So the Women’s Program has the dual effect of both confronting the repressive culture and systems, and also giving women leadership skills that help in many other areas of community life. Presently, two leaders are attending a series of training in Managua. They will bring back skills learned to train others in the...