

New Haven/León Sister City Project
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NEW HAVEN/LEÓN

Sister City Project

Annual Report

NEW HAVEN
LEÓN
 SISTER CITY PROJECT
NH/LSCP supports education and sustainable development in Nicaragua and New Haven.



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 HAVEN/LEÓN SISTER CITY PROJECT
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1984-2014
 A CELEBRATION OF HOPE AND SOLIDARITY

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!



NEW HAVEN LEÓN
 Sister City Project
 Annual Report
 2013

SISTERS

New Haven, Connecticut / León, Nicaragua Since 1984

New Haven/ León Sister City Project is a bi-national organization promoting social justice, education and sustainable development in the New Haven and Leon communities.



Board of Directors

Susan Bramhall, Treasurer
 Virginia Chapman, Co-President
 Ray Pagliaro, Co-President
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 Hillary Hildane
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 Roy Money, Susan Power Trucksess
 Mike Soares, William Vasquez

León Staff

Luis Chavarria
 Finance/Sustainability
 Ivett Fonseca
 Education Coordinator
 Erendira Venegas
 Delegation Coordinator

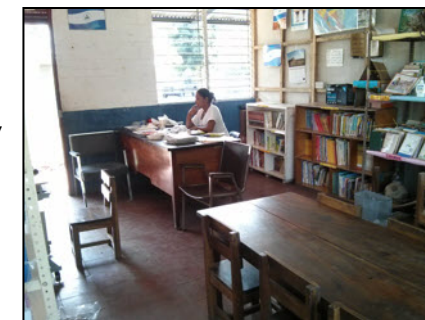
New Haven Staff

Megan Fountain
 Development Associate
 Patty Nuelsen
 Director of Development
 Chris Schweitzer
 Program Director

Photo: Preschool graduation in Goyena 2013

MANY THANKS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF SUPPORT 1984-2014

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 non-existent. 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

NHLSCP Financial Statements FY 2013

Current Assets

Cash and Other Current Assets **142,315**

Liabilities and Equity

Total Deferred Support 12,546
 Total Liabilities 12,546

Equity

Total Net Assets 101,445
 Unrestricted Net Assets 21,845
 Net Income 6,479
 Total Equity 129,769
Total Liabilities and Equity 142,315

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Support and Revenue

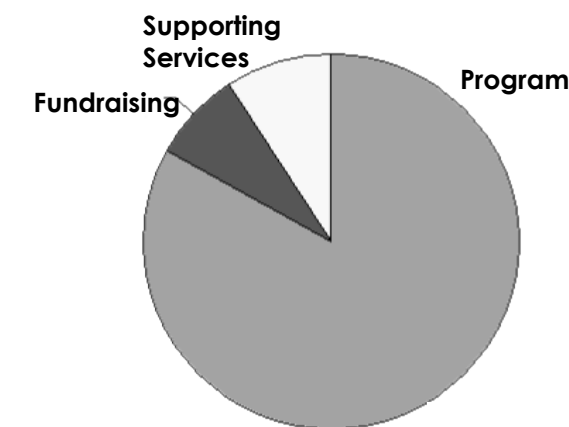
Contributions 124,850
 Net Service Revenue 24,013
 Investment Income 849
Total 149,712*

Expense

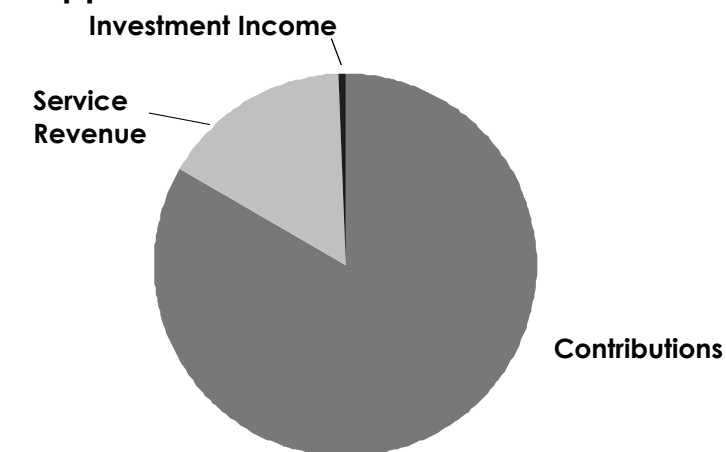
Program 121,153
 Supporting Services 7,639
 Fundraising 14,440
Total 143,232
 Net Income **6,480**

* Does not include In-Kind Services \$ 6,831

Expenses 2013



Support and Revenue 2013



Donors in 2013

Foundations & Grants

Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
Mayor's Community Arts Grant
New England Biolabs Foundation
Patagonia
Peace and Justice Fund
Phoebe Foundation
Trico Foundation
Valley Community Foundation

Contributors

Anonymous (3)
Rev. Harry & Manette Adams
Jean-Christophe Agnew
Shelly Altman & Susan Bramhall
Bob Appicelli
Kimball Cartwright & Sherill Baldwin
Regina Barbarasi
Louis Barsky
Oliver Barton
Wendy Battles
Linda Baugh
Betty Bazin
Chris Bell
Carolyn and David Belt
Julia Berger
Bob & Evelyn Bergstrom
Bill Bloss
Eric & Lou Ann Bohman
Taffy & Jay Bowes
Pamela Bramhall
Tom & Mary Breen
Don Wunderlee & Janet Brodie
Lois Bromson
George & Josephine Buchanan
Maz Burbank
Lucile Burgo-Black
Trudy & Ron Buxenbaum
Pietro Decamilli & Claudia Buzzi
Dorreen Labby & Bill Carey
Carol & Frank Caro
Nancy L. Carrington
John & Wendy Champion
Victor Polk & Cathy Chapman
David Thompson & Ginger Chapman
Olive Chupka
Shannon Clarkson
Frank Cochran
Timothy Goodspeed & Begoña Coello
Jill Cohen
Mary Colwell
Sally Connolly
Judy & Rob Cope
Cheryl Cornish
Maureen Coughlin
Lynn Coville
Victoria Comins
Laura Cryan
Martha & Steven Cutts
Anthony Bialecki & Marjorie Davi
Fran Dennis
Mary Diamante
Paula Diehl
George Dillon
Mildred & Jay Doody
Doug Gollin & Cheryl Doss
Pat Drax

David Duffner
Sean Duffy
Bill Dyson
Deb Elkin
Sherrill & John Ellis
Elm City Cycling
Elliot & Emma Ephraim
Gloria Eustis
Robert & Lucille Evans
Bob & Alice Evans
John & Kathy Fabish
Paul Fabish
Edith Fairgrieve
Jim Farnam
Jennifer Filardi & Eric Trucksess
Bill Fischer
Elaine Fitzpatrick
Joan Forsberg
Teresa Freeman
David Jones & Becky Friedkin
Bob Gelbach
Liz Gersten
Bill Collins & Tish Gibbs
Frances Giffin
Gisela Gil-Egui
David & Yolanda Goff
Allan Brison & Betsy Goldberg
Aaron Goode
Joy Gordon
William & Jean Graustein
Hali Green
Fethi Meghelli & Barbara Greenwood
Millie Grenough
Frances Grodzinsky
Rich Guandalini
Leticia Garcia Guerra
Ioanna & Dmitri Gutas
Hillary Haldane
Terry & Alice Hallaran
Hildegard Hannum
Ray Pagliaro & Yasmin Haque
John & Carol Hay
Rachel Heerema
Richard Taylor & Patricia Helm
John & Dorothy Herzog
Leigh & Leslie Higgins
Anne Higgins
Lesley & John Higgins-Biddle
Joel LaChance & Jane Hindenlang
Barbara Hobbs
Susan Holahan
Jim Horwitz
Mary & Arthur Hunt
Lucile Hutchinson
Charisse Hutton
Cathy Jackson
Mary Johnson
Bennett Pudlin & Margaret Judd
Merrily Kaplan
Henry Berliner & Mickey Kavanaugh
Eunice Kaymen
Elizabeth & George Kelly Martin
Dan Kinsman
Henry Lowendorf & Susan Klein
Alan Wright & Paula Kline
Stephen & Kathlyn Kraffmiller
Paul Kobasa
Stephen Kobasa & Anne Somsel
Franca Labella
Ladies Home Missionary Society
Frank & Pat Laduca

Rick Goodwin & Rachel Lampert
Maxine Lampert
Susan & Richard Landon
Dietrich Moor & Heather Lauver
Hannah Leckman
Mark Leclair
John Leinenweber
David Cross & Nancy Le
Roy Money & Mary Lesser
Barbara & Robin Levine-Ritterman
William Scott Long
Adriane Lonzarich
Sam Macdowell
Michael Baron & Ruth J. Magraw
Al Marder
Shirley McConahay
Victoria McEvoy
Pete & Alicia McKinnis
Letitia McPhedran
David & Elaine Mello
John Watson & Susan Meredith
Ron & Cathie Miller
William Morico
Derry Moritz
Al & Nancy Mueller
Bonnie Muller
Sam & Lola Nash
Kenneth & Barbara Neuberger
Francis Braunlich & Liz Neuse
David Newton
Lisa Newton
Trish Niece
John & Sherry Nieman
Patty Nuelsen
James R Owen
Charissa Pacella
Genny Palmieri
Frank & Paula Panzarella
Kate Paranteau
David Carter & Robert Parker
Randi Parker
John M. & Linda J. Pawelek
Allie Perry & Charles Pillsbury
Jessica Planas
Robert Pollard
Henry & Margaret Powell
Walter Scott & Nancy Power
Liz Prete
Jennifer Pugh
Adriene Radcliffe
John Buell & Beth Rosen
Beth Roth
Evan Markiewicz & Beth Rubenstein
Katy Rubin
Peter A. Rubins
Jill Savitt
Anne Scheffler
Anne F. Schenck
John & Karen Schneider
Peter Schultheiss
Richard Schulz
Amy Schwartz
Chris Schweitzer
Dr. Ann Serow
Deb Shafer
Shalom U.C.C.
David Shepherd



Top: Teachers meet with Hopkins delegations to prepare for presentation; Bottom: Meeting about sugar cane plantation concerns at NHLSCP office.

Jean Silk
Gaddis & Barclay Smith
Toni Smith
Richard & Kerala Snyder
Olivia Snyder-Spak
Corrinda & Michael Soares
Evie & Michael Soares
Jan Phillips and Eric Soares
Humbert Polito & B. Sorrentino
Gary & Janet Spinner
Julianne Splain
Craig & Donna Steinberg
Daniel & Mary Sternbach
Sally S. Storms
Diana Swett
Beth Therien
Nora Thompson
Micha Thompson
Sei Tokuda
Victoria Traube
Courtney and Jeff Trucksess
Susan Trucksess
Rob Dubrow & Melinda Tuhus
Maria Tupper
Shawn Upton
Flora Zoe Vandyke
William Vasquez Mazariegos
Claudia Vestal
Dora Viacava
Vincent Villano
Barbara Wareck
Mary Webber
William & Kate Weber
Rob & Sally Cole Whiffen
Barbara White
Joan Whitney
Anibal Torres & Isabelle Wilczewski
Elizabeth & Michael Wills
Robert Boucher & Karen Wisniewski
Tim & Susan Yolen
Leslie & Peter Zackin

"Human kind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

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 get more deeply involved 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 towards 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 Nicaragua and Connecticut to help us more these efforts ahead.

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

Take care.


Chris Schweitzer
Program Director



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

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.

Staff member Luis Chavarria with two members of the Youth Brigade at a family well. Two sources of water contamination are open well tops and also the bucket ropes that often lay on the bacteria



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.



Goyena women at march in León demanding better laws to protect women.



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