

New Haven/León Sister City Project  
608 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511  
www.newhavenleon.org nh@newhavenleon.org 203.562.1607

## See Patty's Special Appeal inside.

## Thank You for your ongoing support!

## Make a Plan to Amplify Your Impact!

If you would like to extend your support of New Haven Leon Sister City Project to make a lasting impact, there are several gift arrangements to choose from. Making a meaningful gift is easier than you think. A gift in your will or trust, for example, is accomplished by adding simple bequest language to your will - and you'll join others already part of *New Haven Leon: Presente!*

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit us after your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that lets you provide for your family and support NHLSCP.

More information at [newhavenleon.org](http://newhavenleon.org) on the Give page.



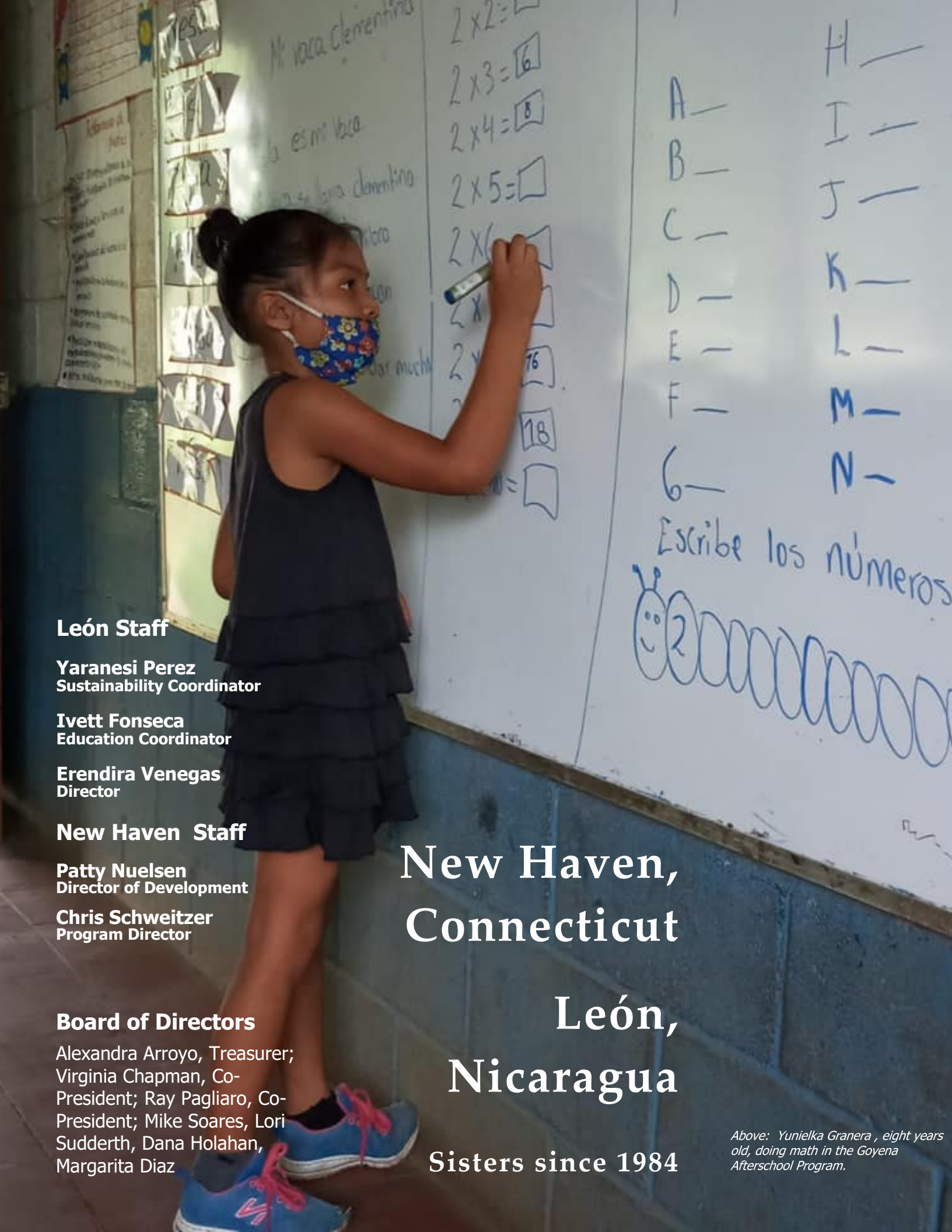
*35 Years Supporting Social Justice*  
NH/LSCP supports education and sustainable development in Nicaragua and New Haven.



# NEW HAVEN LEÓN Sister City Project

2020 Annual Report





**León Staff**

**Yaranesi Perez**  
Sustainability Coordinator

**Ivett Fonseca**  
Education Coordinator

**Erendira Venegas**  
Director

**New Haven Staff**

**Patty Nuelsen**  
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**Chris Schweitzer**  
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**New Haven,  
Connecticut**

**León,**

**Nicaragua**

**Sisters since 1984**

*Above: Yunielka Granera, eight years old, doing math in the Goyena Afterschool Program.*

**Thank You and Special Appeal**

Dear Friends of the Sister City Project,

I have the privilege and joy of thanking you yearly for your support. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2020!**

Gripped by the pandemic, life in the U.S. and worldwide, has been heartbreaking and challenging. Erendira's opening letter reminds us that the past three years in Nicaragua have seen multiple crises. She also points to accomplishments in 2020. The centerfold's pictures and text point to the changes in our work both in the León area and in New Haven



Photo: Meeting with Rotary Club official and Trolio women to discuss community needs.

Circumstances not under our control have required us to be nimble, making good decisions to meet continuing commitments and increased needs. When schools shut down and students no longer could be served nutritious lunches, food packages were prepared and provided five days a week to supplement food for the entire family.

Taking the lead from our staff in Leon, we found the courage to take chances. We started a brand new program - 13 women now head up their own family gardens. This was made possible because of careful management and our trust in your continuing generous support.

Many of you give annually. Now, I am asking you to give also to this **Special Appeal**. Those who may not have given recently, we would love hearing from you. You who would be first time givers, please, do give a gift now. Your gift is tax deductible as we are a 501(c)3 organization.

**YOU ARE OUR HOPE.** Your gift will help us continue our education and school nutrition programs, EcoStove Project, youth brigade, women's program, and more. Please give what you can.

On behalf of the Staff and Board,  
Patty Nuelsen

**NH/LSCP Financial Statements**

	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>228,233</b>	<b>192,954</b>	<b>211,666</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Total Liabilities	25,411	24,372	26,439
<b>Equity</b>	202,822	168,582	185,227
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>228,233</b>	<b>192,954</b>	<b>211,666</b>
<b>Statement of Revenue and Expenses</b>			
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
Contributions	150,809	143,704	138,711
Net Service Revenue	1,342	1,814	10,989
Investment Income	12,545	11,674	(2,844)
Costs of Goods/Services	(477)	(1,386)	(6,293)
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>164,219</b>	<b>155,806</b>	<b>140,563</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Program	130,340	128,483	97,121
Supporting Services	3,719	4,250	1,690
Fundraising	17,919	17,719	14,464
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,978</b>	<b>150,452</b>	<b>113,275</b>
Net Income	<b>12,241</b>	<b>5,354</b>	<b>27,288</b>

## 2020 Contributors

Estate of Kate Paranteau  
 Greater New Haven Green Fund  
 Patagonia  
 Peace & Justice Fund  
 New England Grassroots Environmental  
 Fund  
 Shalom U.C.C.  
 Trico Foundation  
 Yale University  
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 William Graustein  
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 Rich Guandalini  
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 Mickey Kavanagh & Henry Berliner  
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 Elizabeth & George Kelly Martin  
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 Paul Kobasa  
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 Paula & Frank Panzarella  
 Robert Parker & David Carter  
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 Anna Ruth Pickett  
 Ed & Margie Pikaart  
 Roberta Pollard  
 Margaret & Henry Powell  
 Liz Prete  
 Joanna & Nathan Price  
 Beth Rosen & John Buell  
 Beth Robins Roth  
 Beth Rubenstein & Evan Markiewicz



Photo: One of the periodic Afterschool joint birthday celebrations for students.

Nina & John Ruckes  
 Denise Saldana & Michael Sheehan  
 Jill Savitt  
 Anne Scheffler  
 Anne F. Schenck  
 Bobbi & Philip Schmidt  
 Karen & John Schneider  
 Richard Schulz  
 Chris Schweitzer  
 Daniel Schweitzer  
 David Schweitzer  
 James Schweitzer  
 Paul Schweitzer  
 Dr. Ann Serow  
 Rise Siegel  
 Jean Silk  
 Ian Skoggard  
 Cyd Slotoff  
 Nancy Small  
 Toni Smith  
 Kerala & Richard Snyder  
 Eric & Jan Soares  
 Corrinna & Michael Soares  
 Michael & Evie Soares  
 Barbara Sorrentino & Humbert Polito  
 Janet & Gary Spinner  
 Julianne Splain  
 Jennifer Stock  
 Lee & Peter Stolzman  
 Lori Sudderth  
 Brian Tang  
 Victoria Traube  
 Susan Trucksess  
 Semeon Tsalbins  
 Melinda Tuhus & Rob Dubrow  
 Maria Tupper  
 Flora Zoe Van Dyke  
 Yann van Heurck  
 Joan Venditto  
 Claudia Vestal  
 Lou Ann Villani  
 John Wareck  
 Jean Webb  
 Charlotte White  
 Karen Wisniewski  
 Pawpaw Wright



Photo: Erendira's daughter Maya - a big fan of gardens - in one of the new family plots in Goyena.

Dear Friends of NHLSCP,

For Nicaraguans, this is the third year of crisis. Starting with the Uprising in April 2018, a series of events happened that marked all Nicaraguans in different ways. We have come to experience painful political processes; repression, violation of our most fundamental human rights such as free expression. Defending rights has become a crime that the state criminalizes and is paid for with imprisonment, harassment, and torture.

On top of that, the health crisis that brought on by the pandemic filled us with mourning and uncertainty. We now see a greater and growing economic crisis with food insecurity, an increase in violence in general, but a much more notable increase in gender violence. From January 1 to April 7, 19 femicides were registered, and 25 girls, boys and adolescents were orphaned due to this situation.

Despite being a people that carries much sadness, we still have dreams to fulfill, and we fight for them every day. In the rural communities of Troilo and Goyena, the children attend the Afterschool Program daily. Some arrive hungry, but with the hope that there will be a better future for them. The expanded nutrition program has been a great help to the families. The 120 children receive food which cushions a part of the children's nutritional needs.

During the crises, many families do not have access to income, therefore it is difficult for them to buy food. The new family gardens program, led and built by women, have supplied certain vegetables (tomatoes, onions, pipianas and ayotes, etc) to the families that own them. For some families, the gardens have been so successful that the excess production has been sold in the community and even in the city of León. The testimony of an unemployed mother with two children confirmed the critical role the gardens can play when she told us that..." *for three months the garden saved us - I had no income and I got sick, but we were able to survive with the garden harvest*"

The work we are doing in these communities is having a positive impact on the lives of the people with whom we collaborate. All these achievements would be impossible without the support we receive from the North. For this we send our greatest thanks. But we still have more dreams to fulfill. The people of the communities fight daily just to maintain what little they already have. But they long for better education, improved food security, access to income and a decent life. With the support of each one of you, this becomes more achievable and less distant.

From León Nicaragua, we send you a big hug and our gratitude for all the solidarity.

*Erendira A. Vanegas*

Erendira Vanegas  
 Director, Leon Office

*Cover photo: Goyena community members Gregorio Quiroz and Nubia Quiroz riding to work on the new family gardens.*



**Family Gardens:** In 2020, due to government repression in Nicaragua and in response to the COVID economic crisis, the Women's Program pivoted to begin a Family Gardens Program in the community of Goyena. Led by women, the project supplies vegetables to families. They have managed to produce a surplus of cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, pipianas and ayotes that the women have been able to market both in the community and in the city of Leon.



**Climate Organizing:** NHLSCP's New Haven Climate Movement project has been very busy working on electrification of City buildings, pushing a Climate Justice Schools project, and advocating for State Green New Deal type policies, with most of the energy and leadership coming from local youth.

**Women's Health:** Workshop for teen girls - pre COVID - led by NGO Ixchen Leon to train young people on sexual and reproductive health. Government repression has greatly limited advocacy and education related to women's rights, but the Program is now offering another series of trainings on domestic violence prevention.



## 2020 Project Changes



**Climate Health Education Project:** NHLSCP's Climate Health Education Project involves eight youth in seven high schools leading climate education webinars, events, and engagement with teachers and principals. While COVID presented significant challenges, CHEP was able to make progress at educating and engaging youth energy and talent.

**New Troilo Well:** Women leading well construction project - and unloading cement for well lining - in rural Troilo where access to water is very limited. The construction was funded in part by the Leon Metropolitan Rotary Club.



**Afterschool Nutrition Program Expansion:** In response to schools being closed during the 2018 political crisis, NHLSCP started an Afterschool Program in Troilo. In 2020 the economic crisis inspired adding a meal program to help students and families struggling through the hardships. Below meals are prepared by mothers. Above, students burning off energy through interactive games.



**EcoStove Project:** The expanded EcoStove program installed 15 stoves in family homes in 2020, reducing indoor pollution, saving families money, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Staff Yara Perez (with helmet) says there are orders for another 30 stoves once we get funding for subsidies.

