

Hello Teachers and Group Leaders!

The **New Haven/León Sister City Project** is inviting you to organize a coin drive in classrooms in your school or in your organization. **We are asking for your support in collecting coins to increase funding for education in the rural community of Goyena, Nicaragua** (last year, Fair Haven School raised \$500 for education!).

A coin drive could also help teach about the issues Nicaraguan families face.

Here are some ideas for how you might want to go about implementing the coin drive:

1. Put a coffee can on the teacher's desk with a picture from Nicaragua to collect the coins (see below).
2. Say a fact about Nicaragua in the morning announcements (see list below).
3. Have students read a small paragraph on an issue in Nicaragua each day, and then conduct a short discussion on Nicaragua (see below).
4. Schedule a time for a NHLSCP member to talk about our work in Nicaragua.
5. Conduct lessons on climate change - a class could focus on climate change and the impact on countries like Nicaragua around the world.

1. Here are some photos you may want to use for your can.



**Coins for
Education in
Nicaragua**



Coins for Education in Nicaragua



Coins for Education in Nicaragua

- 2. Below are five facts you may want to use for the week of the coin drive**
- Nicaragua is located in Central America and borders two bodies of water, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and two countries, Honduras and Costa Rica. It is the largest country in Central America, but Nicaragua's area is about the size of New York State.
 - The average temperature for the western coast of Nicaragua is 81^o Fahrenheit. Nicaragua's seasons occur in opposite months as ours. Their winter is from May to November and their summer is from December to April.
 - Nicaragua was the first country in Central America to have a woman president, Violetta Chamorro, who held office in the 1990s.
 - Nicaragua is oftentimes called the "Land of Lakes and Volcanoes" due to its abundance of lakes and volcanic chains. The biggest lake, Lake Nicaragua, is the largest in Central America and home to over 350 islands.

- e. There are about 5,891,199 people living in Nicaragua, about 2% of the amount of people living in the United States.

3. Here are some issues/questions about Nicaragua you may want to discuss during the coin drive:

- a. Education- Barely half of school age children in Nicaragua will make it past a sixth grade education. Many children are taken out of school to work for their family or come from families who simply cannot afford book, uniform and other types of fees. Teachers are paid between \$100 to \$200 a month, making it very hard for a Nicaraguan to get by on a teacher's salary. How do you think the money you raise from the coin drive should be spent to help education in Nicaragua?
- b. Climate Change- Climate change is caused by harmful carbon dioxide emissions and other gases put into the earth's atmosphere that deplete the earth's ozone layer. In turn, the earth's atmosphere becomes warmer which leads to natural disasters like hurricanes. A ferocious hurricane in Nicaragua, Hurricane Mitch, wiped out a rural community called Goyena in 1998. Since 1998, those living in Goyena and other impoverished communities have had to try their best to rebuild on limited resources. Some ways to fight Climate change and the natural disasters that come with it are saving electricity, using our cars less and asking our leaders for help. In what ways can you do your part in stopping climate change so that more hurricanes do not affect Nicaragua?
- c. Here is a picture of a school in Goyena:



In what ways does the school look similar to yours, in what ways is it different?

- d. Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Many people struggle to earn enough money to get by with just food and shelter. How would you be able to save up money to donate to the poor in Nicaragua?
- e. After our coin drive ends, how can you continue to do your part to help Nicaragua?