



New Haven/León Sister City Project

Year End 2020 Newsletter

2020 Year In Review: 2020 - as everyone knows - was a challenge on many fronts. This year-end newsletter in pictures shares some of the projects that kept on going through it all. Every project had to deal with COVID-19 risks and restrictions. And the pandemic was just another level of crisis on top of poverty, government repression and climate change. Luckily, great staff, community leaders, Board, and generous supporters were able to respond and act creatively to address critical needs. *Photos, clockwise from top right: Doing math in Afterschool program; Showing off birthday prize; masked up preschool students in Troilo; Getting cake at birthday gathering.*

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Mural above left: NGO BLINC commissioned this mural in response to the Femicide of Antonia Velasquez, a local primary school teacher, in Puerto Morazan north of Leon.



Family Gardens - In response to the lack of political space for women's rights work in Nicaragua, and the pandemic caused economic hardships, the Domestic Violence Prevention Program (led by Erendira Vanegas) began working with women on creating family gardens to create greater economic independence. The program includes a series of workshops on installing and maintaining gardens and on eco-feminism. The first harvest - after two November hurricanes did some damage - was plentiful with some families selling excess produce in the community. *Pictures, clockwise from top right: Completed garden early in the season; composting; garden workshop; raised seedling bed to protect seedlings from animals; and reviewing garden with mature plants ready for harvest.*





Expanded Nutrition Program: In response to the COVID-19 driven economic crisis, NHLSCP expanded its Goyena preschool and afterschool-based nutrition program to include the neighboring village of Troilo. Families very much appreciate this support, but as one can see, not a lot of masks being worn. Even though NHLSCP staff has done significant COVID/public health education (and provides lots of school cleaning supplies), community members generally believe COVID is mostly in the cities. The lack of government leadership adds to the confusion. But the reality for many impoverished families is that there isn't a choice to stay home and not work, and there's a real need for children to be at school. *Photos, clockwise from right side: Community building games at Goyena afterschool program; three photos of lunch; outside classes; preschoolers getting lunch; a lone mask wearing student!*



EcoStove Project Reaches More Families/ Businesses:

In 2020 NHLSCP expanded the EcoStove Project installing 13 stoves in homes and two for home businesses. On average they reduce wood burning by 59%, mostly eliminate indoor smoke, and cut greenhouse gas emissions. If funds are available, the goal is to place another 20 stoves in 2021. This is timely given that stoves reduce family expense for wood and reduce air pollution that increases risk of respiratory diseases like COVID-19. *Photos, clockwise: Two homes with new stoves; info graphic explaining the benefits of more efficient stoves; repairing a stove chimney - the only part so far that wears out.*



Benefits of Clean Cookstoves

- Reduce respiratory infections
- 75% reduction in indoor air pollution
- Built by local people using local materials



Climate Organizing: Working with different New Haven Climate Movement committees, we continued to organize for much greater City and State investment in climate solutions. 2020 successes including a City commitment of \$600,000 for climate mitigation efforts; a City commitment to electrify all its buildings and support citywide building electrification policies; and ongoing discussions with the Board of Education on implementing a climate justice education program. *Photos, clockwise from top: Climate March in September; Shoreline Green New Deal campaign graphic; climate task Force announcement; sign making for the March; leader Adrian Huq speaking at the March.*



Climate Crisis NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENT
In CT's Shoreline Communities

ACT NOW ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
CALL SENATOR COHEN
ON NOV. 10th

@ 860-240-0455 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO:
senatorcohenct@gmail.com

Congratulations! NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENT

NHCM members Kiana Flores, Tracy Zhou, and Brian Thompson selected as members of New Haven's Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force!



Climate Health Education Project: CHEP currently has high school interns leading climate education in seven area high schools: Co-op, Hopkins, ESUMS, Career, Sacred Heart Academy, Wilbur Cross, and High School in the Community. The interns (starting in 2020) are creating and distributing climate educational materials, organizing webinars, engaging teachers and administrators, and organizing teacher workshops on climate education. *Photos, clockwise from right: Climate/racial justice teach-in on the New Haven Green in August (two photos); the CHEP interns and coordinator Adrian Huq; the "See Into the Climate Future" event in October; and Global Climate Impacts press event downtown in December.*



SUPPORT OUR 2020-2021 YOUTH INTERNS LEADING CLIMATE EDUCATION IN NEW HAVEN AREA HIGH SCHOOLS!

Hasfa Career High	Bella Sacred Heart	Johanyx HSC	Lina Wilbur Cross
Natalie Hopkins	Kiana Cooperative	Kawtar ESUMS	Adrian Coordinator



[New Haven/León Sister City Project](http://www.newhavenleon.org) works to promote social justice, education and sustainable development in Nicaragua and Connecticut. For more information see www.newhavenleon.org; www.facebook.com/newhavenleon; email nh@newhavenleon.org; or call 203.562.1607.

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[Donate to expand NHLSCP's critical work here.](#)