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News from León



Hello... from Leon... We are happy to send our second newsletter of 2017! We have had amazing interns and wonderful groups of delegates that contributed in wonderful ways to our work in the communities of Goyena and Troilo. We are now ready to share updates with all of you who have been part of this work for a more inclusive world and less violent communities. After all the hurricanes, earthquakes and tropical storms that have hit the most vulnerable communities, we want to send thanks for all the efforts you may have done to help these people. Gracias from León, Nicaragua! To see more pictures and get more information about our programs please visit our [Facebook page](#)... Muchos saludos...! Eréndira.

Women Inspiring Other Women!



Photo: Delegation from Fairfield University and women from the communities of Goyena and Troilo Domestic Violence Prevention Program.

In the month of July we had the opportunity to work with a group of students from the Fairfield University for the second time. The goals of the visit included providing strategies for the prevention of violence against women in the communities of Goyena and Troilo, and sharing and learning with the women of

these rural communities about their stories, their struggles and their achievements. Both groups of women were inspired by the shared stories, of so much love shown. Even in the most difficult situations of violence experienced by both groups of women, each in their own contexts, we were able to unite for the same struggle, work to build less violent communities, take care of each other, smile, and undoubtedly continue in the struggle for a world less violent and more loving.

Gender violence is not exclusive to rural communities, nor of social classes or cultures. Recognizing that we are within this system that oppresses us more every day due to being women, was inspiring to those that participated in this process of learning and support. From Fairfield to Goyena and Troilo, thanks for being part of these healing processes between communities. Thanks to the people who left their homes in the United States, and added voices to this struggle that is of all and for all. We still have a lot of work and a lot of struggle to do, but doing this together and united is inspiring ...!

Singing to Learn.



Photo: Abigail Cipparone and children of the Afterschool Program choir practice in the community of Goyena.

The Afterschool Program in the community of Goyena is a space for exchange, cultural and educational, and above all learning. Abigail Cipparone is a young volunteer from Yale University, who worked for two months on the creation of a choir made up of children who attend the Afterschool Program. The children developed

singing skills, memorized songs, learned songs in English and in Swahili, and for them it was very funny and very interesting learning pronunciation through singing.

Fifteen children participated. They attended the choir practices every day in order to present a final concert for their families, the community in general and the rest of the children who attend reinforcement. It was a very entertaining, fun and very impactful activity for the people of the community. Both the Afterschool Program teachers, the mothers and fathers, and the children themselves experienced that with these kind of fun strategies the children learn more easily.

Impact of Improved Efficient Stoves.



Photo: Don Alfonso Ramón Pérez Osejo from the community of Goyena.

Alfonso Pérez, 54 years old, was widowed 3 years ago. His wife Esperanza Osejo, fondly remembered by members of her community, lost the battle against chronic kidney failure, an epidemic disease in communities where there are sugar cane plantations .

Alfonso was in charge of the care of one of their daughters, Francis, who suffers from motor disability. Even with her physical handicaps, Francis takes on many household chores. Alfonso and his daughter Francis benefited from an improved efficient stove received through the NHLSCP stove program. This stove, besides being efficient and clean, is safe so that her daughter can be a little more independent and prepare her own food.

The previous stove was a risk for both them. It was traditional stove with pieces of stones on a table on which they put the cooking pots. At any time this could fall on any of them and cause serious injuries.

Now they have a stove that does not smoke up the house, reducing respiratory diseases. It also helps to not burn large quantities of wood for cooking. This provides them with savings. The improved stoves that are being introduced to the families of the community of Goyena not only contribute to the reduction of deforestation, it also contributes to the economy of families, to the reduction of respiratory diseases, and to the safety of the most vulnerable.

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Needed: Creativity, Interns, Energy, Delegation Leaders, Commitment to Social Justice, Volunteers, Interest in Learning, [Financial Support](#).

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New Haven/León Sister City Project 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