The New Haven/León Sister City Project is a 25 year old progressive, bi-national, grassroots organization that fosters a partnership between the communities of New Haven and León, Nicaragua. Our mission is to promote social justice. Our work is focused in the rural community of Goyena outside León.
THANK YOU! Many thanks to all our donors and friends for their continuing generous support. We are all, organizations and individuals, to a greater or lesser extent dealing with challenges in our present economy. A disproportion of the burden, however, is borne by the poor. Most recently the world has been witness to the suffering of the people of Haiti. The earthquake that struck pointed out the absence of infrastructure, the shoddy construction in the capital itself, the lack of preparedness as well as the environmental devastation that exacerbated the effects of the quake. Haiti’s underdevelopment is not an accident of history. Decades of U.S. intervention in Haiti’s internal politics, international exploitation of its people and resources, as well as years of rapacious dictatorship, have all contributed to Haiti’s current plight.

Haiti is this hemisphere’s poorest country, Nicaragua the second poorest. Nicaragua, too shares the history of U.S. intervention, international exploitation and dynastic dictatorship. The people of both countries have been victimized but are not victims. They are resilient, resourceful and determined to be agents of their own history. They continue to sing, dance, hope and laugh even as they struggle.

The Sister City Project has chosen to accompany the people of León as they forge their history. You are part of that partnership. We thank you and look forward to your continuing support.

NHLSCP Financial Statements FY 2009

Current Assets
Cash and Other Current Assets 125,256

Liabilities
Total Current Liabilities 17,260

Net Assets
Unrestricted 51,998
Board Restricted 40,827
Health Fund 8,620
Total 101,445

Net Income 6,551

Total Liabilities and Equity 125,256

Statement of Revenue and Expenses
Support and Revenue
Contributions 120,282
Service Revenue 81,341
Investment Income 1,349
Total 202,972*

Expense
Program 162,851
Supporting Services 15,340
Fundraising 18,230
Total 196,421

Net Income (Loss) 6,551

* Does not include In-Kind Services - $ 7,270
The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt.”

Frederick Buechner
Education in Goyena continues to be the primary work of NHLSCP, from preschool to adult education. Below head teacher Sonia Matute with parent training, and preschool teacher Lesbia Acevedo Matutei with her students.

As part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration supporters donated over $16,000 to a new fund to support education work in Goyena. Board member Mike Soares and students from Fair Haven School (below) after a coin drive, led by 3rd graders (middle), raised $500.

NHLSCP decided in 2009 to devote more resources to improve the preschool program in Goyena given the critical role learning at that age plays in children’s lives.

Antonieta Chavez, the León office administrator, sorts clothing collected from León high schools for distribution in Goyena.

Above, NHLSCP Delegation Coordinator Erendira Vanegas with leaders of ASSOCHIVIDA, the association of ex-sugar cane workers who are negotiating with Nicaragua Sugar Estates Ltd., and the World Bank over a epidemic of chronic renal failure among workers. 2009 saw significant progress and a public health study has begun to try to identify the epidemic’s cause.

Environmental issues - hurricanes, pesticide overuse, burning of trash and sugar cane fields, decreasing water tables - continue to have an impact on Goyena. Adalis Castro shows off a papaya seeding (top) she and her grandfather are growing on their farm. Lindsay Dillon and Shelly Altman hold banner (middle) as part of a local event calling for more action on climate change.

Delegations in 2009 included Fairfield and Yale universities, Temple Emmanuel and Hopkins and Horace Mann high schools. Below members of the Hopkins/Mann delegation help residents construct a new classroom. Below Jean Silk of Temple Emmanuel (middle) and Danielle Young (Hopkins/Mann) with children in Goyena.

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This year seven interns traveled to Nicaragua to work in our education program, the health clinic, and to support the work of ASOCHIVIDA - the association of ex-sugar cane workers. Below interns Mira Fishman and Bethany Silko with Allison Vasquez. Sam Purdy teaches chess (center). The other interns were Katy Mayall, Tim Drulia (in bottom photo with ASOCHIVIDA), Scott Wagner and Jen Plaster.

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