

New Haven/León Sister City Project
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LEÓN



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Sister City Project
Annual Report 2011



Walk

Transit



Goyena residents helping pitch the new WalkBikeTransit campaign which will invite USians to connect car use, climate change and food insecurity in rural communities.



Bike



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*New Haven/
León Sister
City Project
supports
education and
sustainable
development
in Nicaragua
and New
Haven.*



Photo: Leaders from farming coop in neighboring community of Troilo.

S I S T E R S
New Haven, Connecticut / León, Nicaragua Since 1984

THANK YOU When the work of the NH/LSCP began in 1984, ending U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and working with the people of León to realize their dreams were uppermost in our minds. We did see commonalities in our two cities: teaching hospitals, major universities, similar population size as well as a long proud history. We knew that as U.S. citizens we had a responsibility to stand up to the injustice that was perpetrated in our name. It was, however, not always easy to see that we shared problems. The extreme poverty and under development in Nicaragua was undeniable. So was the terrible human cost of the contra war. Then there was the manifest absurdity, that the U.S. was in imminent danger of an invasion by Nicaragua. All of these made it difficult to see problems that the two cities shared. Time would take care of that.



Hopkins/Horace Mann delegates on top of the León cathedral in June.

In his opening letter, Chris lists some of our new projects in Goyena. They address issues of food insecurity, domestic violence, climate change and environmental degradation. These are problems that we now see as world wide and, yes, they exist here in New Haven also. It is undeniable that we all share the problems of our beautiful threatened planet. Our problems are to a large extent made by humans. So is it in our hands to work on solutions. Our vision and role as a sister city endeavor has evolved with the times. We trust that our work contributes to the healing and mending of this world.

At this writing the New Haven/Leon Sister City Project is well into its twenty-eighth year. Thanks to you we have a past to be proud of and your continuing support will carry us into the future. Look at the list of donors in 2011. So many. Some of you have been with us since our earliest days and some are newly arrived. Thanks to you all. ADELANTE! Patty Nuelsen, Director of Development

NHLSCP Financial Statements FY 2011

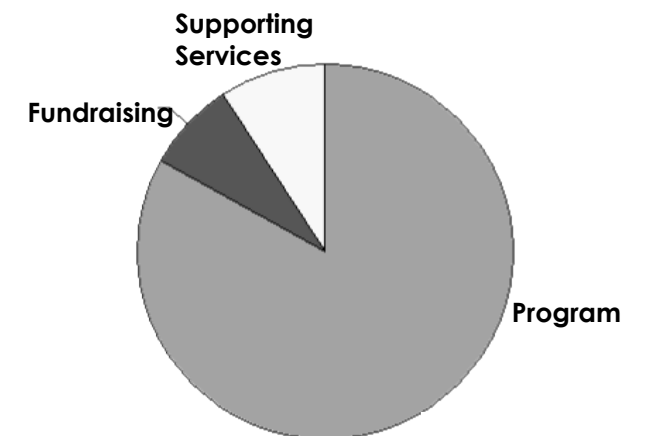
Current Assets	
Cash and Other Current Assets	137,304
Liabilities and Equity	
Total Deferred Support	17,806
Total Liabilities	17,806
Equity	
Total Net Assets	101,444
Unrestricted Net Assets	6,808
Net Income	11,246
Total Equity	119,499
Total Liabilities and Equity	137,304

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

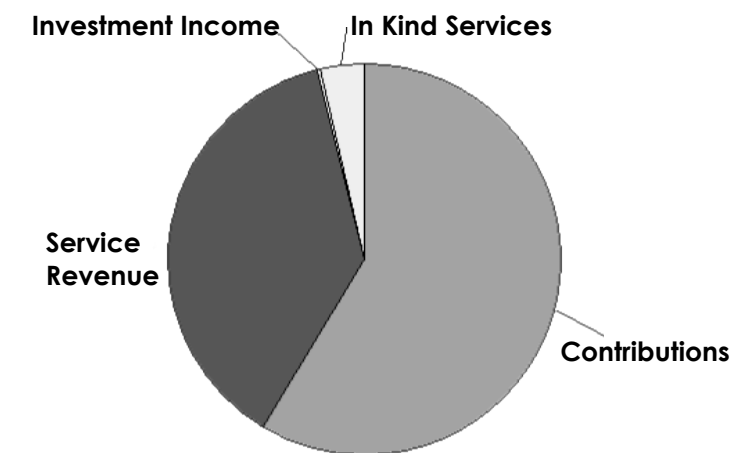
Support and Revenue	
Contributions	122,722
Net Service Revenue	18,761
Investment Income	100
Total	141,583*
Expense	
Program	110,618
Supporting Services	12,340
Fundraising	10,629
Total	133,587
Net Income (Loss)	7996

* Does not include In-Kind Services - \$ 6,210

Expenses 2011



Support and Revenue 2011



Dear Friends of New Haven /León SCP,

At the end of the play *A Peasant of El Salvador*, both Oscar Romero and the protagonist campesino (Jesus) are shot. We're left wondering if their spirit will live on in others (Romero preached: "If they kill me I will rise again in the people of El Salvador") and if their struggle for social justice will continue, or will those opposing them win.

There are days - with so much power in the hands of so few and so much government violence- when it's not clear compassion has the upper hand in our fragile world. That question is alive now in Goyena and the story of Haydee (see photo), who's family was forced off its land by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and who's father recently died of chronic renal insufficiency likely connected to his work in the sugar cane fields. Now Haydee is a leader of the Environmental Youth Brigade, a teacher in the preschool, and also finishing up secondary school with hopes to continue to get a degree in education. Yet the challenges she will face - poverty, political corruption, domestic violence - are significant.

But the message of the play seems to be less about victory and more a call to awakening, to solidarity, to stepping up for justice. We hope the work of NH/LSCP today - born out of the movement to reject the violent US policies in the 80s in Central America - is part of that arc and that we're true to that call.

2011 was a very busy year for New Haven/León SCP. As you'll see in the following pages a lot happened: the birth of a new theater project with a play in New Haven and theater trainings in León and New Haven; a food security committee started; staff changes in León; significant gains seen in the preschool in Goyena; beginning the WalkBikeTransit campaign on climate change and food insecurity; the Environmental Youth Brigade maturing and taking more leadership in sustainable development efforts. The organization also made a commitment - with Goyena leadership - to target food insecurity and access to quality primary education over the next 4 years with the hopes of making significant gain in these areas.

All these efforts are growing and we have much planned for 2012 too. We've also just begun a new effort focused on domestic violence in Goyena that will incorporate some of the theater tools to do trainings and spark discussions.

We continue to depend on - and appreciate - the strong support of our many friends. And it's this support - in both time and resources - that continues to make New Haven/León SCP a vital force for social justice in New Haven and Nicaragua.

Sincerely,



Chris Schweitzer
Program Director



Rafael Garbalosa as *Jesus* and Jaylee Jordan as *Colonel* in *A Peasant of El Salvador* in October in New Haven.



Haydee Yamilett Alonzo Tellez (18) and Yarnesi del Carmen Perez (20) plugging the WalkBikeTransit campaign in a field outside

2011 Contributions

Foundations

International Association of
New Haven
New England Biolabs Foundation
Trico Foundation

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Hopkins School delegate Rachel Wiahni-Edwards during preschool recess in Goyena.

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Richard Schulz
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Cynthia Willauer
Lisa Kalner & Randolph Williams
Elizabeth & Mike Wills
Michael Wishnie
Paula Kline & Alan Wright

Food security
Completed survey of residents to learn about level of food insecurity in Goyena; will be supporting expansion of lunch program in the primary school by building small kitchen for parents to cook in; will be expanding nutrition education in preschool and primary school and with parents.



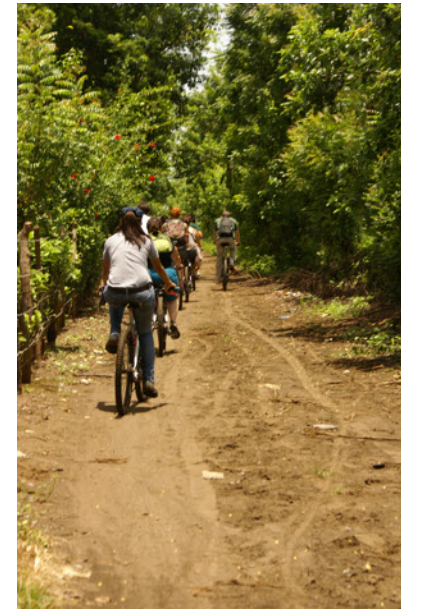
Project Highlights



Environmental Youth Brigade Began offering environmental bike tours of the area around Goyena to visiting delegations; continued learning about the environment, including a trip to volcano Cerro Negro to study geology; began exploring sustainable development projects including home composting, building a biodigester, and establishing a demonstration garden at the preschool; helped Hand H.S. Delegates paint a mural at the school.



Education in Nicaragua/ US We continued to work to improve the quality of the preschool with additional teacher trainings and materials; the afterschool program continues to offer individual help to students and we're looking at expanding from 1st to 4th to 1st to 6th; five delegations with 35 participants went to Nicaragua to learn and support community efforts; Nicaraguan and US staff spoke at high schools and universities about realities in Nicaragua.



Theater Project The first year of this project was busy and included workshops on Theater of the Oppressed in New Haven; sending a delegation in August to Goyena which participated in a TO training with 20 Goyena residents; presenting the play *A Peasant of El Salvador* in October at Fair Haven School for four nights.



WalkBikeTransit There are clear links between human behavior and changes in the climate. And these changes are really hurting small communities and farmers in Nicaragua and around the world. The NHLSCP WalkBikeTransit Campaign is an effort to help people see the links between their transportation choices, global warming and food security.