

New Haven / León Sister City Project
608 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

www.newhavenleon.org
nh@newhavenleon.org
203.479.0298



NH/LSCP supports education
and sustainable development in
Nicaragua & New Haven

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

\$100

\$100 supports family
garden trainings for one
month.

\$50

\$50 provides materials
for a youth climate action
in New Haven.

\$25

\$25 provides supplies for
a rural community
preschool for two weeks.



Donations of any amount support
children & families as they create a
better future for themselves in New
Haven & León.



NEW HAVEN LEON

SISTER CITY PROJECT



New Haven, CT

León, Nicaragua

Sisters

since 1984



Above: Communiuty member with crops. .



Above: Afterschool students working on crafts..

León Staff

Ivett Fonseca
Director

Yaranesi Pérez
Sustainability Coordinator

Hilda Ponce
Family Garden
Coordinator

New Haven Staff

Chris Schweitzer
Program Director

Eréndira Vanegas
Development Director

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Cover:New Haven Climate Movement (a NHLSCP project) members at a Board
Alders budget hearing in April. They were calling for continued funding of the
Office of Climate and Sustainability, which is very active in creating programs
that cut carbon emissions and air pollution, and that cut energy costs.

Our Mission

New Haven/Leon SCP is a binational organization promoting social justice, education and sustainable development in the New Haven and León communities.

Family
Gardens

Rural
Education

Youth Brigade

Climate
Justice

Ecostove
Project



NH/LSCP Financial Statements	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023
Current Assets			
Total assets	185,932	146,330	193,436
Liabilities			
Total Liabilities		9,286	16,530
Equity	33,832	169,562	176,906
Total Liabilities and Equity	219,764	178,848	193,436
Statement of Revenue and Expenses			
Support and Revenue			
Contributions	184,992	172,539	156,304
Net Service Revenue		0	0
Investment Income	11,369	6,865	10,200
Costs of Goods/Services		0	0
Gross Profit		179,404	166,504
Expense			
Program	143,121	163,390	166,209
Supporting Services	0	0	0
Fundraising	23,626	21,867	20,567
Total		185,257	186,776
Net Income	29,605	(5,853)	(20,272)

2025 Contributors

Grants

Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
Greater New Haven Green Fund
International Association of New Haven
New England Grassroots
Environmental Fund
Sustainable CT
UCONN/CIRCA

Donors

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Joan Venditto
Claudia Vestal
LouAnn Villani
Carly Wanner-Hyde
Elizabeth & Michael Wills
Jennifer Zocco



Students take home food care packages for their families.

Dear New Haven/León Sister City Project Family,

At a time when many communities around the world are facing injustice, uncertainty, and profound social struggles, we are especially grateful for those in Nicaragua and the US who continue to stand with us in solidarity, hope, and love.

Your support has helped the NHLSCP bi-national community in 2025 to sustain meaningful change in the rural communities of Goyena and Troilo, where families continue to build stronger futures through education, food security, health, and community leadership. NHLSCP has also strengthened our work in New Haven, where young people continue to learn, organize, and lead around issues of social justice, climate justice, and community responsibility. Across borders, this work reminds us that solidarity is a shared commitment to dignity, justice, and collective action.

Children in rural Nicaragua continue to have access to safe and nurturing learning spaces through our Afterschool Program. Women and families continue strengthening their well-being and resilience through family gardens and improved cookstoves. These efforts are not just programs; they are lifelines, meaning healthier homes, more nutritious food, stronger learning opportunities, and greater dignity for families doing all they can to move forward under very difficult conditions.

Even after the loss of our legal status in Nicaragua, our local team has remained deeply committed. With creativity, courage, and love, teachers have continued educational activities from their homes, and community leaders have kept essential programs alive. Their determination is extraordinary, but they cannot do it alone.

Ilda Ponce, a community promoter of the family gardens program, shared words that stay with us: “Seeing my children go to the garden, pick tomatoes, and eat them right away brings me profound joy.” For Ilda, the garden is not only a source of fresh food; it is also a source of peace of mind. In a community surrounded by sugarcane fields, where families worry about the heavy use of pesticides, being able to grow vegetables at home means knowing that her children are eating food that is healthy, safe, and cared for by their own family.

That joy, that dignity, and that possibility for children to grow up healthy and hopeful are what your solidarity makes possible.

This past year has reminded us that progress is never guaranteed. The challenges are real, and the need is great. At this critical moment, your continued support matters more than ever. If you are able, we invite you to make a contribution to help sustain this work in the year ahead. A return envelope is enclosed for those who would like to send a gift by check, and every contribution, of any size, helps keep this people-to-people connection alive.

As we reflect on all we have built together, we do so with profound gratitude. Thank you for believing in the power of community. Thank you for standing with rural families in Nicaragua and with young people organizing for climate justice in New Haven. Thank you for helping create a more just, healthy, and hopeful future.

With much gratitude and admiration always,
Erendira A Vanegas
Erendira Vanegas
Development Director

Who's Who in the Troilo Preschool

The preschool students below present a range of expressions as they celebrate Earth Day, maybe reflecting the ups and downs they face in their rural lives. The closure of 1000's of NGOs in Nicaragua has deeply affected some of the country's most impoverished communities. Many of these organizations provided essential support in education, food security, women's leadership, health, and community development.

Abangasca Norte

Second level student Reynaldo Ayala travels 3 km to school each day by bicycle with his big brother. His favorite activity is drawing. His mom works in the Yazaki factory in Leon.

Belen Centeno's mom works at home and takes Belen to school each day on her motorcycle. Belen is in preschool level 2 and loves to draw.

Georgina Dolmus is in preschool level 1 and likes to sing and dance. She lives with her grandmother and her uncle, who's a mechanic. Her grandma walks her a half mile to school each day.

Goyena

Jelsyng Flores walks two blocks to school by himself and is in preschool level 2. He lives with his aunts and grandma, and his favorite activity is soccer.

Iltzel Soto is in preschool level 1, loves to paint, and walks with her big sister to school each day. Her mother works at home and her father is a day laborer. She has one brother.



Marcos Tellez is in preschool level 1 and is into Paw Patrol. His big sister walks him to school each day and his dad works in the Yazaki factory.

Helmon Davila walks three blocks to school each day with his big sister. He's in preschool level 2 and likes to sing. He has two brothers and his dad works for the sugar cane plantation and his mom works as a domestic.

Yelder Torrez's mom is a high school teacher and his dad works for the sugar cane plantation. His favorite activity is soccer and he travels 2 km to school each day on a motorcycle with a family member. Yelder is in preschool level one.

Diosmel Campos is in preschool level 1, likes to paint and travels 2 km to school by bike with his big sister. His mom works as a day laborer.

Yadial Cano is in preschool level 2 and walks to school each day with his sister. He loves to play soccer and his mom works at home and his dad works for the sugar cane plantation.

Abangasca

Troilo