

New Haven/León Sister City Project  
608 Whitney Avenue  
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# New Haven

# León

# Sister City Project

# 2010 Annual Report



## 2010 CONTRIBUTIONS

### Foundations

New England Biolabs Foundation  
Trico Foundation

### School Coin Drives

East Ridge Middle School  
St. Martin De Porres Academy

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Tim & Susan Yolen

Dear Friends of NH/LSCP,

This past August I went to Colombia to work with a human rights organization (see [www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)) in Barrancabermeja. I was struck by how different Colombia is from Nicaragua, with so much violence, displacement and fear. The Colombian government for years has sided with the elite and their corporate allies (many of them foreign) in an effort to grab more gold and coal mines, palm oil plantations, oil fields. It's this process that's uprooting so many campesinos. In the face of the related military and paramilitary violence, the Colombian women's, union, and campesino organizations are struggling, but not silent.



In Nicaragua - while lacking the violence and political repression - the struggle between life and death is very real (Nicaragua continues to be the second poorest country in the Hemisphere). Lack of fair wages in Goyena continue to be the primary concern that keeps families living on the edge and scrambling to make ends meet. In 2010 NH/LSCP continued to support community-based projects and was able to significantly improve the Goyena preschool through training, equipment, additional staff and resources. We also brought three of our Leon staff to New Haven in October for meetings and a slew of presentation in schools and universities; worked with Goyena 5th graders to start a reading club, and built the One World House exhibit to educate people in Connecticut about the impact of climate change on rural communities.

In the coming year we will be organizing two new efforts. We have started, with a committee of volunteers, a theater project that will create Latin America/social justice focused theater in New Haven and support local community-based theater in Leon/Goyena. We have also begun a process - working with Goyena leadership - to try to meet the Millennium Development Goals (coming out of a UN-lead global commitment to eradicate the worst of poverty) related to primary education and food security in Goyena by 2015

While we celebrate these successes and new projects, the larger economic/political trends are disturbing. US foreign policy in Latin America continues to be driven by corporate interests (ever wonder who has lobbyists in DC affecting U.S. policy ...the US Chamber of Commerce or Latin American campesinos?), and far too often involves inserting more military aid into political conflicts. We continue to work here in the US to support sister efforts working to address immigration, trade, and debt issues, and hope you can participate in these efforts also.

Of course, we also celebrate such a wealth of great volunteers and supporters that keep NH/LSCP growing and strong. This report (see pages 4 and 5) will focus on a few of these energized people and their contributions to our work.

We look forward continuing these projects, as always based in committed communities here in Connecticut and in León.

Sincerely,  
Chris Schweitzer  
Program Director

**NH/LSCP Board of Directors**

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 Delegation Coordinator

**New Haven Staff**

Patty Nuelsen  
 Director of Development  
 Chris Schweitzer  
 Program Director

New Haven, Connecticut

**S I S T E R S**

León, Nicaragua

Since 1984

Thank you.

**THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA.** In July 1979, the people of Nicaragua electrified the world. Though theirs was a military victory, the victors in the years following the Triumph of the Revolution did not engage in revenge. There were no mock trials or assassinations following the overthrow of the 40 year long Somoza family dictatorship. In fact, the death penalty was abolished and the maximum sentence set at 30 years.

**THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST.** Today, the world is seeing the people rising up to claim their human dignity and agency against the repressive governments. All of these popular demonstrations have been non-violent, though the response of the governments has been violent. These peaceful uprisings are changing the face of our world. We are deeply indebted to this brave witness, a reminder in 2011, that oppressed people with courage and non-violence can effect change.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS.** You know that the struggle for justice continues in León at home and around the world. In these pages you can read about a few individuals working with the Project. There are many more who work on projects and events, provide financial support, help organize and lead delegations, serve on our board of directors, and much more. **YOU ARE A SPECIAL BUNCH.** We would not have reached our 27th anniversary without you. **YOU ARE THE BEST.**



**Volunteer Christina Marmol (a Yale undergrad) and teacher Marta Osejo help preschool students line up to wash their hands before lunch.**

**NHLSCP Financial Statements FY 2010**

**Current Assets**

Cash and Other Current Assets **125,017**

**Liabilities and Equity**

Liabilities  
 Accrued Expenses 1,825  
 Total Deferred Support 14,940  
 Total Liabilities 16,765

**Equity**

Total Net Assets 101,445  
 Unrestricted Net Assets 6,551  
 Net Income 256  
 Total Equity 108,252

**Total Liabilities and Equity 125,017**

**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**

**Support and Revenue**

Contributions 121,978  
 Net Service Revenue 21,691  
 Investment Income 244

**Total 143,913\***

**Expense**

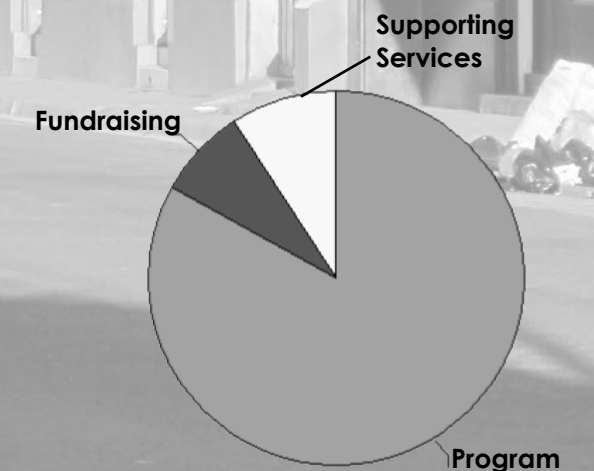
Program 115,618  
 Supporting Services 14,340  
 Fundraising 13,698

**Total 143,656**

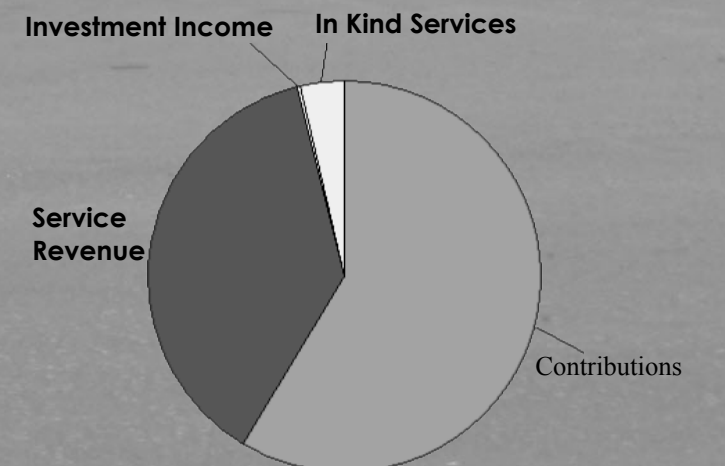
Net Income (Loss) **257**

\* Does not include In-Kind Services - \$ 6,970

**Expenses 2010**



**Support and Revenue 2010**





Due to the enthusiasm and perseverance of **a group of 5th and 6th graders**, a reading group was formed in Goyena for students who were too old for the 1st-4th grade after school program. The group of 15 students meets a couple times a week to read together and were all very proud at having recently finished the first complete novel they had ever read.



**María Eugenia Muñoz** (above right and lower left), as the Goyena community board president for the last 12 years, has worked tirelessly for the betterment of her community. While Maria was unable to complete primary schooling herself, she is committed to making sure community children have a high quality education. Maria, 49, is also the mother of nine children.



**Aaron Jafferis** (left with students in Goyena) first traveled to León in high school and then returned last year as part of the Teachers Delegation (below). He has since written a rap "Dust" about that experience and about the struggle of the sugar cane workers. In December he helped organize a NH/LSCP Theater Committee which is working to promote popular theater with a social justice focus in New Haven and León/Goyena an August delegation is planned to learn about theater in Nicaragua, offer trainings, and plan for further collaboration.



# "Doing is the Best Way of Saying." Jose Martí

Some of the many people active in León and New Haven in 2010.



**Emily Gordon**, a senior at Lehigh University, volunteered over the summer organizing the March for Environmental Justice (above) which called for changes in environmental/ economic policies; support for marginalized communities around the world impacted by climate change and other environmental crises. Emily (right) heard about NH/LSCP from her brother Jake, who participated in the Daniel Hand High School delegation last June.



**Ray Pagliaro** (NH/LSCP CoPresident - right) took on the construction of the One World House exhibit (below at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science), combining his commitment to the environment with his great knowledge of tools and wood. The exhibit so far has traveled to a number of local schools and universities educating students about the impact of climate change on rural communities like Goyena around the world.



**Geylin Hernández** (above in light blue speaking with parents and right in purple with another teacher) has been working for four years as a NH/LSCP afterschool teacher in Goyena. Geylin is finishing up her studies in psycho-pedagogy at a León university. She travels over an hour each way to teach thirty energetic 2nd graders (above right) each afternoon in Goyena.

