New Haven / León
Sister City Project

2007 Annual Report
“Today, more than ever, it is important to belong to those who resist, who fight, who believe and hope.”

Gustavo Gutierrez

Dear Friends,

Over the past twenty-four years, the people of Nicaragua have inspired and challenged us. Their ongoing efforts to create a society centered on social justice and compassion have sparked fires in many here to join that struggle. The Sister City Project strives to embody this hope, believing that people joining together can transform this world.

In 2007 the Sister City Project celebrated sending its 1000th delegate to Nicaragua – that’s 1000 people who took the important step to learn first-hand about the realities facing two-thirds of the world’s population. We sent a record 80 people to León as delegates and Peace and Justice Interns, and provided over $150,000 worth of direct support in programming, material aid and services to the rural communities of Goyena and Los Barzones outside of León.

Even with these successes, we continue to feel the urgency that the poverty in Nicaragua presents. Under-employment in Goyena is about 80% and malnutrition is very high among children. We continue to work to increase the number of Nicaraguans and North Americans working to address these issues. This is really the heart of our work – building capacity for change and supporting local leaders both in León and in New Haven. These committed women and men multiply the Sister City’s Projects limited resources, but also often become active in long term movement for systemic change.

To this end Sydney Frey has moved to Nicaragua to focus on developing new projects that will increase active participation and leadership. Chris Schweitzer has recently been hired as Program Director to continue to support the delegations and work with the Board. In Nicaragua, Rene Venegas Morales is continuing as the Interim General Coordinator, and Giaconda Torres was hired as Education Coordinator.

Below are additional highlights from 2007. Thank you for all the ways you enable these efforts of belonging, resistance and hope to continue and grow.

Sincerely,

Chris Schweitzer
Program Director

Celebrating over...
2007 Program Highlights

We expanded the after school program to add the 2nd grade (building on 2006’s 1st grade focus), giving more children access to small-group attention in the afternoons, and increasing the overall attendance to about 50 students. The primary schools in Goyena assign 40 students to each teacher, which makes it nearly impossible for the teachers to offer the kind of individual attention necessary for kids of that age. So teachers in the after school program focus on small-group learning and offer individual attention to children with difficulties.

León staff members began offering workshops to local youth on starting a tree nursery to be cared for and managed by them. The staff had recognized the need to work with youth in the community, who have little traditional job or educational opportunities. Many young people go directly from primary school to working seasonally on other people’s land. The SCP staff hopes that recreational activities and small economic projects will serve as a vehicle for organizational skills and empowerment for Goyena’s youth.
The Board, with staff from New Haven and Leon, committed to emphasize community organization and participation in any and all endeavors undertaken by the Project. The NHSCP is interested in nurturing efforts that respond to specific needs identified by Nicaraguans, that build existing local leadership, and that improve long term capacity to challenge systemic barriers to better quality of life.

We continued to work with the parents’ council at the schools to increase attendance at the preschool and grade school -- attendance was also encouraged by the provision of milk to preschool attendees. Attendance is usually limited by a combination of factors related to rural poverty in Nicaragua. Many children are needed to care for younger siblings while parents work in the fields, if they themselves are not working as well to earn enough to feed the family. The SCP also supports the preschool and primary school with materials like notebooks, paper, pencils, and markers.

Two weeks after Hurricane Felix brutalized the Atlantic Coast of Central America, particularly the indigenous RAAN region of Northeastern Nicaragua, the Pacific Coast was inundated with 18 straight days of heavy rains, which dropped nearly as much water on the region as did Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Residents of the city of León were not too adversely affected, but many in the surrounding rural areas, including residents of Goyena, needed brief temporary evacuation.
2007 Delegation Participants

Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Science (March)
- Laura Jensen
- Olivia Kaplan
- Beth Moore
- Nadav Tanners
- Michael Coren
- Tara Morberg
- Jeff Chatellier
- Sean Johnson
- Jean Silk
- Jason Weiner
- Erin Barnes

High School Agriculture
- Melissa Minto
- Jessica Bucklin
- Isaac Shub
- Kate Bennett
- Eric von Hohenleiten
- Victor Lambert
- Aimee O'Neil

Yale / ReachOut
- Jessica Bialecki
- Veronica Wallace
- Sophie Turrell
- Rebecca Arzonian
- Jessica Johnson
- Jane Park
- Crystal Aldape
- Brittany Robinson
- Alexandra Welch
- Abby McCartney
- Robin Rotman
- Cara McClellan

Fairfield University
- Marie-Agnes Sourieau
- Walter Petry
- Lauren Asensio
- Marielle Bemingham
- Ashley Lauro
- Brit Maianauskas
- Jessica Marques
- Eliot Smith

Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University (March)
- Kelsey Pratt
- Alysia Richardson
- Dan Fox
- Sean Gary
- Timothy Dansdill
- Richard Campbell
- Taylor Ives
- Moses Beckett
- Michael Perkins
- Julia McClelland
- Tamara Irving
- Justin LeBlanc
- Dylan Reitenbach
- Jennifer Ellsworth
- Caitlin Dowley
- Kynia Ortiz
- Tamara DeCarter
- Sarah Grady
- Sean Geary
- Ann Marie Mangano
- Zinacay Quiñónez
- Michael Migliore
- Jaclyn Trojanowski
- Andrew Fanelli
- Jennifer Girard
- Andy Clark
- Alison Marsh
- David Ives
- Sean Duffy
- Cheryl Kerison
- David Ives

Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (November)
- Olivia Kaplan
- Sean Johnson
- Jason Weiner
- Jean Silk
- Kristen Genovese
- Sydney Frey

Quinnipiac Business Delegation
- David Cadden
- Edward Breed
- Jennie MacDougal
- Monique Beauchamp
- Suzanne Shulze
- Don McKnight
- Mike Holt
- Jessica Krol
- Joanna Greene
- Paul Bogdanoff
- Megan Girard
- Paige Muraca
- Colleen Flaherty
- Karen Sargent
- Erica Latimore
- Mariela Molina
- Sarah Ahlers
- Richard Brown
- Elder Romero
- Kyle Chumas
- Andrew LaDuca
- Chad Papson
- Brynne Salomone
- Spencer Toomey

Hopkins/Amity High Schools 07
- Silas Meredith
- Susan Bennitt
- Gregory Monahan
- Matthew Joseph
- Adam Holzman
- Francesco DeCamilli
- Nicholas Andreassi
- Daniel Nudel
- Jennifer Richards
- Kat Stewart
- Zachary Wright
- Ulises Berrios

"...listening to the people of Goyena speak about the dismal conditions of their community and the massive hardships they face every single day. I couldn't help but recall how stressed I was last week in the midst of midterms...But hearing the people of Goyena talk about the limited educational facilities, inaccessibility of schooling past 6th grade, and the unbelievable percentage of people there who can't even write their own name, I realized that my problems are pretty good ones to have. This trip is teaching me that a world exists outside of my personal career choices and aspirations... in just these two days, I've been able to expand my perspectives on life..."

Brittany Robinson
Yale/ReachOut Spring Break Trip 2007
Thank you does not adequately convey the immense gratitude we feel toward these skilled and loyal friends.

I am also in the enviable position on an almost daily basis experiencing the generosity of our donors. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have made our work possible through these years. Your financial support is indispensable. Adelante

Patty Nuelsen
Director of Development
### Donors 2007 continued

- NEIL & PAT KLUEPFEL
- ANNE SOMSEL & STEPHEN KOBASA
- CAROLYN KOVEL
- STEPHEN & KATHLYN R. KRAFFMILLER
- HENRY KRAYBILL
- TONY LABRUZZA
- LADIES HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
- FRANK & PAT LADUCA
- JEAN & ROBERT LAMPERT
- MAXINE LAMPERT
- RICK GOODWIN & RACHEL LAMPERT
- KATE LANDON
- JEFFRY LARSON
- REV. KATE & ARTHUR LATIMER
- DIETRICH MOOR & HEATHER LAUVER
- LAWRENCE ISON TRUST
- MOLLY LE VAN
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- LISA & PAUL LENIHAH
- DAVID CROSS & NANCY LESH
- LOWELL LEVIN
- PEG LEWIS
- ADRIANE LONZARICH
- RUTH LORD
- SUSAN KLEIN & HENRY LOWENDORF
- SAM MACDOWELL
- DR. MICHAEL BARON & RUTH J MAGRAW
- BRIAN MARINO
- PATRICIA MARKIEWICZ

### NHLSCP Financial Statements FY 2007 (draft)

#### Current Assets
Cash and Other Current Assets | 104,480

#### Liabilities
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expense | 4,110

#### Net Assets
Unrestricted | 61,629
Board Restricted | 38,031
Temporarily Restricted | 710
**Total Net Assets and Liabilities** | **104,480**

#### Statement of Revenue and Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Support and Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>136,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Revenue</td>
<td>102,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>1,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>In kind Services</td>
<td>7,360</td>
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**Total** | **248,139**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>188,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>24,923</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>36,577</td>
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</table>
**Total** | **250,369**

### Support and Revenues: 2007

- Contributions: $136,409
- Service Revenue: $102,727
- Investment Income: $1,643
- In Kind Services: $7,360

### Expenses: 2007

- Program: $188,868
- Supporting Services: $24,923
- Fundraising: $36,577

**Net Income (Loss)**

- ($2,230)
The New Haven/León Sister City Project is a progressive, grassroots organization that fosters a partnership between the communities of Greater New Haven, Connecticut and Leon, Nicaragua. Our mission is social justice and we work to form fair and respectful relationships between the people of our two cities in the political, economic, social, spiritual and cultural spheres.

Board of Directors
Allie Perry
Ray Pagliaro
James Leslie
Roy Money, Co-President
Kate Landon, Co-President
Virginia Chapman
Susan Bramhall, Treasurer
Mike Soares
Joy Gordon, Secretary
Henry Lowendorf
Susan Power Trucksess

León Staff
Rene Venegas, General Coordinator
Gioconda Torres, Education Coordinator
Sydney Frey, Project/Outreach Coordinator
Maria Antonieta Chevez, Administrative Coordinator

New Haven Staff
Patty Nuelsen, Director of Development
Chris Schweitzer, Program Director

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