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
“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system ... or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.” - Paulo Freire

“Life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the tumbling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt.” - Frederick Buechner

Dear Friends

People often wonder if the work of non-profits like NHLSCP is having an impact. What they want to know, naturally, is whether we have little doubt that we – through delegations, the Education Program in Guayena; internships, support for sugar cane workers – are having an impact. We can see the results – albeit on a small scale - and that’s a good part of what this 2009 Annual Report is about.

But part of this question is an awareness of the pressing challenges Nicaraguans face. Poverty. An overwhelming and underfunded educational system. Weak political institutions. Right now, climate change and the global economic crisis are creating new and serious threats to people’s efforts to overcome poverty. The challenges are so great. Will this ever change?

NHLSCP responds to these challenges in two ways. First we continue to build person to person relationships helping to make connections that can change lives. It’s through these relationships – and an awareness of people’s needs and gifts – that ideas are born, projects are created, resources found, people are mobilized, and transformation happens. Both here in Nicaragua and...

Secondly, we look to confront the systems – the “powers and principalities” in Biblical terms - in our efforts. In the case of sugar plantations we see how low wages and bad working conditions condemn families – whose children we educate – to grinding poverty. So we struggle to get out the worker’s story and shine a light on the World Bank loan and negligent company practices. We see how precarious is at its heart an educational organization – both for USians and Nicaraguans – hopefully a transformational, liberating education. Our success can be measured by how well we create the conditions that condemn families – whose children we educate – to grinding poverty. So we struggle to get out the worker’s story and shine a light on the World Bank loan and negligent company practices. We see how precarious

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Sincerely,

Joy Gordon and Ray Money

Co- Presidents

Hopi-Tewa and Guayena residents take a break.
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.

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.

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 an 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.

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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2009 Delegates 
Fairfield University: Dina Franceschi, Terry Jones, Melissa Martinez, Kira Gustafson, Jill Holman, Evelyn Salter, Kerri Horgan, Caitlin Liguori, Jessica Randall, Michaela Kehoe, Eddie Mazar, Jennifer Zocco, Thomas Vito; Yale Reach Out: Alexis Johnson, Antonio Ingrams, Christine Saffold, Jessica Norton, Raesh Mohan, Rebecca Cooper, Sarah Toomey, Vy Tran; Temple Emmanuel: Arlene Aizer Cohen, Jean Silk, David Elkin-Ginnetti, Debbie Elkin, Jane Kovel, Peter Stolzman, Lee Stolzman, Rise Siegel;

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