



"Hello, the rainy season began but it's still very hot, especially in the communities of Goyena and Troilo, where plantations of sugarcane and peanuts have left no trees! This is our second special edition newsletter that brings you some short updates from Leon. Also, I'll be speaking on women's rights in New Haven on September 30th (info [here](#)), and check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos and news." Saludos! Erendira.

Storytelling Delegation to Leon.



Photo: From left to right: Nubia, Karla, Darling, Erendira (from Goyena and Leon), delegation members Aaron, Red, Layla, Susan, Kerry, and Shelly showing off yoga pose.

A late-July multigenerational delegation came and focused on storytelling as a tool for community and women leaders. We all tell stories to be heard; it is the basic need of anyone; it is the essence of what makes us human. We were able to tell our stories, reflect on the consequences and explore where we want to go We learned the importance of telling our own stories, to recount our experiences, makes us strong. But it was hard and difficult. And if we do not do it ourselves, someone else will do it for us. We learned that if we do not defend ourselves, who will? If we do not defend each other before injustices, what are we? Nubia Quiroz, community leader and women's rights promoter in Goyena, shared with us: "By telling our stories and playing forum theater games, we demonstrate to everyone with whom we shared those 10 days together that we are survivors of many injustices, and that we are willing to be part of the change we want to see."

Women in Black Action for Women's life "NOT ONE MORE "



Photo: Women organizations and individual feminists in activity " Women in Black Action for Women's Lives - Not One More"

On July 10th, women's organizations conducted nationwide simultaneous actions to denounce femicide in Nicaragua, demanding 'Not One More'. New Haven/Leon Sister City Project, in conjunction with women's organizations and individual women feminists, helped organize the activity 'Women in Black'. This was a performance representing the 34 femicides to date in 2015, denouncing that in 60% of the cases the aggressors had some family ties to the victims, that the home remains the most unsafe place for women. We demanded that the state's 779 Law be enforced without reform as it was approved in 2012. That day we denounced the lack of institutional support available when victims seek access to justice. This is a problem because of the collusion, inefficiency, and prevalence of a patriarchal thought, and the influence peddling which benefits the aggressors. Even with the serious situation of violence in which we live, we recognize the courage and determination that many women are showing when they put in their complaints or seek help to leave violent situations and manage to save their own lives. We call women to continue to denounce violence in all its forms, and demand the law enforcement Law 779.

Intern Works on Clean Cook Stove Project



Photo: Staff member Luis Chavarria with Doña

Intern Charles Allison-Godfrey, took up the challenge and work with the community of Goyena for a period of three months, focusing on environmental issues and improved cook stoves. He tells us: "I asked Doña Paola Obando to estimate how much wood she uses to cook one meal for her family of 6. She brought out one pile, and then another. By the time the wood was gathered to her satisfaction, I weighed it. It was just over 9 pounds. Paola uses this wood to cook over a simple three-stone fire. Because the fire is open, the wood burns quickly, releasing much of its energy in smoke rather than heat. The smoke has no place to escape, and stays in her home, blackening the walls of her house just as it blackens the lungs of her family. This three-stone fire is the dominant method of cooking in Goyena. I returned, for another measurement, after we had installed her new stove. The stoves, produced locally, use far less wood and have chimneys so that all smoke escapes through the roof. They are paid for by a collaboration between families and New Haven/León SCP. We repeated the earlier process. The wood weighed just 3 pounds. This shift in energy use reduces

the amount her family spends on wood, decreases rates of respiratory infections, and, on a larger scale, it lessens the amount of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. In conjunction with efforts from the United States, we can make a difference in the community of Goyena, and in the city of New Haven".