Dear Friends,

From New Jersey to Nicaragua, your generosity and activism continue to build community and extend support to those who need it most. Take a look!

**In New Jersey:**

- Our community continues to grow! About 75 people came out to our 24th Annual Solidarity Roast and between donations and ticket sales, we raised about $4000 for our Nica partners.

- Our topic for the September 12th Dinner Forum will be “The Fight for $15.” Meet organizers from The Fight for $15 and low wage workers from the fast food, airport and security industries who are uniting in their struggle against poverty and inequality.

- We’ve got a new Humanitarian Aid Shipment Coordinator! Jim Sagurton is taking over from Jason Hammond who kept the shipments moving for the past two years. Say hello at james.sagurton@gmail.com – Oct 10th is our next shipment.

**In Nicaragua:**

As we read the news in Central America, we are reminded again and again that our Nicaraguan partner organizations are working on the region’s most pressing issues—poverty, violence, and environmental conservation. Here are a few examples of recent headlines and how, with your support, our partners have been able to implement new programs and services for those who need it most.

- Nicaragua is the second poorest country in all of the Americas and at least 25 percent of school-age children don’t attend school (UN 2015). Our partner, Inhijambia, provides critical social, economic and educational support to children and young people to help them escape lives of poverty, drugs and abuse in the streets of Managua. With money from the Jim Burchell ¡Presente! Fund, Inhijambia recently completed a new dormitory in order to provide a safe living environment for 20 young girls who would otherwise be on the street. Future donations will help purchase a used vehicle to aid with Inhijambia’s work with these vulnerable young people.
• Nicaragua has the second highest incidence of domestic violence in the region. One third to one half of Nicaraguan women have experienced violence by men (UN 2015). Our partner, the Axayacatl Masaya Women's Collective, supports survivors of domestic violence through counseling and economic empowerment programs, as well as local advocacy. With money from the Jim Burchell ¡Presente! Fund, Axayacatl will build a new office for their programs. Future donations will help expand services for these women and families who often have nowhere else to turn.

• Sea turtles continue to be endangered in Nicaragua and worldwide, but thanks to local conservation efforts, numbers are slowly increasing on Nicaragua’s shores (WWF 2015). Our partner, the Palo de Oro ecotourism project and sea turtle hatchery, provides employment for local families, while protecting endangered sea turtles and their offspring. With the help of donations and volunteers, these efforts are beginning to pay off as more turtles and their eggs are protected from poachers.

• Chemicals used in conventional coffee farming are the cause of growing health problems among workers and water pollution throughout Latin America (UNEP 2015). Our partner, the El Porvenir Cooperative, grows and sells organic coffee, providing a livelihood for 43 families in a mountaintop community. This month, the cooperative will be able to purchase a much needed vehicle with PeaceWorks donations. You also can support El Porvenir by purchasing their coffee at PeaceWorks events.

Donate to the Jim Burchell ¡Presente! Fund to continue supporting these and other projects. For more information and for updates on all of our partners, visit our new website at www.peaceworks.org. None of this work would be possible without your steadfast support.

In Peace and Solidarity,
Denis, Diane and the PeaceWorks Board

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Please Let Us Know How You're Helping!

Enclosed please find my donation for:  $50 _____, $100 _____, $150 _____, other _____

_____ Please add me to the PeaceWorks email list for meeting reminders and events announcements.

Name: ____________________________  Email:  _________________________________________

_____ I am interested in a presentation on PeaceWorks at my church or community group.

_____ I can help prepare food for PeaceWorks Dinner Forums and Events.
FALL 2015 EVENTS

The Fight for $15
DINNER FORUM * SEPT 12th * 6:30p
Across the US, workers are demanding economic justice. Meet organizers from the “Fight for $15” minimum wage campaign and find out how their struggle is impacting the fight against poverty and inequality.
Dinner at 6:30. Program at 7:30pm. $10 adults. Kids free.
Chatham Friends Meeting. 158 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ.

68th Humanitarian Aid Shipment to Nicaragua
ALL HANDS ON DECK... OCT 10TH, 10AM-3PM
Shipment coordinator Jim Sagurton needs YOUR help with DONATIONS and PACKING for the 68th Humanitarian Aid Shipment to Nicaragua.
Contact Jim asap at james.sagurton@gmail.com
1st Presbyterian Church Plainfield. 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ

Sustainable Farms, Sustaining Peace
DINNER FORUM * NOV 14th * 6:30p
President of the Nicaraguan farmers organization FEDICAMP Miguel Marin will be joining us to talk about the work of fighting desertification and fostering sustainable agriculture in northern Nicaragua.
Dinner at 6:30. Program at 7:30pm. $10 adults. Kids free.
Chatham Friends Meeting. 158 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ.

Come on our January 2016 Delegation to Nicaragua!
2ND-3RD WEEKS OF JANUARY 2016
Sign up by September 30th. Cost: Approximately $1600/person (including air). For details and dates, contact Diane Sterner, dsterner14@gmail.com

PEACEWORKS
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. PUEBLO A PUEBLO. NEW JERSEY TO NICARAGUA.
peaceworks.org
Pueblo to Pueblo: News from Nicaragua

19 year-old Michael Ring, Jr. just returned from Nicaragua where he spent three weeks volunteering with PeaceWorks’ partner, Inhijambia, and 25-30 of the boys they serve each day. He was able to observe how Inhijambia’s education, nutrition and leadership programs helps these boys grow stronger and begin to find their inner champion. Read an excerpt from his letter.

This summer I worked with Inhijambia, an organization that works with homeless and troubled children in Managua. Many of these children, who live and work on the streets, deal with serious issues such as extreme hunger, drug use, and sexual abuse.

Normally, the days would start with a meeting led by one of the adult representatives, in which they would pick a topic to address, such as domestic abuse, alcohol/drug abuse, or staying focused on schoolwork. This struck me as a great way to allow the boys a chance to share their thoughts on serious issues, and most of them took advantage of the opportunity to have their voices heard. Another important part of the day was a healthy breakfast, followed by daily chores. Once chores were completed, it was time for homework. Almost all the boys attended school, and for most of them, this was their only opportunity for a peaceful quiet study space, along with adult guidance and support.

As soon as the boys had completed their studies, they were free to go to the nearby park and play soccer. I loved going to play with them, but even just observing as they gave it their all on the field was awesome. There was one boy in particular, Everth, who had some serious skill!

Once soccer wrapped up, the boys would return to the building, take showers and sit down for lunch before they had to leave for school. I would often walk them over to school a few blocks away, and stay with them until class started. This was a typical day, but Inhijambia also organizes special activities with the boys—dancing, music, swimming. Activities to help expand their horizons and have a little relief from life on the streets.

I could not have had a more eye-opening, life-changing experience than I had during my time with Inhijambia and for that I am extremely grateful. Inhijambia and all those involved were truly inspiring, and I cannot even begin to fathom how many lives they have changed throughout their 15-year history.
JANUARY 2016
DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA

January 2016*
*exact dates tbd

Sign up by September 30th. Cost: Approximately $1600/person (including air). Contact: Diane Sterner at (609) 259-8093 or dsterner14@gmail.com

PEACEWORKS.ORG
JOIN OUR DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA!

JANUARY 2016*

*exact dates tbd

Why go on a PeaceWorks Delegation?

Our delegations offer an introduction to Nicaragua’s people and culture through our Nicaraguan partner organizations. Participants should be prepared for both the extreme poverty and the unique beauty we'll find in the communities where our partners work. Those who have taken part in previous delegations describe the experience as life-changing, eye-opening, moving and memorable. A leap worth taking!

A few of the places and partner organizations we plan to visit.

**Managua - Inhijambia Heroic Women** Learn about the realities for street children and how Inhijambia restores hope and love to these young people who live at the dangerous margins of Nicaraguan society.

**Masaya - Axyacatl Women’s Collective** Experience how the collective supports local women through literacy training, counseling and self-support groups, legal assistance, community advocacy, and micro-credit and farming projects.

**Northern Nicaragua - FEDICAMP** Visit reforestation, water conservation, and organic gardening projects in areas threatened by desertification and climate change in rural Nicaragua.

**El Porvenir Coffee Co-op** See how forty-three families, living high atop a volcanic mountain range, plant, pick, and process the organic coffee that provides their livelihood which PeaceWorks sells at our events.

**Beauty and Culture** A visit to Nicaragua would not be complete without visiting the smoldering Masaya volcano, a breathtaking ecological reserve, the historic old city of Grenada, a Pacific ocean beach — and so much more!

Sign up by September 30th. Cost: Approximately $1600/person (including air). For details and dates, contact Diane Sterner at (609) 259-8093, dsterner14@gmail.com, or peaceworks.org