Dear Friends,

PeaceWorks may not be the largest or most powerful organization fighting for social and economic justice, but sometimes small communities can respond to immediate need more quickly than larger institutions.

We were proud to hear that two large European NGOs were re-funding Inhijambia – our Nica partner that provides counseling, health services, education and shelter for children and young women living in extreme poverty in Managua. Great news...until the other shoe dropped: it would take a few months for the NGO’s to finalize paperwork and send the much needed money.

Luckily, smaller groups, like PeaceWorks, don’t have quite as much red tape. Within 48 hours of learning about the delay, the PeaceWorks Board approved the $8000 bridge to insure no disruption of Inhijambia's services - not this holiday season. With your help, we hope to bring them another $7000 on our January delegation.

We were also very proud when Miguel Marin, who we brought up to the States for a speaking tour in November, told us that FEDICAMP had secured new support from the European Union, and helped lead a successful advocacy effort to protect native seeds and prevent new agrochemicals from being introduced in Nicaragua. Not bad for a small group of agricultural experts with big ideas that PeaceWorks began supporting nearly a decade ago. Now FEDICAMP is training an entire network of local experts to support poor rural farmers with projects that will help them build resilience to climate change.

Small groups of thoughtful, committed citizens matter, and so do your donations. Please join us in the joy of sharing this holiday season, and celebrate the work of small communities -- people to people, pueblo a pueblo.

Diane, Denis and the PeaceWorks Board
Through the years, we all will be together...

Let us know how you can help!

**Inhijambia needs a new SUV truck...badly.**
Inhijambia’s outreach work in Managua is based on visiting the public market and other locations to educate street children and families and recruit young people into their program. They move staff and equipment to present workshops on HIV, substance abuse, STDs and basic reading and math. And remember the little girls living in their new dormitory? Just like in New Jersey, there are doctor’s appointments, cultural events and sports programs that require transportation. $25,000 will help them buy a used, but reliable SUV to support their outreach programs.

**FEDICAMP’s Fight for Small Farmers**
We’re hoping to raise another $23,000 for farmers to install irrigations systems, efficient ovens and stoves and water conservation infrastructure.

**Support community-based conservation with the Palo de Oro Sea Turtle project.**
Sea turtles return from as far away as Canada to hatch their eggs on the beaches of Nicaragua, but their habitat is increasingly under threat from illegal poaching and environmental degradation. The *Palo de Oro* project works with local people to increase ecologically sustainable tourism, protecting to sea turtles while providing jobs in the community. They can protect a lot more turtle eggs with an extra $2500.

**PeaceWorks General Fund for Aid Shipments and Programs**
Our operating costs are small, but we rely on donations to pay for the bi-yearly humanitarian aid shipments to Nicaragua and our community programs. To start the year, we’ll need $10,000 to cover the cost of the next shipment which goes out in May!

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Enclosed please find my donation for Inhijambia’s SUV and Programming: $_________, Fedicamp’s Conservation and Sustainable Farming Work; $_________, Palo de Oro’s Sea Turtle Conservation: $_________.

I’d like to contribute to continuing PeaceWorks’ Mission: $_________

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

_____ I’d like to help pack the Humanitarian Aid Shipping Container
WINTER 2015-16 EVENTS

PeaceWorks’ 2015 Holiday Party
DECEMBER 12TH, 6:30PM
Join us for some holiday cheer while picking up a few handicrafts and coffee from our Nicaraguan partners.
Dinner at 6:30. Programs at 7:30pm. $10 adults. Kids free.

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship Alternative Gift Fair
DECEMBER 4, 5, 6
12 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ
Friday, 12/4 6:30 PM-9:30 PM, Saturday, 12/5 8:30AM-4:00PM, Sunday, 12/6 8:30AM-1:00PM

PeaceWorks January 2016 Delegation to Nicaragua!
JANUARY 5th-19th, 2016
Two spots still available! Cost: Approximately $1800/person (including air).
For details and dates, contact Diane Sterner, dsterner14@gmail.com

2016 Dinner Forums
March 12th & April 9th, 2016
Dinner at 6:30. Program at 7:30pm. $10 adults. Kids free.
Chatham Friends Meeting. 158 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ.

PEACEWORKS
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. PUEBLO A PUEBLO. NEW JERSEY TO NICARAGUA.
peaceworks.org
"Speaking to you makes me a little nervous," said Miguel Marin, the Executive Director of the Nicaraguan Federation for the Development of Rural Farmers, FEDICAMP. After all, Miguel was standing before 60 elementary school children in New Jersey -- quite a jump from his job as an agricultural engineer in rural Nicaragua. He told the students at the Global Charter School in Jersey City about what it's like for kids growing up in rural Nicaragua.

"They don't have computers or cell phones?" one incredulous child asked, "...but how can they talk with their friends?"

The children were engaged, energized and full of questions. Miguel connected with them -- and there's even talk about continuing the conversation by Skype, getting the students in New Jersey together with children whose families work with FEDICAMP in Nicaragua.

The Global Charter School was only the beginning of a week full of cultural exchange and global understanding.

At PeaceWorks' November 14th Dinner Forum, Miguel shared the story of Nicaraguan farmers with a variety of folks who gathered over a delicious meal and home-baked desserts. He also spoke at Rutgers Preparatory School, Columbia High School in Maplewood, Don Bosco Prep, Wilson Memorial Church, First Presbyterian Church of Rahway, Cranford Presbyterian and Rutgers University. And after North Jersey, he got on a train to Trenton and then on to Baltimore and Washington DC to meet with other groups eager to learn about his work.

FEDICAMP organizes small farmers to preserve precious water supplies, build cisterns and irrigation systems, diversify crops, reforest, consume less wood and enhance the quality of life for its members. This is absolutely critical work as the families learn to build resiliency to a nagging five-year drought as a result of climate change.

The small investment PeaceWork made to bring Miguel up has also paid off with our community's generosity - the visit helped consolidate nearly $9000 in donations. He inspired and helped orient two delegations heading off to Nicaragua in January. He urged upon us all the vital importance of continued generosity so that the hardworking and entrepreneurial farmers of northern Nicaragua can not only survive, but prosper and bless their children so that in turn their children can bless the world.
Reaching for the Moon

Testimony from a 14-year old girl

“I don’t think I’ll ever be able to forgive my mother and those who abused me, but you* make me feel important...that I can reach the moon!” - Rosa

Reader Discretion Advised: The following testimony by 14 year-old Rosa describes graphic violence and sexual abuse. Rosa is now safe, living in the Inhijambia shelter which was built with your donations to PeaceWorks.

“My name is Rosa, I’m 14 years old and I’ve been with Inhijambia for two and half years. Before coming to live here, I’ve lived through very difficult situations.

When I was six my parents took me to live in Costa Rica where we lived in one room and my parents were constantly fighting. My mother was unfaithful and one day when my father was drunk, she and her boyfriend tied him up and suffocated him in front of me. He was the most important person in my life.

My mother sent me back to Nicaragua to live with her family, but they want me when I told them what had happened to my father. They also began mistreating me and my own grandfather sexually abused me.

*Rosa gave her testimony directly to a delegation from Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey who visited Nicaragua in August 2015. Our deepest appreciation to the community of Christ Church whose love, and donations, are paying for Rosa’s dance classes.
I fled to my aunt’s house where I was also treated badly. Even though I was really young, they made me cook and I now have scars from the cooking oil that burned my skin. My uncle sexually abused me there as well. I was only 10 years old, I started drinking and smoking.

I was finally reunited with my older brothers and sisters in Managua, but they didn’t want me or knew how to support me. That’s when I met those from Inhijambia who are helping me move forward.

I know that there is a lot to do to heal my wounds, but I’ve been changing. They’re helping me find ways to get past the violence that was living inside me. Little by little I’ve come to forgive myself, that I was only a child and that I wasn’t able to help my father. I was a victim too.

I don’t think I’ll ever be able to forgive my mother and those who abused me, but you* make me feel important…that I can reach the moon!”

Can you help Inhijambia buy a SUV…
and get Rosa to dance class?

Can you help us raise $25,000 to mobilize Inhijambia’s team around Managua? Inhijambia’s outreach work in Managua is based on visiting the public market and other locations to educate street children and families and recruit young people into their program. They move staff and equipment to present workshops on HIV, substance abuse, STDs and basic reading and math. And remember the little girls living in their new dormitory? Just like in New Jersey, there are doctor’s appointments, cultural events and sports programs that require transportation. $25,000 will get them a used, but reliable SUV to get the job done.