June 28th, 2017

Dear Friends,

Our Nicaraguan partner FEDICAMP, the Federation for the Development of Rural Farmers, is working on the frontlines to help small farmers survive the changing climate and produce much needed food for their communities. This month they need our help more than ever, as a funding shortfall may force them to lay off employees and downsize their program.

The men and women of FEDICAMP work long hours on a shoestring budget, traveling to remote communities to provide training and implement sustainable growing and water projects. Losing project staff will be a huge loss for the local farmers who need their expertise. We've set a goal of raising $15,000 to help prevent this from happening.

Here is one example of how FEDICAMP uses funding to share knowledge and support projects across northern Nicaragua.

Meet Hoel. On the surface he might seem like any other teenager from rural Nicaragua, but if you ask him about sustainable farming, you’ll realize that this high school student has a surprising wealth of knowledge on the subject.

A few years back Hoel met the team of agricultural experts from FEDICAMP when they made the long journey up beat up roads to his community of El Zapote. The team was there to train the community’s farmers in supporting and conserving one of their most valuable resources: their land. But when the FEDICAMP team goes to a place like El Zapote, they the know not to overlook the most important resource in any community: the youth.

FEDICAMP identified Hoel as a local youth leader and helped him get into a course in “Agro-ecological and Human Development” facilitated by the Agrarian University of Nicaragua. It would take a year and a half of weekend workshops and on-site support by FEDICAMP, but Hoel eventually
became a certified agricultural educator for the organization. He can teach others about soil and water conservation, pest and disease management, efficient irrigation techniques and agricultural project management.

In El Zapote, Hoel is now working on his family’s farm, applying the new techniques he learned to increase their yield of coffee and vegetables and bring in more income for his family. He works on other farms to earn money for his high school tuition and he has a great start toward a professional career doing something that he loves. So far, FEDICAMP has trained 26 teens and young adults, including nine girls, to be agricultural educators in their communities. This is no time to slow down this vital work with staff layoffs.

Our support will help FEDICAMP retain their staff while they explore new funding solutions. Over the years, we've seen how our relatively small donations to our partners turn into big projects that can impact countless numbers of Nicaragua’s families. Please help us reach our goal of $15,000. Any support you can provide will go along way toward helping rural youth like Hoel and other Nicaraguan farming families.

On behalf of the PeaceWorks Board, thank you for your help and we look forward to seeing you at our Solidarity Roast on July 8th.

Paz y solidaridad,

Denis, Diane and the entire PeaceWorks Board

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I would like to contribute to help FEDICAMP to prevent any lay-offs and work with more remote communities in Nicaragua:

$ __________

I’d like to contribute to the general Peaceworks Fund for aid shipments, partner support, etc.

$ __________

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

Name: __________________________ Email: __________________________

PeaceWorks, 1125 Woolley Ave., Union, NJ 07083
917-301-6967, peaceworks.org
WHERE THE ROAD ENDS

(AND THE WORK OF FEDICAMP OFTEN BEGINS)

There are no roads to El Apante.

The last dirt road ended three hours back -- right before what locals call an incline. For anyone else, a really steep mountain. So, in January 2014, PeaceWorks delegation members dug their feet into the dry, sandy “incline” step-by-step while pushing and pulling each other all the way up to meet the 80 families living in the community of El Apante. Our former PeaceWorks Director (and delegation co-leader) Jim Burchell taught us that the work of people-to-people often starts with a challenging hike.

When the Federation for the Development of Rural Farmers of Nicaragua, FEDICAMP, first invited the delegation to visit El Apante, it was an offer they couldn’t refuse. Jim knew that FEDICAMP had already begun to work with the El Apante families to get running water to the central part of the community and their small school.

FEDICAMP goes to remote communities where others will not -- in part because of PeaceWorks’ support. So, it was no surprise when FEDICAMP led 10 of us up to a place where people (mostly kids) would spend an hour or more every day hauling water from a well or stream. An hour that otherwise could be used to tend to crops, study or maybe play a game of baseball.

(continued on next page)
As we all know, Jim didn’t get a chance to see a water project for this community through to the end, but the very next year we saw people from El Apante while visiting the community development association of San Jose de Cusmapa, the local group that works with them.

This past January we were able to take some funds generously donated by members of the PeaceWorks’ community for this purpose and, soon after, FEDICAMP brought their expertise and materials to help bring potable water to El Apante. The people in the community proudly dug the ditches for tubing and fed the technical team.

Once again, FEDICAMP got the job done. At least 35 families in El Apante have water running directly to their homes, and access for the rest of the community has been greatly increased.

We will always be proud to walk side by side with FEDICAMP, no matter how steep the incline may be – Jim taught us well. In good times and tough times, the work of people-to-people will go on. Thanks for your generous contribution to ensure there’s no stop in the action. Thanks for helping us raise $15,000 to prevent layoffs of FEDICAMP staff.

35 families in El Apante now have potable water thanks to FEDICAMP
BUILDING PEACE IS SERIOUS BUSINESS
(DON’T TRY IT WHILE HUNGRY)

PEACEWORKS 2017 SOLIDARITY ROAST
Celebrating 25 years of Friendship with the People of Central America

Saturday, July 8th, 3 to 7pm (rain or shine)
Chatham-Summit Quaker Meeting House,
158 Southern Blvd., Chatham Township, NJ

Barbecued foods & grilled veggie delights. Delicious salads, scrumptious desserts, refreshments! Raffles, crafts, organic coffee!

RSVP to smsteiner100@gmail.com

$10 Adults, kids eat free!
Come celebrate 25 years of working people to people, pueblo a pueblo

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AT THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP CENTER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DETAILS AT PEACEWORKS.ORG

QUESTIONS? CONTACT AUSTIN HAEBERLE CINEMAUS@GMAIL.COM