Dear friends,

At the beginning of October Hurricane Nate ripped through Nicaragua before picking up steam and making landfall in Biloxi, Mississippi. Shortly after, the emails started coming in.

“Nate hit us hard,” Mirna Sanchez wrote from the Inhijambia Program for street kids. “We can not minimize the damage, it's impossible to hide: the dead, destroyed houses, damaged infrastructure and many children, elderly people, poor people who lost everything." The crops at Inhijambia's new small-scale industrial farm were nearly all destroyed.

Rene Gaitan of the El Porvenir Coffee Co-op, which is nestled between volcanoes and takes an hour and half tractor ride to reach, also wrote with dire news. “The roads were destroyed, our communication with the outside world was cut-off and now we have to pay to repair the roads – and the harvests were mostly damaged.”

Maria Eugenia Delgadillo of the Axayacatl program for women fleeing domestic violence wrote to tell us that during the storm a felled tree ripped off a part of the roof on their new office building. Miguel Marin from FEDICAMP sent us photos of destroyed roads on the way to the small community of El Apante. It is the type of destruction you see throughout Nicaragua in the days since Nate blew through.

But if you were to imagine yourself carefully climbing over the damaged part of road to El Apante and hiking another two hours up, the story of Nate and the other devastating effects of climate change, like severe, long-term drought, begin to go in another direction.
At the top of the mountain you would meet 34 very poor farming families who just got a new potable water system. Thanks to the technical expertise of our partner FEDICAMP with $5000 in support from PeaceWorks, the lives of the people of El Apante are radically different. Please read the included article how we're making lives easier while mitigating the terrible effects of climate change.

PeaceWorks has more projects on the table right now that our partners, like FEDICAMP, are ready to begin. We are still trying to raise $15,000 for salaries and materials for FEDICAMP to knock out a couple of more water projects. Our other partners also need support to get back up after Nate and continue their projects to fight extreme poverty and exploitation.

Meanwhile, up here, we have our own long-term, community projects.

**November 9th Dinner Forum with Human Rights Watch America's Division**

You are invited to join us in a conversation with Human Rights Watch's Daniel Wilkinson. Daniel is HRW's Managing Director for the Americas, heading up a team of researchers reporting on human rights throughout Latin America. Dinner is at 6:30 and we'll talk with Daniel at 7:30.

Daniel Wilkinson, Managing Director of Human Rights Watch’s Americas Division

The 72nd PeaceWorks Humanitarian Aid Shipment is Arriving in Nicaragua Soon.

On October just sent down our 72nd Humanitarian Aid Shipment to Nicaragua. The ship should arrive in Nicaragua at about the time you read this. Thank you to everyone who came out to pack the shipment, donate items and provided funding to offset the costs. The donated items on that ship make such a huge difference in people's lives.

Thank you for all of your support of our partners. We can't wait to show you what else we can do together.

En paz,
Denis, Diane, John, Micha, Maggie, Susan, Marilyn and Guy, the PeaceWorks Board

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

I’d like to contribute to help FEDICAMP build another water system: $ __________

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
WHAT IN THE WORLD EVER HAPPENED TO LATIN AMERICA?

A CONVERSATION WITH DANIEL WILKINSON

For decades our collective psyche imagined communism's inevitable march up through Latin America and across the Rio Grande. Sadly, the legitimate concerns and democratic wishes of the people of Latin America were secondary to our Cold War fears - with horrific human rights consequences. And then the Berlin Wall fell.

So, whatever happened to Latin America? From a human rights perspective, what are the main challenges for the 650 million people south of our border?

Join us for a dinner forum with Human Rights Watch Managing Director for Latin America Daniel Wilkinson. He’ll share specific cases to give us insight into the big picture politics and social movements shaping Latin America today.

Saturday November 11th, 2017

Dinner at 6:30. Program at 7:30. $10 adults. Kids free.
Summit-Chatham Friends Meeting, 158 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ.
RSVP to smsteiner100@gmail.com

peaceworks.org
CLIMATE, ADAPTATION & CHANGE
WATER IS FLOWING IN EL APANTE

When former PeaceWorks director Jim Burchell and the delegation arrived in 2014 with FEDICAMP - the Federation for the Development of Rural Farmers - to visit the small community of El Apante, they imagined helping build a new water distribution system for the 34 desperately poor families living there. That project is now complete and water is flowing. Here are highlights from FEDICAMP’s final report.

When Jim and our delegation first hiked three hours up to the small community in 2014, the families were drinking contaminated water from a spring. In the dry season, the source slows to a trickle—especially in times of prolonged drought because of climate change. Located a kilometer above the community, women and children would hike up to the spring every day only to carry jugs full of contaminated water back down.

The community worked with FEDICAMP through the entire process of getting a new water system: legal assessments concerning the water source, the health ministry’s water quality studies, another ministry’s approval for aqueducts, training to form a water health committee. All of this had to be done before any of the project plans and surveying were carried out.

Meanwhile, up in New Jersey, PeaceWorks raised $5000 for the materials, design & project management. When all the pieces were in place, the El Apante community provided labor.

A community water committee was trained to care for the new system and protect public health

A 5000 liter pre-fab cistern was chosen because concrete was too expensive and too difficult to haul up the mountain. Through the education process the community learned to fence off the spring, as well as plant trees that also capture water and prevent runoff.

What a difference this work has made!

Nobody is walking up and down to fetch contaminated water. In fact, with new health protocols, the water quality has greatly improved. The long periods of drought are far more manageable. Mothers have more time to work. Kids have more time to study and play. Crops can be more easily planned and harvests will be bigger.

Thank you, dear friends in the PeaceWorks community. Hats off to a job well done.

34 families in El Apante, Nicaragua now have safe, potable water -- even through sustained periods of drought
PEACEWORKS’ 72ND HUMANITARIAN AID SHIPMENT TO NICARAGUA IS HERE
(AS OF 12:52PM OCT 27TH, 2017)

What does it look like when PeaceWorks delivers a 40’ container of the following donated items?

* 157 Boxes of Used Clothing
* 23 Boxes of Gently Used & New Shoes
* 159 Boxes of New School Supplies
* 121 Boxes of Gently Used Household items
* 42 Boxes of Medical Supplies
* 51 Wheelchairs, walkers and canes

* 21 Boxes of Office Supplies
* 42 Boxes of Sewing Supplies
* 45 Boxes of Sporting Goods
* 44 Boxes of Gently Used Toys
* 60 Bicycles
* 51 boxes and pieces of tools

Like this: at Managua’s Eastern Market
AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIFT, AND GIVE BACK!

JOIN PEACEWORKS AT
THE MORRISTOWN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP’S

14TH ANNUAL “GIFTS OF CONSCIENCE” HOLIDAY FAIR

Jewelry, pottery, scarves, handbags, instruments, baskets and an entire global mix of beautifully crafted, affordable gifts that your friends and family will adore and whose maker will benefit! Crafts and coffee from Nicaragua and weavings from Guatemala’s Grupo Cajolá!

Friday 12/1 6:30p-9:30p, Saturday 12/2 8:30a-4p, 12/3 8:30a-1p
21 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ