Dear friends,

As news reports in the U.S. seem more alarming each day, it’s easy to feel helpless. But this month we would like to share specific, concrete ways that you, the PeaceWorks community, have been helping our Nicaraguan partners improve their communities and empower people in need.

As Ingrid Zapata Ortiz, an Inijambia graduate, wrote in a recent letter to PeaceWorks, “I have learned that in life there are disasters and storms that make you want to give up. But, there are also people who will offer you their hand in friendship, who won’t let you fall, who will help you continue down the road toward your goals.”

**Inijambia: Empowering Small Business Owners**

As Inijambia’s Program for Street Children continues to provide nutrition, psychological services and education for kids working on the streets of Managua, the organization has also provided housing and employment for a number of adult women who grew up utilizing their services. This year, PeaceWorks awarded small grants to three of these women to help them start or expand small home-based businesses.

Ingrid (quoted above) had already started running a little shop out of her home - a home that Inhijambia built for her two years ago with PeaceWorks’ support. She had been selling just a few snacks, but used her grant to expand her offerings, which now include a range of prepared food...
items and cleaning supplies. Ingrid’s neighbor, Melida, was able to purchase a freezer and expand her beverage stand, offering soda, juices and flavored milks. And Estela used her grant to stock a little boutique with clothes, linens, and housewares. All of the women are grateful for this support, which is helping them to better provide for their families and send their children to school.

**Axyacatl: Investing in Women’s Independence**

As Axyacatl continues to support women escaping domestic violence, their rural economic development project helps women generate sustainable income streams and achieve much needed independence through farming projects. With PeaceWorks’ support, the women’s gardens are lush with squash, beans and a variety of fruits and vegetables. The pigs are plump and multiplying in number. Tanks have been constructed to save water for dry spells and new crops, such as ornamental flowers, are being added to supplement family incomes.

“I have learned that in life there are disasters and storms that make you want to give up. But, there are also people who will offer you their hand in friendship, who won’t let you fall, who will help you continue down the road toward your goals.” -- Ingrid Zapata Ortiz
El Porvenir: Getting the Coffee to Market
The 43 families that make up the El Porvenir Coffee Co-Op work hard to produce our favorite organic shade-grown coffee. As weather patterns in their mountain top community become more and more unreliable, the families continue to adapt and find ways to bring in the harvest each year. This year, PeaceWorks provided funding to make needed repairs to their “drying patio,” used to dry and process their coffee harvest. The restored patio now also allows them to collect rain water and funnel it to their drinking water storage tanks.

FEDICAMP: Help Turn on the Taps in Yalagüina!
Last month we shared an exciting project that FEDICAMP, The Federation for the Development of Rural Farmers, has initiated in Nicaragua’s rural highlands—a community water system to provide safe drinking water for 277 families and 15 schools. We have an immediate goal of raising $30K to complete the system. So far, we have raised $3K from our community response, while several large donors pledged another $10K. We’re almost half-way to our funding goal! Please consider contributing in this concrete way to make a Nicaraguan community safer and healthier.
Palo de Oro Sea Turtle Sanctuary
The Turtle Sanctuary enlists community members to patrol the beaches and gather sea turtle eggs. But instead of using the eggs for personal consumption, they sell them to the Sanctuary where they are incubated in nests — burlap bags filled with sand. Using the $1500 that we sent down in July, the project has incubated 5760 eggs and has already returned 4650 baby turtles to the sea. At about $3 bucks for a dozen turtle eggs, that’s quite an achievement!!

¡Las Sandinistas! November 9th Dinner Forum
In order to feature the ongoing struggles and triumphs of the women of Nicaragua, we’ll be showing the beautiful “Las Sandinistas” documentary with a live Q&A by Skype with Sandinista leader Dora María Téllez. Join us at the Friends Meeting in Chatham on November 9th. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm.

As always, thank you for offering your hand in friendship, as Ingrid says, to our Nicaraguan partners. For walking with them down the road to a brighter future.

In solidarity,

Denis, Diane, John, Micha, Maggie, Susan, Marilyn and Guy
The PeaceWorks Board

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The work of PeaceWorks partners described above is inspiring. I want to help:

☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ $150  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $1000  ☐ $______________

PeaceWorks is half way to turning on the taps in Palacagüina - FEDICAMP’s new water project. Here’s how I can help:

☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ $150  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $1000  ☐ $______________

PeaceWorks just sent its 76th shipment to Nicaragua. Here’s my contribution to offset the $10,000 shipping cost.

☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ $150  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $1000  ☐ $______________

6 SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVING ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES!

STEP #1
FIND A FEW FRIENDS WHO ARE REALLY INTO SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

STEP #2
BUILD A SANCTUARY FOR RESCUED SEA TURTLE EGGS

STEP #3
COMB THE BEACHES AT NIGHT AND FIND EGGS.

STEP #4
INCUBATE THE EGGS IN PROTECTED NESTS

STEP #5
ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR WORK (HOWEVER BRIEFLY)

STEP #6
BE FREE, LITTLE FRIENDS. BE FREE.