



March 18, 2020

Dear friends,

Here's a quick update: Nicaragua had not experienced any cases of COVID-19 as of March 15th, but this past weekend the government organized public rallies and parades to raise awareness. While parades are probably not the best strategy during a global pandemic, hospitals in Nicaragua are on full alert in case of an outbreak. We'll keep you posted if we hear anything, especially from our partners.

Up here, PeaceWorks is moving ahead the best we can, but please know that we are taking the COVID-19 risk very seriously and will follow the guidelines of respected public officials and health experts. So, while our March dinner forum with the delegation has been postponed until at least April 18th, that date could change. We've also postponed our northern New Jersey speaking tour with Inhijambia's Carlos Ernesto Molina.

In spite of it all, we'd like to share our **2020 Action Plan!** Our recent delegation to Nicaragua allowed us to have in-depth conversations with our partners and witness their triumphs, challenges and needs. Our goals are rooted in those conversations and our people-to-people mission of collaboration and solidarity. Check out the attached "Report from the Field" to learn more about our delegation!

The PeaceWorks 2020 Action Plan

FEDICAMP: \$4K to "Turn on the Taps" in Yalaguina.

Back in August we set out to raise \$30K for FEDICAMP to bring water to over 100 families in the community of San Antonio in Yalaguina. We took down over \$25K during the delegation, but we still need \$4K to help our partners get the water system up and running. Safe, reliable drinking water will make a huge difference for the families living in this rural farming community.

El Porvenir: \$5K to shade new drought resistant coffee plants.

It's been a rough few years for the 54 families who make up *El Porvenir* Coffee Co-op. But not this year. With a record harvest and a new roaster/distributor in the US, things are starting to look up. Now, the

DINNER FORUM: 2020 DELEGATION TO NICARAGUA



SATURDAY APRIL 18TH
CHATHAM FRIENDS MEETING
6:30PM
(STAY TUNED FOR SCHEDULING UPDATES)

community hopes to increase sustainability along with production by shifting to drought resistant coffee plants. They are currently cultivating drought resistant seedlings in their nursery, but they also need to purchase *ajoché* (shade trees) seedlings to reforest and help the plants withstand heat and limited rainfall. \$5K will help them get started toward a more sustainable future.

Inhijambia: \$25K to expand programming for street kids.

Inhijambia’s farm is expanding, advancing their progress toward self-sufficiency. Nonetheless, the organization still needs our help as they strive to meet the needs of additional vulnerable children, youth and families. Besides needing support for their new ‘Phase 0’, or seeding program for very young children living in the Oriental Market, they hope to begin building small homes for high-risk youth and families on a new plot of land PeaceWorks helped them buy last year.

Axayacatl Women’s Collective: \$10K to expand programming.

In June, Maria Eugenia and the *Axayacatl* team are planning to move into the new Women’s Center that PeaceWorks helped build. This transition to a larger, better equipped facility can’t happen soon enough. Last year “Axa” supported over 700 women whose lives have been upended by domestic violence and poverty. We need to raise \$10K to continue to support and help them expand their programming, especially their efforts to help women become economically self-sustaining.

Chispa de Vida Program for Kids with Disabilities: \$5K for kids with disabilities.

The *Mariposa* Spanish School, which sponsors and funds this program for disabled children, hit some hard times when tourism dried up due to the political violence over the last couple of years. But the tourists are finally returning, and the school continues to support *Chispa de Vida* with two part-time physical therapists for 20 children with severe disabilities. However, they desperately need these positions to be full-time to accommodate the much larger number of local kids needing physical therapy. With \$5,000 we can help make these full-time physical therapy positions possible.

Juan Venado Island Turtle Sanctuary: \$2K to protect a whole lot of turtle eggs.

Our partner, Marvin Hernández, now has the support of the national university, which is sending students and experts to help study the best way to incubate the endangered sea turtle eggs and other issues. While learning new techniques, Marvin has documented huge growth over the past few years. In 2013 the sanctuary released about 8000 baby turtles to the sea. In 2019, this rose to over 16,000. Our support helps Marvin pay local community members to monitor the beach and bring the turtle egg nests to the program’s nursery to be protected.

As always, thank you for your friendship and solidarity as we work together to put the 2020 Action Plan in motion.

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

I’d like to contribute to the work of _____ described in the Action Plan:
(organization)

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$_____

I’d like to make a general support donation to PeaceWorks:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$_____