

April 9, 2024

Dear friends,

On March 23rd we gathered to celebrate the life and work of PeaceWorks founding executive director Jim Burchell. It was wonderful to see so many of you as we shared memories and looked towards the future of our people-to-people solidarity work.

And speaking of future plans, we recently took a page from Jim's notebook and hit the unpaved roads of Nicaragua to check out an exciting new project.

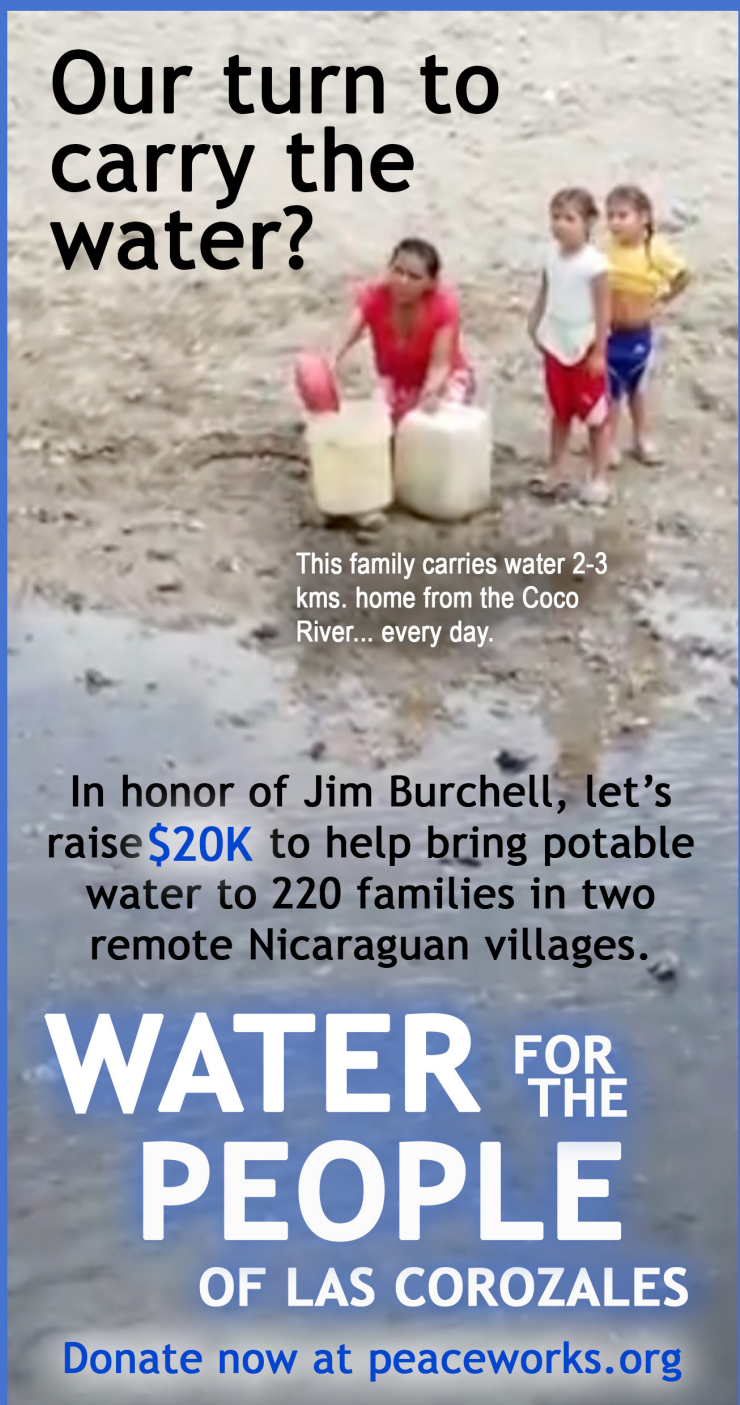
The Groundwork for New Water Projects

During a visit to Nicaragua in February, PeaceWorks president Denis Johnston traveled up near Nicaragua's border with Honduras, two hours past Jinotega on unmapped gravel roads. This is the type of journey Jim would have loved!

When he arrived, Denis met with community members from the twin villages of El Corozal Arriba and Boca de Corozal, where 220 families are living without access to potable water.

Since two powerful hurricanes destroyed their old system in 2021, villagers have been forced to walk two to three kilometers to their only water source, the polluted Coco River. To try and filter the water they dig holes in the sand, line them with stones, and then lug water jugs on their heads over hilly terrain in the heat and rain.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of Jim's passing, the PeaceWorks Board set a goal of raising \$50,000 over the next two years for the Agua es Vida!



Our turn to carry the water?

This family carries water 2-3 kms. home from the Coco River... every day.

In honor of Jim Burchell, let's raise **\$20K** to help bring potable water to 220 families in two remote Nicaraguan villages.

WATER FOR THE PEOPLE

OF LAS COROZALES

Donate now at peaceworks.org

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917-301-6967, peaceworks.org

Fund, to support at least two new drinking water projects in rural Nicaragua. We hope to start with getting the taps turned back on for the 1000 people who occupy the villages of Los Corozales.

PeaceWorks is uniquely placed as a funding partner. All the pieces are set in Nicaragua. Together, our community has at least three recent potable water projects under our belts. Our partners at Green Empowerment are once again on the ground in Nicaragua, working with a Nicaraguan nonprofit and local residents to plan a sustainable project that should last decades. The people in Los Corozales are already saving money and being trained to build and maintain the new water system.

We know that we can help get this system built. We hope that we can go even further by raising \$50K to work with communities beyond Los Corozales. But our immediate goal is to raise \$20,000 to cover a significant part of this \$108,000 international project to bring clean, accessible water from a pure mountain stream to these villages. We are pleased to report that we were able to raise \$7,000 in donations and pledges within days of announcing the Agua es Vida! fund and its first project at the March 23rd event. Just \$13,000 to go - we're hoping you can help!



PeaceWorks President Denis Johnston (5th from left) on location at the Coco River where 220 families carry water 2-3 kms. home.

The History: Man-made Disaster

Not far from Los Corozales, US hydroelectric engineer Ben Linder and two Nicaraguan associates were assassinated while scoping out a water project four decades earlier in 1987. Their deaths came at the height of Nicaragua's tragic, decade-long civil war in which small communities like Los Corozales were routinely terrorized by the "Contras," a mercenary army paid for

by the US government.

This all happened during the height of the Cold War. While the Reagan Administration painted a picture of Nicaraguan rebels at the US border, the new Nicaraguan government took a longer-term revolutionary approach. The Sandinistas repelled the mercenary army while rebuilding its own infrastructure, and providing healthcare and literacy for its citizens.

But US dollars and military might – the covert operations, economic blockades and terror attacks – were devastating for the Nicaraguan people. By the time Denis Johnston, John Mahler and Jim Burchell founded PeaceWorks in 1992, countless Nicaraguans were struggling to deal with crushing poverty and trauma from years of conflict.

As for potable water systems like the one Ben Linder was researching, it would take years for wells and systems to be established. And now the climate crisis – through droughts and powerful storms – is threatening many of the older water systems in Nicaragua.

Honoring the People of las Corozales

So, to honor the brave people of Nicaragua and the legacy of Jim Burchell, who was never, ever not up for a fight to correct a wrong, we are excited to invite you to join this new initiative. Help us provide fresh, clean water to the families of Los Corozales. Help us reduce the burden of the mostly women and children who spend hours each day obtaining the water their families need. And at the same time, help us reduce preventable illnesses and improve hygiene for the entire community.

You may remember our projects with Green Empowerment in places like San Antonio, Yalagüina and El Mojon, Cusmapa. If so, you know that financial support from PeaceWorks is only one piece of the puzzle. Along with other international funding, the people of Los Corozales will contribute their sweat equity to dig trenches and build the infrastructure - worth \$14,000 - and about \$12,500 in cash. This labor and financial contribution from the community represents a quarter of the \$108,000 project. You can help us raise the remaining \$13,000 PeaceWorks needs to help make this project happen.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF JIM BURCHELL, 1954-2014

Ten years after he passed, we continue to celebrate Jim's friendship and solidarity with the people of Nicaragua. About 75 of us gathered in Morristown on March 23rd

to reminisce about a friend who is dearly missed from New Jersey to Nicaragua.



Food, drinks and reminiscing Jim Burchell



Center: Jim's son Brandon Friebur



PeaceWorks' President Denis Johnston.



Front and center: Jim Burchell



Jim's friends Lorna & Newly



Mirna Sanchez & Carlos Ernesto Molina (Nicaragua)



Jim's daughter Robin Friebur



Axayacatl's Maria Eugenia Delgadillo (Nicaragua)



Jim's wife Roxanne Friedenfels



75 of us met at MUUF in Morristown



Many joined us by Zoom!

Join us in Los Corozales

Following up on Denis' visit in early March, consider joining us as we visit Los Corozales during our 2024 Delegation to Nicaragua, taking place on July 28th thru August 9th. Our delegation will visit Nicaragua's rural communities, big cities and even a beachfront village. It's a great opportunity to meet and speak to our partners and the people of Nicaragua through translated discussions. Details at PeaceWorks.org.

Help us meet this challenge to bring potable water to las Corozales! We know that living up to Jim's legacy of kindness and solidarity is a tall order. But we also know that by extending a hand to the people of Los Corozales, and continuing to support ALL of our Nicaraguan partners, we are taking a step towards a more just and inclusive global community.

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

Come with PeaceWorks to NICARAGUA July 28 - August 9th

Translated conversations with everyday Nicaraguans working to overcome extreme poverty, pursue women's rights, fight environmental degradation, and mitigate the worst effects of climate change.
[Details at PeaceWorks.org](http://PeaceWorks.org)



PeaceWorks' 2023 Delegation on location Masaya, Nicaragua.

More projects to carry Jim's Legacy into the Future



Jim Burchell, 1954-2014

With an initial \$600 that Jim gave to Mirna Sánchez 20 years ago, she founded Inhijambia. Since then, the trajectory of hundreds of children's lives have been set in a new direction with support from PeaceWorks.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$_____

For those young people who came up through Inhijambia's programs, a university scholarship program was created. There are now 18 recipients attending local colleges. \$1500 will get a new recipient through one year of university level studies.

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1500 \$_____

When the women of Axayacatl had barely launched their work with women fleeing domestic violence, Jim began raising money to support them. Nearly 20 years later, that support has never wavered.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$_____

Jim somehow found a small community of coffee growers nestled between two volcanoes. Upon his passing, the El Porvenir coop dedicated the "Jim Burchell Health Clinic." Our support is ongoing.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$_____

Make a general donation to the organization that Jim built from the ground up, PeaceWorks.

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