

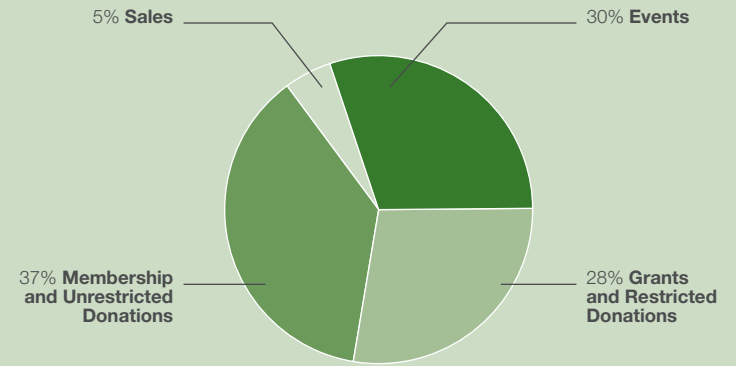


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SISTER CITY PROJECT

*The Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Project
is a partnership for sustainable community
development between the people of Nagarote,
Nicaragua and the Greater Norwalk Area
in Connecticut.*

2011

**WE HAVE A
SIGNIFICANTLY
LOWER
INCIDENCE OF TEEN
PREGNANCY AMONG
THE PROJECT GIRLS.**



INCOME 2011

Our 25th year was more than memorable!

- We marked our 25th anniversary in Nagarote with a fantastic celebration for the opening of our new Community Center with more than 400 guests and presentations by our kids as well as a festive party here in the U.S.
- We've hired Carol Way as our new Executive Director. Carol's background and experience in non-profit management and fund raising are a perfect fit for our needs.
- And, thanks to your support, we survived another year of this endless recession.

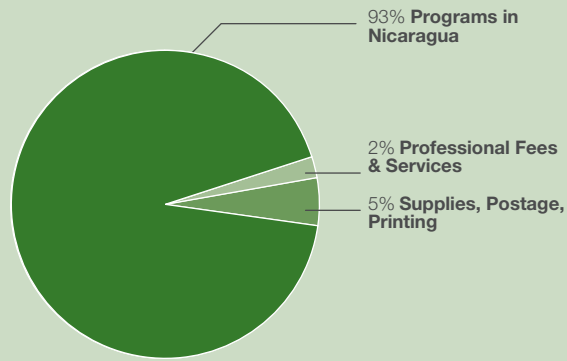
Jeronimo Lopez Youth Project

As we enter the 10th year of the Jeronimo Lopez Youth Project with 185 teens participating, we take enormous satisfaction knowing that we have rid that desperately poor barrio of the teen gangs and violence that plagued it 10 years ago, and we also seem to have had a significantly lower incidence of teen pregnancy among the Project girls. Building self-esteem through community service and promoting education have proved very beneficial.

Our good friends from Torrington, Conn., Volunteer Optometrists in Service to Humanity (VOSH), held their annual eye clinic in January in San Juan del Sur, the surfing capital of Nicaragua, and we sent a busload of Project kids. Twenty-seven people received new glasses; 15 of our scholarship students were checked by the professionals and five of them needed eyeglasses. The students in the hair styling class provided free haircuts for school children as part of their community service. Two of the girls in the dressmaking class assumed a leadership role and have started a dance group. They performed at our graduation party.

Reading Circles

Two of our former Youth Project participants who are now in college, Fabiola and Anielka, are now on our staff leading a teen girls' reading circle group, engaging the girls in discussions of the books they read. There are 15 in the teen girls' group and 20 in the younger mixed group. The younger group is creating a puppet show of one of the stories they read. These groups are fostering love for reading in an area where books are rarely seen and reading is usually a chore.



EXPENSES 2011

Community Garden & Tree Nursery

With a grant from First Congregational Church Greenwich, we grew 200 fruit trees from seed and planted them in the tree nursery. Some are already bearing fruit. We also received an additional 200 high-quality fruit trees from the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Transformation. One of the ways our organic model farm will help local farmers is to be a source of high-quality organic seeds. Unusually heavy rains in the fall have impacted the garden, and produce yield is down to 775 pounds plus medicinal herbs and plants. However, the contour lines and wind barriers we established proved to be very effective in reducing soil erosion and improving water retention.

Kitchen Gardens

Our partner, Micro-lender SosteNica, has undertaken a project to encourage families to plant kitchen gardens. Because of our long-standing relationship, they chose 10 families from the Jeronimo Lopez barrio. This is a key element in improving the diets of our kids by adding fresh produce. At the end of the first year in less than four months of project duration, the 10 families had successfully grown around 500 pounds of fruit and vegetables. The participating families had a potluck dinner celebrating the harvest including salads, spinach fritters and juices. One of the gardeners is Arelys, a former Project member who lost her lower leg to bone cancer. Her garden was built up on raised beds made of old tires so that she could tend it more easily.

Bike Loans

Twelve bikes were bought this year and given to people in the community who need them to get to work. All loans were repaid by the end of the year and another round of loans will be made next year.

ADDING FRESH

PRODUCE IS A

KEY ELEMENT

IN IMPROVING

THE DIETS OF OUR KIDS.



Scholarships

Nine preschoolers graduated and now have scholarships. We currently have 82 scholarship students from first grade through university and, on average, 30 attend weekly tutoring sessions. Monthly meetings with parents offer an opportunity to provide brief workshops on parenting and other issues and to engage them in community service projects. We will have five high school graduates this year. We arranged a meeting with some of our current college students to motivate them to continue their education. Our star college student, Leo, is tutoring them on the college entrance exam. When you bear in mind that few of their parents completed sixth grade, this is an astonishing achievement.

Preschool

This year there were 45 children in the preschool. The preschool staff enjoyed workshops presented by Joan Parris and Priscilla Woyke. Joan is the Director of the Early Childhood Education Program at Norwalk Community College and Priscilla is a professor there. In September, the preschoolers and their moms made a field trip to the community garden where parents were encouraged to start their own kitchen gardens.

Delegations

In January, seven board members spent part of a week in Nagarote and again in August, five board members attended the opening celebration of the community center. In March, nine students from Wesleyan University's Nagarote-Wesleyan Partnership (NWP) spent a week working in the community garden where they planted around 100 meters of our very successful wind barrier. This enthusiastic delegation also helped with the construction of the New Community Center.

Partnerships

Partnerships help us accomplish more for the people of Nagarote:

- SosteNica, a micro-lender in Nicaragua, provided supplies, training and support for 10 Jeronimo Lopez barrio families to grow their own kitchen gardens.
- Volunteer Optometrists in Service to Humanity welcomed a busload of project kids and adults to their annual eye clinic.
- The Wesleyan-Nagarote Partnership sent a group of nine students (see Delegations).
- The Mayor of Nagarote, Juan Gabriel Hernandez Rochas, spoke eloquently at our 25th anniversary celebration and entertained us at his home for breakfast the next day.



WE CURRENTLY HAVE
82 SCHOLARSHIP
STUDENTS
FROM FIRST GRADE
THROUGH UNIVERSITY.



HEROES

Over \$1,000

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 Carl Bailey
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 Bill Collins & Tish Gibbs
 Mark & Angeles Dam
 Kirsten Denney
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 Greenwich Women's Fellowship
 The International Foundation
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 Hans Wilhelm Plate
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 Frank White & Susan Mansfield
 John & Priscilla Woyke

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 Steve Berizzi
 Robert Broudy
 Dan & Pat Campbell
 Adriano & Flora Cayetano
 Aracely Centeno

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