



Norwalk) / Nagarote
SISTER CITY PROJECT

The Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Project is a partnership between the people of Nagarote, Nicaragua and the Greater Norwalk Area of Connecticut, focusing on sustainable community development and breaking the cycle of poverty for the most disadvantaged children and youth in Nagarote.

2016

WE HAVE **72**

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

IN ELEMENTARY

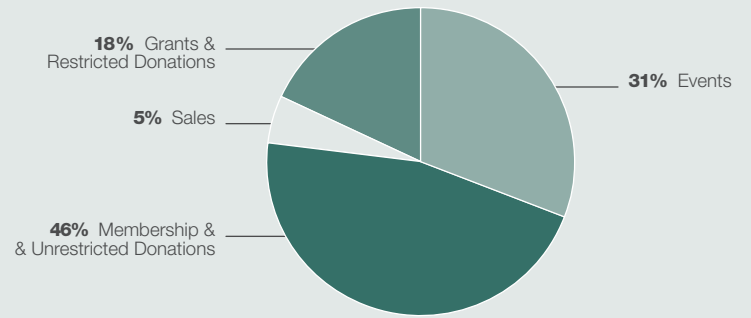
AND HIGH SCHOOL,

AND 15 COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS.

Thirty years and still counting...some of our most memorable moments of 2016

- ») Honoring and being honored by Senator Chris Murphy at our 30th Anniversary Fiesta in May.
- ») Listening to Angie Durrell's Intake Music concert in the central plaza in Nagarote and watching our students perform with Intake's artists.
- ») Adding a solar pump to power our irrigation system at our model organic farm, Seeds of Youth.
- ») The enthusiastic response to our new Leadership Program.
- ») Hiring a psychologist, Yaoska, to work with Project kids and families on issues, provide regular workshops and help with learning problems.



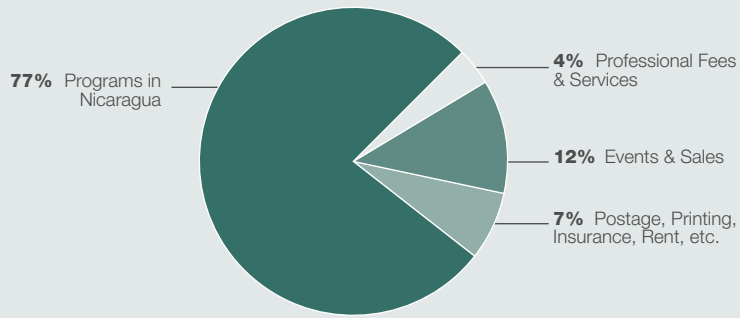
INCOME 2016

Preschool

In the interests of offering parents and children in Nagarote a model preschool experience, we decided to look into the feasibility of opening our own preschool — one where we would be freer to use child-centered practices with plenty of books and equipment to make each day an age-appropriate learning experience for 3- to 5-year-olds. An amazingly generous Greenwich donor has offered to put together a group to fund construction of a preschool building on our campus in Nagarote. The Early Childhood Education professionals on our board, Joan Parris and Priscilla Woyke, have been busy designing the classrooms and curriculum.

Leadership Program

Our Field Director Miguel Salinas created a Leadership Program based on a World Vision model which is offered to 20 of our college and senior high school students. The Program is funded by the First Congregational Church of Greenwich. It involves a series of lectures and field trips bringing speakers from the community to discuss critical issues such as health, human rights, education, Nicaraguan history and politics; making on-site visits to relevant locations; and having the students design and carry out community service projects. The trip to attend



EXPENSES 2016

the National Assembly in Managua was a highlight. Service projects included making a video of the history of Nagarote and organizing a dental clinic where three dentists and two dental students volunteered to do check-ups for 60 children.

Scholarships

We have 72 scholarship students in elementary and high school and 15 college scholarship students. All of our high school scholarship students and Program teens who gain admittance to college receive scholarships. We offer prep classes to help seniors prepare for college as well as regular workshops with parents, few of whom have studied beyond sixth grade, on how they can support their child in school.

Our college scholarship students volunteer as tutors, tend the garden at our community center and work at our farm.

Sponsors include the Norwalk High School Honor Society, Middlesex Middle School Purple Team and many of the wonderful people who attended our 30th Anniversary Fiesta.

Teen Afterschool Program

Classes in English, computer applications, cooking, theater, sewing, tailoring, art, hair styling, karate and a soccer league are available for the 103 teens who are actively involved in the program. They all rated the program as “Good” or “Very Good” on assessments.

Our staff psychologist, Yaoska, and other staff offer two workshops each month on topics such as teen pregnancy, depression, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, self-esteem, global warming and other environmental issues. On average, 27 students attend each workshop and nearly 90 percent respond favorably to the topic and the presentation.

In addition, our girls group, the Norwalk Ladies, engages in a variety of activities including community service and making crafts. They Skype monthly with girls from N2N (the Norwalk to Nagarote Club) at the Center for Global Studies in Norwalk, and each group has made a video of their high school to share on YouTube. The theater class sang with the Intake Music’s chorus and performed plays in Leon and Nagarote. Volunteers from all 11 classes visited the Casa Materna, a shelter for at-risk pregnant women who need to be close to medical services, where they made crafts and decorations for the shelter and cheered up the residents.

93%

**PERCENTAGE OF
TUTORING STUDENTS
WHO WERE AT
RISK OF FAILING
THAT PASSED TO THE
NEXT GRADE.**

4,208

POUNDS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES HARVESTED AT THE SEEDS OF



Tutoring

We provide tutoring for our scholarship students, for elementary students referred to us by the Ministry of Education deemed at risk of failing, and for students in the neighborhood where we work whose parents feel they need help. Tutors include volunteer college students working alongside our four able employees, Anielka, Fabiola, Juana and Junieth — who all started out as teens in our Afterschool Program, went on to college and now are on our staff. They work in small groups for two hours twice a week. Classes in the public school are generally 45 or more students, even in elementary school, and many students have difficulty. The individual attention we provide is extremely important for success in school. This year, nearly all of our tutoring students passed to the next grade including 93% of those deemed at risk of failing.

Seeds of Youth Farm

In February, there was a fire at the farm which damaged much of the passion fruit, guava and dragon fruit orchards as well as the vegetable garden, irrigation system and wind barriers. Sadly, the local electricity wasn't working that day so we couldn't pump water to put out the fire. That's the bad news. The good news is,

through the generosity of the Aliza Family Foundation and John Levin and Diane Keefe, we were able to install a solar pump at the farm which will yield savings on electricity costs and allow us to douse future fires even when the power is out. The Ministry of Education brought a group of technical students to learn about the solar pump.

Healthy Children Project

In 2015–2016, with a grant from the International Foundation, we introduced the Healthy Children Project which provided a series of workshops on nutrition for our staff; cooking classes for staff, children and parents; kitchen gardens; a cookbook; and a grand banquet for 196. Two hundred and sixty people — students, parents, kitchen gardeners — attended cooking classes, and 100 percent recognized the importance of healthy eating habits at the end of the classes. We fulfilled the project under budget and have used surplus funds to continue cooking classes based on nutritious recipes. The kids love the classes and the food.



YOUTH FARM

PARTNERSHIPS HERE

Norwalk High School Honor Society

Center for Global Studies, Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, N2N Club

Intake Music, Stamford, who brought their musicians to Nagarote for a concert

Middlesex Middle School, Darien

Royle Elementary School, Darien

Northampton, Mass. High School Key Club

Staples High School Sister City Club, Westport

PARTNERSHIPS IN NICARAGUA

SosteNica We collaborate on a number of projects including entrepreneurship training for our teens.

The **Nagarote Ministry of Education** recommends students for our Tutoring Program and we provide supplies to local preschools.

The **Katholieks Hogeschool, Leuven University** in Belgium, provides us with an intern to teach English each year.

VOSH We take a busload of children to an eye clinic run by the Connecticut chapter of Volunteer Opticians in Service to Humanity (VOSH) for free eye exams and glasses each year.

SONATI An environmental group in Leon provided classes for the preschool and tutoring groups on Nicaraguan animals, as well as a trip to the zoo in Leon.

Casa Materna Visits to this shelter for at-risk pregnant women who need to be close to medical services sharing arts, crafts and camaraderie.

Eco-Canasta is an organic market in Leon where we sell our produce.

The Leadership group visited **CECAMO**, a women's shelter and advocacy for women's rights and vocational training in Leon. In addition, we will provide workshops for them and donate plants for their garden.

CODENI An organization that coordinates groups that work with children and adolescents in Nicaragua. Our staff and kids helped them validate a methodology to teach children about their rights and obligations.

Holcim A local cement company providing workshops on recycling for our staff and an annual fair in which we participate.

Plantwise A network of agronomists who provide free diagnoses of plants with diseases. Our agronomist Vernon provided 31 free diagnoses to people in Nagarote.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE—

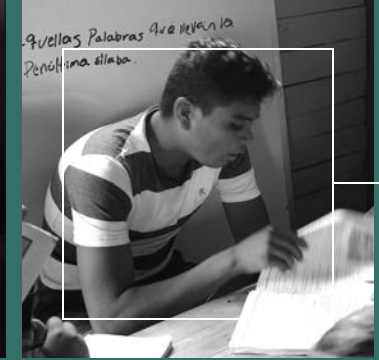
STUDENTS, PARENTS,

KITCHEN GARDENERS—

WHO ATTENDED

COOKING CLASSES

260



HEROES

Over \$2,500

Anonymous
Bill Collins & Elizabeth Gibbs
Tom & Sandi Kretsch
John Levin & Diane Keefe
MasterCard International
Mark & Kimberly Tsocanos
John & Priscilla Woyke

BENEFACTORS

\$1,000-\$2,499

Virginia Auster
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Greenwich Women's Fellowship
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Alice Murray
Mike Mushak &
David Westmorland
Nadine Nizet-Quaeyhaegens
Northampton High School
Juanita Olgun
Pete & Cece Orvis
Susan Pfeil
George Post
Judith Rafael
Harry & Lucia Rilling
Kathy Roberts
Richard & Carolyn Ross
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Rotary Club of New Canaan
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Gunnar Sahlin

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Ceely Ackerman
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Nate & Mary Yordon

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\$50-\$199

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