

The Fair Trade Zone (the Women's Sewing Cooperative) has signed the papers for the start-up funds for the spinning plant!

Whoopie! What a grueling process and a long one, but it will mean that we will be closer to having true fair trade clothing from the cotton to the product. It will also mean a ton more work... for all of us.

The Fair Trade Zone is making great strides in organization. We are getting interns to help on an hour-to-hour basis working with production business techniques from accounting to follow-through. The women are also making new products: corsets, tank tops, and their own design for a new women's t-shirt.

Now 76 workers are working one of two 12-hour/4-days-a-week shifts. They continue to receive more worldwide interest in their clothing. Bená Burda of Maggie's Clean Clothes, a big buyer of the women's products and in on the project from the start, went to South Africa to represent the women. The South African group is planning on coming here in the near future to see how they can start their own project.



photo: Brooke Brabham

If you would like to contribute to the spinning plant we will need lots and lots of funds. Just **note this with your donation**, or if you have expertise to offer contact us **by email**.
If you want to support the women you can buy their products easily from:
www.fairtradezone.jhc-cdca.org
www.maggiesorganics.com
www.missionplayground.com
www.pcusa.org/enough
www.ethicalgoods.org

Raul, the manager of the Organic Crops Cooperative, went to Argentina to teach people about organic peanuts. As we grow and expand we still suffer crop losses. Much of El Porvenir's coffee crop was ruined by rains coating the plants with airborne volcanic ash. Sometimes we wonder, "When will these hard-working people ever get the break they need?"

If you want to contribute to El Porvenir's project of recovery, just **note this with your donation**.
If you want to buy some of their coffee contact:
www.BuildingNewHope.com
www.their-buckscoffee.com



We have BIO-DIESEL production capacity! We sent Josué to Honduras to learn about the project and the folks were so impressed with his ability to learn so quickly...we have good, smart people working here. Whitman Direct Action came and helped us get everything set up and again were really impressed with our staff - as I so proudly write. We are looking for sources of used vegetable oil and hope to run at least half of our vehicles on bio-diesel soon.

The clinic's dental services are starting SOON thanks to St. John's Methodist Church (Rock Hill, SC). They

have been faithful for the last five years bringing dentists and hygienists. They have committed to donating enough money to hire a dentist; to buy supplies; and to get a mobile dental unit that will allow for preventive care in places like El Porvenir (not just extractions).

We are also receiving an eye examine machine which lay people can



photo: Rick Holcombe

operate, donated by Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church (SC). Dental and eye care are needs poorly served in our area. **St. Giles Presbyterian Church (Raleigh, NC)** brought loads of shoes as well as medicines and other donations when they came this August. They worked hard in making block for the dorm as well as working in the clinic.

If you have **access to dentists** for supplies, please let us know. If you have access to eye glasses, please **email us** and we will tell you how you can get them to us.

Our Volunteer Program is shifting as our needs shift. We took a hard look at what we need and how to use individuals to fill those needs. We are now offering positions for which interested people may apply. We are selecting who we need for the time periods that are useful to us. We will offer a summer program for those who can only come two months or so. We are also offering short-term volunteers the option of coming with delegations. We are pleasantly surprised at all the responses. So far we have coming soon: two clinic helpers, a volunteer coordinator, a handy-person, an office helper, and a person to work with the Fair Trade Zone in production. We also MAY be getting an herbalist.

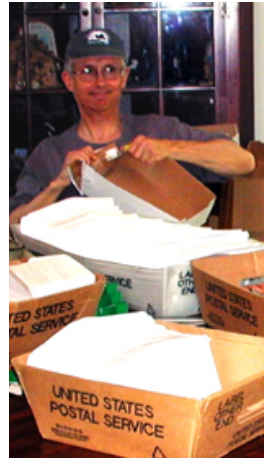
If you want to donate to the ITF, remember a gift of \$150 or more lets you order a tile with the message/name of your choice to go in the ITF...it really brightens up the place too... just explain in a **note with your donation**.

While this means we are getting longer and more consistent help, it also means we have to finish the second floor of the International Training Facility to allow more privacy (some are coming for a year). **BUT** it is so exciting!

We have had sixteen volunteers with us this summer who have helped with delegations, the clinic, the Fair Trade Zone, the women's support group, construction, paperwork, bio-diesel, fixing things, and the list could go on. Two interesting aspects this summer are that a family came as a whole to help, and some volunteers are not just from the USA, but from Cuba, Canada, and Britain. We hope this international participation will continue and grow.



HUGE thanks go to Chris Berg, North Anderson Community Church – Presbyterian (SC), Jim Brown and his street kids, Parkway United Church of Christ (Winston-Salem, NC), Carolina Village residents, and Ruth Findley for all their organization and labor in collating this newsletter over the years. We have now found a very reasonable paid service to do this. We send



If you want to receive our e-newsletter let us know at e-newsletter@jhc-cdca.org. It costs us nothing but some time and you can get it in color!

over 8,000 copies out... not counting the e-newsletter. Stuffing and mailing 8,000 envelopes four times a year... what a labor of love this has been.

Managua (and we) have been experiencing up to 9-hours a day of power outages! Work cannot be done like that. We are so fortunate to have had Bob Matthews, working to create back-up power for us. The projects would literally be doomed without his help now.



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY
"You shall not oppress one another for I am the Lord your God." —Lev. 25:17

We, the Jubilee House Community, would like to dedicate this newsletter to the memory of Risher Brabham,

who died the 15th of August due to heart failure after battling cancer. Earlier we had asked for your prayers for Risher as many of you might remember, so that he might live long enough to return to Nicaragua especially to introduce his granddaughter, Brooke, to this country he loved so much. He did. We had a wonderful time with him; his wife, Kathie; Brooke; other family, Jan and Katherine; and the St. John's Methodist Church delegation. Since January of 1998, Risher has been bringing yearly groups from Winthrop University and then from St. John's after he "retired". He accomplished much with those groups - the latest was raising enough money for a dentist, but the part of Risher that **WE**, the community, appreciated the most and will miss dearly was his humor, laughter, and wit amidst poverty, injustice, and hopelessness. He brought light to our souls every single time he came. He was a true gift to us and we will miss him dearly.



We also have happy news as a community. We are looking forward to Jessica and Waxor's wedding in October. It will be fun to be with family and friends again and to meet some of their friends.

If you have frequent flyer miles that you cannot use and wouldn't mind donating it would ease our budget some.

Reflection:

The national elections for Nicaragua are this November. There are five parties running. One major candidate died in July of a heart attack and threw everyone in a tizzy, because he seemed to be a candidate who could possibly win and might make some changes without ticking off the current USA government too much. What a weird consideration when one is voting ... "I don't want my vote to tick off another country."

One thing that many in the US do not understand is how much influence the US government plays in other countries' elections...with NO SHAME. If Cuba or France or even Britain dared to tell the Republican or Democratic party what candidate would be acceptable to them, we in the US would go ballistic. Or let's imagine the ambassador of Canada or Mexico or Russia campaigning with – say John McCain - because that's who they had decided should win...(I know it is far-fetched)...but again, if it happened, we would go "nutzoid"...as our children say when we lose our tops. BUT this is exactly what the US does here. With NO SHAME! They don't even try to hide it. The message is loud and clear, "elect this person and you have our favor" BUT "elect this other person and you become a terrorist country"...and we all know what that means now, bombs.

These elections are so important for the people of Nicaragua. So much of what can better the lives of the poor lies in the decisions the leaders make...whether funds will be distributed or pocketed; whether the US government will let the Nicaraguan government continue if they disagree with what the US wants; or whether human rights will become a priority or just foreign investment.

PLEASE keep these elections in your thoughts and prayers.

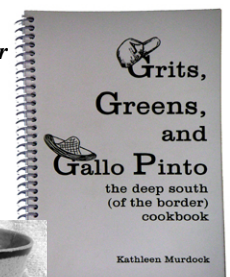
– Kathleen

Yes! I want to help support the work of the Center for Development in Central America, either through a donation in the mail or by giving online...

Give your tax-deductible contribution online directly to the CDCA via the *Network for Good's* link. Gifts may be designated for a particular project, if desired.

[For a minimum gift of \$25.00 you may request Grits, Greens, and Gallo Pinto, our unique and versatile cookbook. For a minimum gift of \$50.00, our hand-thrown mug. Please specify right-handed or left-handed. Allow 6 weeks for

Please send an email to e-newsletter@jhc-cdca.org listing any cookbook or mug requests (specifying left-handed or right-handed mug, please).



Mail written requests and checks to:

CDCA, c/o Peggy Murdock, 352 Carly Ln, Rock Hill, SC 29732-7750.
 Please include your correct name and paper address information, as well as your email address for the e-newsletter to avoid duplications!