



This newsletter is in loving memory of Henry Carcache, Enrique, the CDCA's mechanic. Enrique came to work for us with his father, Maestro, when he was inexperienced. After Maestro retired, Enrique stayed on as the center's full-time mechanic. Enrique worked with us for almost 15 years. He died on March 12th of a heart attack. We honor his memory...his many years of service to the center...he is missed.

Regarding the purchased spinning equipment, the most recent news Genesis, the spinning plant cooperative, has received is that eight

containers with spinning machinery will be leaving the plant in Venezuela the week of May 24th (you can check our blog for progress updates: <http://jhc-cdca.blogspot.com/2010/05/update-genesis-spinning-co-op.html>).

While they wait they are still planning and working...

They, with a group from the University of Florida (Gainesville), plugged the gap between the high roof and the wall to stop birds from building nests and flying around the massive building. As money is available they are also building a bathroom and break room. Electricity is now installed to the plant, but the Vida Fund does not yet have enough money to wire the inside of the plant (see below).



We have set up a temporary office for Genesis in our office. They have bought computers and eight members are learning an integrated accounting system... they had to first learn how to turn on a computer!... so this will be a long process. All of them are attending daily English classes taught by two native English speakers.



The CDCA with the Vida Fund have loaned approximately \$230,000 to Genesis.

Our Vida Fund goal is to raise over a million dollars by 2012. Short-term, we desperately need \$35,000 to wire the spinning plant ASAP.

Wake Forest Law School (Winston-Salem, NC) helped us develop a prospectus for the Vida Fund. They have applied to the Securities Exchange Commission for a no action letter, which is an official ruling from the SEC that the SEC concurs that we are a non-profit and agrees that we do not fall under their jurisdiction for regulating securities. This is a great help to us.

Our sesame growers had difficulties selling their 2009 crop due to the reality that **all** the processing plants in Nicaragua are closed. **Once Again Nut Butter** has voted to donate a



percentage of their **tahini** sales to the CDCA. They redesigned their label of 100% Nicaraguan organic honey and named it **Jubilee Bee Honey!** How cool!



The CDCA is continuing compliance work to keep Fair Trade Certification for the cotton growers. Ben, our 2009 volunteer coordinator, and Raúl, our agronomist, held trainings for the growers and are working on the paperwork.

Jason, a current volunteer, established an **aquaponics** demonstration system behind the International Training Facility. Tilapia fish are raised in a tank with a pump that pumps the water to a bed of plants. The plants and rock clean the water which gravity-feeds back to the fish tank, and the plants retain the nutrients from the wastes of the fish. Again, how cool! He is willing to teach others here. Fish are a great source of protein.

For coffee & organic food suppliers:
www.buildingnewhope.com
www.their-buckscoffee.com
www.onceagainnutbutter.com

Slightly Twisted Spoons:
SlightlyTwistedSpoons@jhc-cdca.org
<http://jhc-cdca.org/SlightlyTwistedSpoons.html>

The health clinic opened an eye correction clinic! Boston College sent a delegation of nurses to work one week of mornings in the clinic, and with them they brought a hand-held auto refractor for reading people's eyes. Dr. José Carvajal, a Managua-based ophthalmologist, is using our clinic as an intern program for his students. His volunteer help is invaluable to this program. Now we are looking for a steady flow of used glasses.

Asthma is a growing problem in **Nueva Vida**, the destitute resettlement community from Hurricane Mitch (1998) and the location of the clinic. Dr. Victoriano Lopez, our pediatrician, states that children come into the clinic in crisis... after three days of treatment they are breathing much better, but the smoke due to burning trash from the relatively new - and growing - dump located on the other side of the *arroyo* puts the children back in crisis. We are seeking to expand our services for the long-term preventive health care of these children.





Photo: Ben Stechschulte

We started an outreach program to the elderly in Nueva Vida to identify those who are not receiving health care. We will add them to our regular patients. The elderly is often a forgotten group.

The Bucknell Brigade (Lewisburg, PA) and the above-mentioned UFL delegation painted the clinic. It now has outside a new coat of paint...instead of grey concrete. The inside has a fresh coat of white paint with accents of colors... the colors brighten the clinic making it much warmer and more welcoming.



UFL students (above) and Bucknell (left) painting clinic



Breaking news:

HELP US OUT! Great deals on fair trade organic apparel... for more on this story please go to our blog:

<http://jhc-cdca.blogspot.com/2010/05/we-need-your-help-plus-you-get-great.html>



Sarah is back from her spring speaking tour. She raised \$37,500 and did a CDCA presentation 82 times. She also was able to visit with family including her daughter, son, and grandson, and made new connections as well as renewing older ones.

Becca, Paul, Eibhlín, and Orla went to Ireland for the first ever CDCA speaking tour of Ireland. They raised \$6,500 and also saw family...including Paul's parents, one brother, and his two sisters plus many friends. They were the keynote speakers at the Irish Friends Yearly Meeting (Quakers). They will be in the Northwest of the USA in September and October. They need a vehicle that will seat four and carry buckets of crafts [if you are interested in the vehicle need or in hosting a speaking engagement, please email!]

Our community is sad to see Ben Sommers leave, he has been with us for a year and a half. He has been a great friend to all of us as well as an enormous help in our work.

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Reflection...

Obtaining the spinning plant machinery has been a nightmare...as you can probably surmise if you follow our news. Lies have been told to us regarding shipping dates time and time again. Hopes have been dashed time and time again. And the toll it is taking on our Mike and Becca, who focus their work on the plant and the cooperative, is showing: physically as well as emotionally... and that is **nothing – nothing** -compared to the toll its taking on those 15 women and 3 men.



Chilo - Maria Auxiliadora Hernandez

Petrona talks about her husband who died never getting to see this dream become reality, while Chilo hopes to see the reality before **she** dies...she has been diagnosed with cancer. They have worked...worked...**three and a half YEARS** with **NO** pay trying to make this dream a reality...these are not people whose spouses have jobs to support the family...these are really **poor, poor** people.

Many women dropped out in that first year. A few more over the next two years. The ones remaining kept the hope and the vision. Now much has boiled down to just tenacity.

These members of Genesis are the most tenacious people I have ever known. They soak up learning even though for some it is a real struggle ...they just soak it up. They keep coming day after day doing labor that is back-breaking to build their building...the oldest woman is in her sixties and one of the men is lame...and yet they struggle on...and on...and on...

Their strength is humbling.
Their willingness to learn is inspiring.
But it is their tenacity...their sheer will...that can take your breath away.
They are amazing examples of Yoda's saying..."Do or not do...there is no try."

-Kathleen



Petrona Valle Garcia



Yes! I want to help support the work of the Center for Development in Central America by giving online*.

[For a minimum gift of \$35.00 you may request Grits, Greens, and Gallo Pinto, our unique and versatile cookbook.

Email: Sarah@jhc-cdca.org-cookbook

For a minimum gift of \$100.00, two items from Slightly Twisted Spoons, via SlightlyTwistedSpoons@jhc-cdca.org.

Please allow 6 weeks for delivery.]

Click here for Vida Fund information.

To change an email address or sign-up for a newsletter: newsletter@jhc-cdca.org

or Sarah@jhc-cdca.org. Please keep us notified of your paper address changes as well.

Please note: A shortcut to the online giving site is: <http://tinyurl.com/5rwxax>.

Paper Mail... send to: CDCA, c/o Peggy Murdock, 352 Carly Ln, Rock Hill, SC 29732-7750.
Please include your correct name and address information from the newsletter label to avoid duplications!

*Website for online donations, or to set up automatic monthly online donations:
<http://www.networkforgood.org/donate/MakeDonation2.aspx?ORGID2=561252307>



STS Items shown here: fork, spoon, paddle