

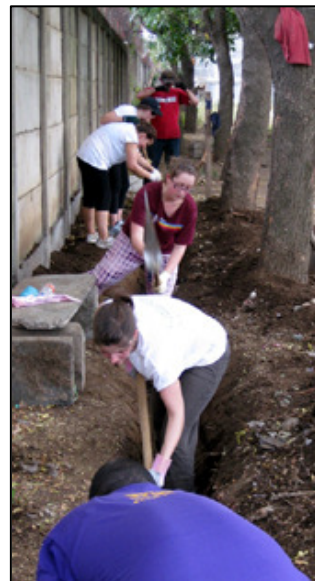
We have filed suit against Coker International to retrieve the money given to them so that we can buy spinning plant machinery.* Our attorney, Steve Virgil of Wake Forest Law Center, is working for the [JHC-CDCA](#) *pro bono* for which we are so very, **very** grateful. He has met with the Genesis [cooperative](#) to answer their questions.

*If you are new to this struggle...the CDCA took out a loan of \$230,000 November 2009 to buy spinning plant machinery for the Genesis cooperative who have been working for **four** years now with no production to bring in wages for them and their families. \$150,000 was given to Coker International to purchase machinery and the other \$80,000 was held to be paid after the machinery was delivered and inspected. Coker International did not honor its end of the bargain.



Together with the January Bucknell brigade, Genesis dug trenches to install water lines to their building. They have continued to work along on their training, English, and running the cooperative with no pay.

To help the cooperative eke out a living, both a Quaker meeting and a Rotarian Club in Oregon have given funds for us to buy 200 lbs of [beans](#), 300 lbs. of rice, 200 lbs. of sugar and 10 gallons of oil every two weeks for Genesis members. Also we are paying the cooperative to [sort by hand the organic cotton](#) that has been harvested to remove impurities before ginning.



White, everywhere white, with the tons of organic [cotton](#) coming in to the gin.

Our white Christmas was all cotton! In July of last year 42 farmers planted 345 acres of organic and fair labor cotton... this is **four** times the number of farmers (including two women's cooperatives) and **seven** times

the acreage of cotton from 2009! These farmers received \$80,000 in credits for planting and harvesting costs.

We hope to reach the 150,000 pounds of cotton that we've contracted to sell! A buyer in El Salvador helped us obtain all new blades for the 1964 gin (almost as old as I am... and I know I could use some new parts!) As a result the gin is ginning and baling 400 pounds of fiber/hour... that's a LOT of cotton balls! The cotton chain from crop to consumer is giving 1,200 people income, many of whom are destitute.

All of the cotton was presold because organic cotton - especially certified fair labor, organic cotton - is in high demand.



El Porvenir, the [coffee](#) cooperative also grew cotton seed.

We worked closely with them to sell their coffee, providing limited health care, and helping them get certified both for organic and fair labor crops. Their coffee harvest was mediocre due to heavy rains. We do love the coffee seconds they sell to us to use at the CDCA and our place smells wonderful with the 100 pounds of freshly roasted coffee. They have wonderful dark coffee. Want some? Contact Their-Bucks or Building New Hope, two non-profits.

For coffee & organic food suppliers:

www.their-buckscoffee.com
www.onceagainnutbutter.com
www.buildingnewhope.com

For organic clothing & video:

www.maggiesorganics.com

Maggie's Organics, the maker and distributor of the beautiful, comfortable organic clothing that comes from **our** cotton and soon our spinning plant (we are ever hopeful!) , **has**

made a video that highlights Maggie's connection to Nicaragua and the CDCA's role in the cotton clothing that is fair labor from crop to consumer. You can see this wonderful video, [Fabric of Humanity](#), on our website

The [sesame](#) crops survived the days and days of rain last year.

It looks really likely that we will be shipping about **\$1 million** worth of sesame to Nuts to You and Once Again Nut Butter, a cooperative in Nunda, NY. OANB makes the world's greatest tahini from our sesame... not that anyone is asking us! ☺ They sent a small delegation down in January. Members of the cooperative are visiting the growers to begin to understand how much their business means in the lives of Nicaraguans.



Jessenia & Kim with 103-year-old patient

In December we hired a new [health](#) promoter, Jessenia, funded

by two designated gifts. She is re-energizing the lay health promoters in the community. She and they have identified 20 elderly people who cannot get to the clinic on their own and have no support. They have been evaluated by our doctor. Our volunteer nurse, Kim, is doing home visits with them.

Five volunteer doctors and nurse practitioners saw patients in December and January. With the help of [volunteers](#) the storage room was organized and we gave two trucks full of equipment we cannot use to a

local hospital. It was so helpful to have medical people telling us what was what. Two of the doctors are helping us see how to better impact the health of the community.





We have sent a letter to people who gave in 2010 with **some year-end numbers** but we thought **all** of you might like to know that we opened 1,352 new charts on patients; treated 6,491 patients (more than one-third of our patients were under the age of 5 years). We treated 10,210 medical problems... of which about a third dealt with pain (mostly chronic pain); did 1,832 lab tests in our lab and about 200 outside the lab; and our part-time dentist and volunteer dentists treated 574 patients with 844 procedures.

In our last newsletter we made an appeal to people to consider giving or giving a little more. In December we sent a special appeal to

our top givers (people who had given \$500 or more over the last 5 years) to consider giving more... wow! People responded generously and kindly. We took in more than \$100,000! We took in almost a third of what we received in **all** of 2010... **one-third** in one month!

My mother... who deposits checks for us... said that it was the best Christmas present. Her heart just filled up as did ours. **Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.**

We received many letters with the gifts telling us that when the CDCA needs more funding we should say so... we do tend to hesitate (the special appeal letter was the first one we'd sent in 14 years). Becca's mother was relieved to hear about the generous out-pouring of gifts but noted that it was probably just a drop in the bucket, right? Well, more like a splash but, yes. So we will take the advice of so many of you and say, we are not out of the mud yet... we need some serious oxen to pull us out! Please consider helping as much as you think you can... many, many depend on it.



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY

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

The Community is so glad to have Pat and Kathy back from their sabbatical of four months. They spent a good part of it in South America and had lots of pretty photos to share with the rest of us.

We have enjoyed visits from family. Adult children came home with grandchildren in tow for the Christmas holidays. As I write this Becca's parents are visiting as well as my (Kathleen) parents, while Kathy is visiting her mother in Florida.

Kids are back in school. Orla is going for the first time and Joseph is attending a new school. Eibhlín is going back to her village school with Orla. Coury is back in med school, while Daniel finishes up high school at home.

Reflection:

One of the above mentioned doctors, Linda, and her daughter, Teresa, came in December to help in the clinic. Normally we would have said no because they came during the time we set aside for family, but we made an exception. And -boy! Was it a good decision!

Besides the fact that they were extremely nice and pleasant and easy going and flexible and independent...well, you get the picture...Linda was helpful in a culturally-appropriate kind of way. She has done a lot of community health projects in Oregon and was willing to brain storm with me about areas where we could use the health promoter and how to improve health in Nueva Vida.



We talked about diabetes and asthma... the two most pressing health issues she thought for the community of Nueva Vida. Our doctors concur that these are extremely prevalent and tough to deal with due to diet restrictions of the poor and smoke... everywhere smoke. She, very animatedly, told me what wonderful things we could implement in the community if we had the money and she thought we could get the money... through grants. And I'm listening and I'm getting excited...

"Now, the grants take a lot of work. [Okay, I think.] I can help teach you ways to collect data to support your need. [Okay.] And I think my friend who does most of the writing would be willing to read over what you write [Good. Good.] They are about 150 pages long." [Panic!]

Let me just say, I am 56 years old and I am tired to the bone and weary in my soul... 150 pages! Later that day, I drive to the clinic and some young boy throws a bag of dirt using me in the car as moving target practice and I think, "Yep, I am too, too tired for this." Then I get to the clinic and Conchita, age 67, meets me at the clinic gate to open it... Conchita, who is and has been WAY more tired than me... WAY more weary than me... and WAY more dedicated than me. And yet when we were building the clinic SHE. SLEPT. ON. CONCRETE. BAGS. IN. HER. TINY. TINY.

TINY. HOME OF 13 FAMILY MEMBERS to insure that the clinic got built and the theft stopped... she is indeed WAY more dedicated than me.

You know, 150 pages is not that hard.

-Kathleen

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



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

For a minimum gift of \$100.00, two items from *Slightly Twisted Spoons*, via SlightlyTwistedSpoons@jhc-cdca.org. Please allow 6 weeks for delivery.

To request the **2010 Year End Report** when available, email: Sarah@jhc-cdca.org (include postal address)

To change your email address or sign-up for an e-newsletter: enewsletter@jhc-cdca.org or Sarah@jhc-cdca.org. Please notify us 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!



STS Items shown here: fork, spoon, paddle

* <http://www.networkforgood.org/donate/MakeDonation2.aspx?ORGID2=561252307>