

Planting Hope

2011 Winter Appeal



Dear Friend of Planting Hope,

As 2010 draws to a close and we reflect on the past year's growth, we would like to thank you for being part of Planting Hope's educational, grassroots, and cultural exchange projects, both in Nicaragua and Vermont.

In 2010, the number of lives affected through our cross-cultural programs surpassed 1,000!

Within this newsletter, you'll find personal stories from our staff and students of how their lives and communities have been touched and transformed by a spark lighted by Planting Hope. Beyond the initial library site in La Chispa, our work now spans the urban and rural areas of the Matagalpa region.

- In 2010 Planting Hope built and staffed the Laguna Seca preschool, serving over 20 children ages 3-5
- *La Chispa* Library has over issued more than 800 library cards to patrons from 19 different schools
- Students young and old completed free computer-literacy, English and art classes at La Chispa Library
- 36 part and full-time employees and home-stay families partnered with Planting Hope's various projects
- 22 students received work-study scholarships to continue their educations while learning job skills
- The "San Ramon Re-Use Store" channeled over 2,000 lbs. of quality, used goods and clothes from U.S. landfills into the hands of more than 100 Nicaraguan families, generating \$1,500 in revenue for Planting Hope.
- In December, 2010, Planting Hope and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters launched the "coffee camps" project, to serve children of migrant coffee harvesters. (*see cover story*)

These accomplishments, and many more, have been possible thanks to the generosity of people like you since Planting Hope's inception in 2001. As you read the testimonials in this newsletter from people whose lives have been dramatically transformed by Planting Hope's work, you will see what a difference even a modest contribution can make. The stories illustrate a quick return on the investment in education: former students are already working to improve the lives of others and their communities.

We need your continued interest and financial support to sustain our community-building programs. In addition to your financial contribution, we encourage you to volunteer locally at our Vermont Planting Hope office or to participate in one of our service-learning delegations to Nicaragua. For more information, please see our webpage: www.plantinghope.org or contact us at (802)778-0344.

We hope you will make a donation during this holiday season to enable us to continue this life-changing work. You may do this online at:

[by clicking this link](#) or by sending a check to
Planting Hope, P.O. Box 56, Montpelier, VT 05601

Every little bit counts, as Planting Hope has proven over the years. Thank you for helping to change lives.

Wishing you and your family joy, peace and light this winter,

*Beth Merrill
Founder / Editor
Executive Director*

*Darryl Bloom
Chair, Planting Hope
Board of Directors*

2010 Service Learning Trip Participants

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Employee Trip:

Rick Peyser, Daniel Bolduc, Gary Godin, Chris Swenson, Nichole Hyde, Heather Parks, Lynne Herbert, Jason Como

Central Vermont Multigenerational Delegation to Nicaragua:

Molly Thoms & Abby Colihan, Darryl Bloom, Jennifer, Alex and Laura Bickart, Nancy Chickering & Kris & Luke Hammer, Angie Aseltine, Hannah Wirth, Hannah Koch, Anna Abrams, Laura Mears, Jenna Forest, Tammy & Shannon Lawry,

UNH Alternative Break Challenge

Caleb Morrill-Winter, Brin Chartier, Kelley Keohan, Kristin Keohan, Michelle Pizzillo, Alison Arouth, Krista Diamond, Andrea Capodilupo, Christopher Huckins Cavalieri, Gordon Pan

"Naturally Nicaragua"- North Branch Nature Center

Chip & Brandon Darmstadt, Sandal Cate, Larry Clarfeld, Jess Sokolow, Sally Cargill, Quinn McVeigh, Sierra Klotz, Ginger & Morgan Becker, Taylor Raftery Ashley White, Carol & Riley Post

Stowe High School Spanish Class:

Heidi Vietze, Marie Hoyniak, Don McDowell, Martha Sorrell Lacasse, Lucy Dixon, Tegan Garon, Marley Hauser, Anders James, Julian Sharat, Alana LaViale, Allison Bailan, Julianne B. Jacobs, Megan Mckay, Samuel Birmingham

2010 Volunteers & Visitors In Nicaragua:

Hannah Wirth
Adam Drake
Jessica Hodgman
Ciara Bush & Dylan Treadwell
Paula Moore, Paul,
Duncan & Caleb Treadwell
Katy Rowe
Abel Rosa
Brandy Boden
Janet Merrill
Eliza and Will Spalding

& Vermont:

Carlos Haase, Isaac Leader,
Sally Cargill, Sarah Blakely,
Sandal Cate, Janet Poeton
Janet & Peter Merrill
Reid Cahoon, Kirsten Dunn,
Jane Knight, K.C. Whiteley

Thanks to our many donors!

Anna Abrams, Bernard Abramson, Anne Allen, Garet Allen-Malley, Ellen Andersen, Paul Angell, James Angell, Catherine Antley, Hedi & Charlie Ballantyne, Beattie-Buckley Family, Marcia Bellas & Rick West, Jerome Bernstein, Tricia Biancone, Marilyn Blackwell, Darryl & Barney Bloom, Hannah Bloom & Matt Bernstein, Valerie Bluhm, Justin Bourgeois, Andrea Brassard, Frankie Brassard, Anne Brin, Anne K. Brouha, Scottie & Robert Brower, Denise Burke, Erica Campbell, Sally Cargill, Alice Carpenter, Paul & Sandal Cate, Judith Chalmer, Michelle Champoux, Nancy Chickering & Kris Hammer, Michele Childs, Laurence Clarfeld, Hal Cohen, Dorothy Conlon, Deborah & Bill Conners, Erin Connors, Marie Connors, David Crockett, Randy & Kim Crowell, Kevyn Cundiff, Constance Daigle, Philip Dalsimer, Bill Dalsimer, Amy Darley, Jane Dewey, William Doelger, Maribeth Domanski, Liz Dowling-Sendor, Linda Elbow, Catherine Ellis, Cornelia Emlen, Laurie Essig, Hilari Farrington, Peter Figgis, First Unitarian Universalist Society, Michael Gavrish, G.E. Foundation Matching Gifts, Charlotte & Ernest Gibson, Phyllis Giordano, Jody Gladding & David Hinton, Kristen Glaser, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Beth Griffin, Robin Gullian, Lorna & Richard Guttormson, Sherwood Hamilton, Leslie Hankins, Robert Heald, Wayne & Elissa Henderson, Ethan Hubbard, Averill Huff, Thomas Hyde, Paul Karas, Linda Prescott & Michael Katzenberg, Renee & Doug Kievit-Kylar, Karen & Sierra Klotz, Jane, Paul, Wilson & Ginger Knight, Nancy Knox, Candace and Steven Koenemann, Rosemary Leach & James Lamb, Kurt Laser, Pam Laser & Eric Hart, Starr Lecompte, Nancy Legendre, Theresa & Tom Lever, Francine Levine, Anne Liefer, Joe Loga, Allan Mackey, Carol Maloney, Lawrence Mandell, Deborah & Paul Markowitz, Ruth and Robert McCullough, Tom & Sally McLaughlin, Marie & Jim McWilliam, Lucinda Megill, John Mele, Shirley Melville, Janet & Peter & Kim Merrill, Gary Moore, Lillian & James Moore, Paula Moore & Paul Treadwell, Sarah Morgan & Eric Remick, Keith Morgan, Stephen & Cindy Murphy, Margaret Newell, Teresa & Jack Novick, Old Meeting House, Conrad & Anne Ormsbee, Catherine Orr, Angela Patten, Barb & Allen Ploof, Janet & John Poeton, Sara Rappaport, Megan Redd, Helen Jean Reindel, Susan & Francis Reynolds, Devin Richards, Cara Robeck, Abel Rosa, Mildred Rose, Kathleen Ross, Jonathan Sands, Ed Sbardellati, Karen Schleske & Joe Dickinson, Seidman Family Foundation, Carolyn Shapiro, Rebecca Sheppard, Kathryn Silliman, Scott Skinner, Emily Sloan, Alexis Smith, Ben & Torrey Smith, John & Liz Snell, Carol Specht, Jane & Dick Staudt, Karl Stein, Joan Stepenske, Sharon Stevans, Arthur Stukey, Kimberly Sturgis, Kelly Testa, Frank Thoms, Peter Thoms & Abby Colihan, Vivian Tozzi, True Colors Home Decorating, Social Responsibility Committee Unitarian Church of Montpelier, Joanne Vyce, Renee & David Wahler, Harris & Ellie Webster, Donna Werner, Thomas Wetmore, K.C. Whiteley, Norma & Ronald Wiesen, David & Priscilla Witke, Deb Wolf, Karen & Alan Zaur, Ella Lou & Ray Zirblis