

# Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister Community Association

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November 10, 2017

Dear friends of Santo Tomás,

We are seeing an unprecedented increase in catastrophic environmental disasters occurring all over the world. The southern states of the US were slammed with hurricanes this fall and affected communities are still rebuilding. The flooded toxic waste superfund sites near Houston will likely never be completely mitigated. But the resistance to more oil pipelines, coal trains, shale and tar sand and fracking extraction is also building, and the citizens of the world are demanding government and corporate accountability, clean drinking water and food. People are literally paying with their lives. We wonder if we'll be able to turn back rapidly progressing climate change in time, but doubts cannot deter us. **Looking at our sister town of Santo Tomás, in the Central American country of Nicaragua, we see the direct impact of global warming that is disproportionately striking the global south** (page 7 of this newsletter), where there are much fewer resources to respond to each crisis. In light of the critical work we already have in front of us to confront power structures in pursuit of climate justice, Native sovereignty, Black Lives Matter, immigrant rights which are human rights, gay and trans rights and women's reproductive rights, to perpetual wars and denying refugees safe harbor, why do we also focus on exchange relationships such as the TSTSCA?

**Our commitment with Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua, comes from believing we have much to gain from partnering with a community in the global south over time.** We hear from our partners that they too, gain from knowing a community in the global north. The dismal historical reality between our countries stands in stark contrast to the compassionate relationship developed between our communities, *understanding that our people are not our governments, that we fight together in a myriad of creative ways to build a just world, that we know love is more powerful than fear or hate.*

In this newsletter, we: highlight another promising scholarship recipient; grieve as we also honor the passing of George Hartwell, a longtime supporter of the TSTSCA; hear from two Evergreen students about their volunteer sites in Santo Tomás last spring; learn more about the international work of La Via Campesina and the Rural Workers of Nicaragua; share an update on the (hopefully dead) mega canal project; invite you to consider joining one of two delegations planning to visit Santo Tomás this July and next winter (see back panel of newsletter); and ask you to save the dates on your calendars for the upcoming annual rummage sale (Feb. 10th, see back side of this letter) and plant sale (May 5th).

We thank you for supporting TSTSCA's efforts through the modest salaries of two librarians and the coordinator of the children's free lunch program, and the college scholarships for twelve Nicaraguan students (three more graduated this year!). We will need to raise \$16,000 to meet our annual commitment. **Can our all-volunteer organization count on your generous support** before the end of this year? Please send the return slip for your tax-deductible donation from the back side of this letter.

**In gratitude** — *Maureen Hill, Emily Calhoun Petrie, Grace Cox, Jean Eberhardt, Lee Miller, Flo Shelley, Alan and Jane Mountjoy-Venning, Barbara Keyt, Diane Dakin and Stephen Bray, Audrey Levine and Nels Johnson, Eva Pannabecker, Heather and Tim and Zoe McLeod, Harriet Strasberg, Kathy Strauss, Mike Harburg, Russ Fox, Anna Shelton, Beth Doglio and Eddie Cates, Gerardo Olguin, Stephanie Maldonado, Piper Aislinn, Duncan Lopez, Wyatt Warner, Bill Zachmann*

# Fantastic Annual Rummage Sale

## Saturday, February 10th • 9am-2pm

Lincoln School gym (on 21st Ave SE, 2 blocks east of Capital)

**We'll accept your donations on Friday, Feb 9th from 4 to 7pm** (to the gym please) and then encourage you to come back any buy other people's cool stuff on Saturday the 10th from 9 to 2pm.

### Donate all kinds of good stuff—

art, jewelry, collectables, books, music, instruments, kitchen and household items, clean linens and blankets, working electronics, tools, ready to ride bikes and skateboards, games, toys, cool knick-knacks, crafts, vintage clothing, winter coats, sporting and camping goods, awesome yard and garden stuff, nice wood furniture, and other treasures (please, no large appliances, couches, overstuffed chairs). Tell your friends, family and co-workers! No doubt they all have treasures to donate as well! They'll admire your insight when you suggest they bring their good stuff to Lincoln in late afternoon before the sale (so we can set everything up in time).



*Beat the Winter Blues!*

**Come shopping on Saturday, Feb 10th at 9am! Bring a friend.**

**Can you volunteer to help with the sale?** Call or text (360) 480-8720 or e-mail [ms.calhounpetrie@gmail.com](mailto:ms.calhounpetrie@gmail.com) and our volunteer coordinator will find a shift to suit your schedule.

This fun community event organized by the **Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association**

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**I support the projects and goals of the Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Association**

My generous contribution is enclosed:

- \$15. to help defray newsletter costs
- \$40. for one month's partial scholarship support for one student from Santo Tomás
- \$100. for two weeks' salary support for the Coordinator of the *Comedor Infantil*
- \$480. for full year scholarship support for one college student in Santo Tomás
- I'll make a monthly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to TSTSCA (code# 0315175) through the WA State Combined Fund Drive

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address please: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:**

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