

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister Community Association

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<http://oly-wa.us/TSTSCA/> • Friend us on Facebook!

April 2017

Dear Friends of Santo Tomás,

In these challenging times in our communities, country and across the world, it can be hard to keep sight of positive events or relationships. We see, and are part of, inspiring community building and resistance organizing wherever we live. From 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, **our collective hands are full of critical work that will last our lifetimes.**

When we decided to build a relationship with Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua, we knew it had to be grounded in exchange. One year ago today in Olympia, we were hosting another dynamic delegation from Santo Tomás. This spring, there is a small group of students from The Evergreen State College studying and engaging in community service in Santo Tomás. Next year, a community delegation from Olympia will travel to Nicaragua in July. **Relationships are why this sister tie exists and they provide the framework to learn** so much more about ourselves, our community and our government's policies.

We thank Lincoln Elementary School students and your teachers and parents for working hard on those amazing autobiographical booklets you created and sent to your sister school students at Ruben Dario in Santo Tomás. They also appreciate the Lincoln Options Community Council's annual support of backpack and school supplies purchases for many of the students. You'll be hearing back from your sister school before June!

We thank everyone who has contributed to supporting the modest salaries of the two librarians and the coordinator of the children's free lunch program, the college scholarships for Nicaraguan students, and the donations for the recent requests of sewing machines, school and office supplies, baseball gear.

We thank you for your support of our annual beat-the-winter-blues rummage sale in January **and our perennial plant sale** in May. We were able to respond to some direct requests for furniture and equipment for the People's Health Clinic (see page 11), and a large poured-in-place 15' reinforced concrete pedestal to support a large water tank to supply the baking school and other projects at the Escuela Hermandad.

Our all-volunteer organization seeks your generous financial support to maintain our annual commitment of \$16,000 to Santo Tomás, plus special projects that TSTSCA is asked to help make possible. **Thank you again**, for participating in this long-term relationship with our Nicaraguan friends.

In gratitude — *Jean Eberhardt, Lee Miller, Maureen Hill, Emily Calhoun Petrie, Grace Cox, Flo Swelley, 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 Harberg, Ellie Mansfield, Russ Fox, Anna Shelton, Beth Doglio and Eddie Cates, Gerardo Olguin, Stephanie Maldonado, Piper Aislinn, Duncan Lopez, Wyatt Warner*

(Please use return form on the back of this letter.)

Annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser for scholarships

Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9am to 3pm at 117 Thomas St NW, Olympia

Please attend our fifth annual perennial plant sale on Olympia's Westside. We are fundraising to support college scholars in our sister town in Nicaragua so they can, in turn, support their community. See two mini-biographies of scholars inside.

We'll have over 50 varieties of native and non-native flowering plants and shrubs, some edibles too (organic strawberry and kale starts). This is the perfect time to get some more interesting colors, textures and lovely smells into your garden, and Mother's Day is also coming right up: great gifts!

If you have awesome plants that need thinning, would you consider potting up some or a lot (nothing invasive please!) for this fundraiser and then delivering on Friday evening or early Saturday morning? Or calling us by Wednesday for pick-up on Friday the 5th?

Everyone! Come on over on Saturday the 6th anytime between 9 to 3pm to Thomas St, between Harrison and 4th. Can't miss it! Thanks for your support; and please help us spread the word.

For information or to help with the sale please email tstsc@gmail.com or text or call (360) 259-2974



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
- \$125. 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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