

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister Community Association

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

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Dear friend of Santo Tomás,

The Thurston – Santo Tomás Sister Community Association (TSTSCA) works with our partners in Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua on cultural and educational exchanges as well as critical material aid projects. Thank you for taking part in some of our accomplishments listed below. You'll find more information in the *Update* that accompanies this letter and on our website: www.oly-wa/tstsca. Your financial and personal contributions will determine how much we can accomplish in 2017.



We are proud of these accomplishments in 2016:

- ▶ Our eleventh delegation from Santo Tomás came to Olympia and each of the four guests had an awesome time. Yuri, Thelma, Cesar and Aminta enjoyed wonderful home stays and we are grateful to everyone who helped make it a successful exchange. Our guests focused on observing and participating in various educational experiences in the community. They spent time in classes and with student organizations at The Evergreen State College. They visited our sister school Lincoln Options Elementary, as well as Olympia High School and Evergreen Elementary in the Shelton School District. Two of our guests with public health interests were able to connect with physicians and nurses in clinics and hospital settings.
- ▶ The Scholarship Program continues to help fourteen Tomasinos/as attend college in Nicaragua (including one student in Cuba) leading to completion of their undergraduate degrees. Our commitment this year is to raise \$6,720. for these students. Nine more have already graduated. One of the recent graduates as well as the coordinator of the scholarship program were delegates from Santo Tomás to Olympia last spring. It was inspiring to feel their enthusiasm for this life changing project. Please take a few moments to read featured scholar Cristhian Lazo's story in the Update.
- ▶ The *Comedor/Biblioteca* project support helps provide free lunches to over one hundred hungry children each day – and books and space where young students can read and study. This \$10,000 -per-year project requires our ongoing support for the modest salaries of three staff members of the kitchen and library.

We support the Santo Tomás community in other ways. The Nicaraguan local committee guides our efforts from the grassroots up, and we respond, as we are able, to the needs they identify and prioritize. Our relationship is one of exchange and learning from each other.

How much can we accomplish in 2017?

- ▶ Your donations sustain our current projects and activities in Santo Tomás
- ▶ We have been asked to address critical needs listed in the panel below.

Please support TSTSCA’s efforts to strengthen our long term ties with our sister community in Nicaragua. We sincerely thank you for your help and participation.

Emily, Maureen, Grace, Kathy, Eva, Heather, Tim, Jean, Lee, Diane, Stephen, Russ, Flo, James, Barbara, Harriet, Rachel, Audrey, Nels, Michi

You are always welcome to join us at TSTSCA’s meetings! We meet on the third Thursday of each month, usually at Lincoln School in the teacher’s lunchroom. Call (360) 943-8642 or e-mail us at *TSTSCA@gmail.com* to confirm the location. Join us!



I support the volunteer-run TSTSCA in strengthening our sister ties with Santo Tomás.

I'll send my tax-deductible donation right away in the return envelope provided.

- I want to support this people-to-people exchange with our sister community!
I will send \$25 \$50 \$75 \$200 \$480
- I want to support the College Scholarship Project in Santo Tomás (\$40 monthly, \$480 yearly for each of the current 14 scholars)
- I want to support the Children’s Free Lunch Center and Library in Santo Tomás (approximately \$250 monthly salaries for each of the three staff members)
- I will contribute \$1200 for an adjustable hospital bed at the health clinic
- I can send \$1,000 to paint the Children’s Free Lunch Center
- I can pay \$____ towards the \$600 water tank for the *Escuela Hermandad*
- I would like to contribute \$____ for books for the tiny Public Library
- I will make a monthly donation through the WA State Combined Fund Drive—code 0315175. This will help sustain the organization year-round!
- I would like to be contacted about making a bequest to TSTSCA in my will
- I would like to know more about visiting Santo Tomás with a delegation from Olympia
- I’ll write and send a note with my email address and phone number below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address please: _____

Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to: TSTSCA • PO Box 561 • Olympia, WA 98507