

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister Community Association

PO Box 561, Olympia WA 98507 • (360) 943-8642

December 2013

Dear friend of Santo Tomás,

The Thurston – Santo Tomás Sister Community Association (TSTSCA) works with our partner organization in Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua on many projects. We list some of our accomplishments below and provide more information in the printed *Update* and on our website: www.oly-wa/tstsc Your volunteer efforts and financial support will determine how engaged and visible we'll be here and in Nicaragua in 2014.

You helped the TSTSCA accomplish all of this in 2013:

- ◆ A special fundraising campaign kicked off to raise money to replace the roof and make needed repairs to the *Casa de Costura*—the women's sewing coop and sewing school built by Olympians and *tomasinas* together in 1988.
- ◆ A delegation of three students from The Evergreen State College with their TSTSCA liaison/coordinator completed ten weeks of learning and hands-on activities in different community projects in Santo Tomás during Spring Quarter. The spring delegation and a couple of summer volunteers from Olympia brought a variety of high priority medical and school supplies with them and contributed financial support for our sister organization's various projects.
- ◆ The Scholarship Program continues to help twelve *tomasinas* attend college, leading to completion of their degrees.
- ◆ The Comedor/Biblioteca project continues to provide free lunches to about 150 poor children each day—and books and space where students can read and study. This \$8,000-per-year project needs our ongoing support for the minimum wage salaries for three staff members of the kitchen and library.
- ◆ We reached out to the community with feature newspaper articles and tabling at several local events.
- ◆ We connect with the Santo Tomás community in other ways. Their local committee guides our efforts from the grassroots up, and we respond as we can to the needs they identify and prioritize. Our relationship is one of exchange and learning from each other.

How much can we do together in 2014?

Your donations sustain our current projects in Santo Tomás. Our pledge to the complete the sewing school building repairs really needs all of us to make this happen. Will you also help us keep our commitments to ongoing projects?

While delegations north and south are probably our most visible activity, our work in Santo Tomás continues all year around and it needs ongoing financial support. We respectfully request your support for TSTSCA's efforts to strengthen and support the children and young people in our sister community in the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere (behind Haiti).

Donations to TSTSCA can be tax-deductible. State employees may designate TSTSCA through the Combined Fund Drive; our number is 0315175. Monthly or quarterly pledges really help to sustain our work and commitments year around. We sincerely thank you for your support and participation.

Thanks from the TSTSCA Steering Committee,

*Barbara Keyt, Maureen Hill, Emily Calhoun Petrie, Grace Cox,
Jean Eberhardt, Glen Anderson, Jane & Alan Mountjoy-Venning,
Lee Miller, Anna Shelton, Heather Earp, Ellie Mansfield, Susan Kavanaugh,
Alex Becker, James Hibbs, Patty Otero, Florence Shelley, Emily Sladek*

You are always welcome to join us at the TSTSCA meetings! We now meet on the third Thursday of each month, usually at 7pm at Lincoln School (21st and Washington in Olympia) in the staff lunchroom. Please call Jean at (360) 943-8642 or e-mail us at TSTSCA@gmail.com to confirm the location. *Please join us!*