

Thurston–Santo Tomás Sister Community Association

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December 2018

Dear Friends of Santo Tomás, Nicaragua:

Last Spring, we hosted four incredible individuals from Santo Tomás. Elvis, Marily, Yessenia and Cruz spent over three weeks in our community, meeting with many people to exchange narratives and ideas and good food while living with host families and establishing forever connections. In this newsletter, we identify many of the individuals and groups who made this delegation possible. We are so grateful for everyone's help at our public events and in the venues they visited. Thank you for being part of our 12th Nicaraguan delegation since 1990!

The day after the delegation arrived in Olympia in April, protests broke out in Nicaragua over changes to the social security system. Though the policy changes were rescinded five days later, violence continued and the death toll rose. Protesters erected roadblocks on major highways and in cities, disrupting travel and grinding much of the economy to a halt. When our delegates returned home, they had to travel over fields and riverbeds to get home safely. In the days after they returned home, Santo Tomás ran out of gasoline and diesel, then non-perishable foods. It was a very hard time.

Here, we have been following conflicting media, governmental and non-governmental organizations' (NGO) reports of events. Three months after the initial protests began, the crisis shifted from an acutely dangerous state to a simmering state of fear and frustration, though normalization of the economy still feels far off. Mediation efforts failed and eventually the roadblocks were forcibly opened by government forces. The US seems poised to impose more sanctions through the Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act that will stop international loans and crush the economy even more. **Let us be clear, the TSTSCA does not condone any level of US intervention.**

Because our trusted friends in Santo Tomás are on different sides in the political conflict, our organization is not taking a position. In this newsletter, we have included an on-the-ground view of events from different Tomásinx. We've also included a number of websites for deeper analysis. If you are in touch with folks in Santo Tomás, we would appreciate your sharing their thoughts with us at TSTSCA@gmail.com.

The ongoing tenuous situation in Nicaragua forced us to cancel the community delegations scheduled for spring and winter 2018, and we anticipate that there will be no Evergreen student delegation in spring 2019. Until we can resume our delegation schedule, we are focusing on the other ways we can help.

We know that now is a critical time for the ongoing work we're financing in Santo Tomás. With your help, we are continuing to fund the Children's Free Lunch program, the public library, and thirteen college scholars. In order to fund these important projects next year, we have a goal of raising \$18,000. We know that we cannot resolve the political situation in Nicaragua, but with your help, our nutrition and education programs can make a difference in the lives of community members in Santo Tomás. **Thank you for your continuing generosity to support our sister community in its time of need.**

With gratitude,

Maureen, Emily, Grace, Barbara, Jean, Bill, Seamus, Audrey, Nels, Diane, Stephen, Lee, Alan, Jane

Giant Annual Rummage Sale

Saturday, January 26th • 9am - 2pm • Lincoln School gym
21st and Washington, Olympia

to benefit education and nutrition programs in Santo Tomás

We'll accept your gently used donations on Friday, Jan. 25th from 4 to 7pm (to the gym please) and then encourage you to come back the next morning to buy other people's cool stuff.

Donate all kinds of great 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 ahead of time).

Come shopping on Saturday, Jan. 26th at 9am! Bring a friend.

Can you volunteer to help with the sale? Call or text (360) 464-5264 or e-mail tstsca@gmail.com and our volunteer coordinator will find a shift for you!



Save the Date!

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4th 9 am to 3pm

Help support thirteen students in our sister community of Santo Tomás Nicaragua by supporting our campaign to partially fund their college scholarships. Save the date for our seventh annual perennial plant sale on Olympia's Westside. 117 Thomas St NW, between Harrison and 4th Ave. Thanks for your support; and please help us spread the word.

Please email us at tstsca@gmail.com to donate plants and veggie starts, etc