

**The Thurston–Santo Tomás
Sister Community Association**
PO Box 561, Olympia WA 98507



Spring 2012

Dear friend of Santo Tomás,

Please welcome our 10th delegation from Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua, to Olympia from April 10 to May 3. Martha Irene Lazo and Heylin Amarely Lopez are teachers in the Rubén Darío School, Santo Tomás's sister school with Olympia's Lincoln Elementary School. They will participate in a variety of activities here.

This delegation will focus on education and several activities with Lincoln School, and also will participate in a variety of activities in Olympia and our region. **Please join them at the various public events!** The *Update* provides exciting information about their visit and TSTSCA's other activities.

While delegations are TSTSCA's most visible activity, our work in Santo Tomás continues all year around and needs ongoing financial support. Our current activities include:

- Our scholarships help nine Tomasinos attend college leading to completing their degrees.
- Our support for the Comedor and Library provides free lunches to about 150 poor children each day – and books and space where kids can read and study. This \$7,200-per-year project needs our ongoing support for small salaries for three staff members in the kitchen and library.
- We help the Santo Tomás community in other ways. Their local committee guides our efforts from the grassroots up, and we respond to the needs they identify and prioritize. Our relationship is one of exchange and learning from each other, rather than paternalism.

We respectfully request your support for TSTSCA's efforts to strengthen and support our sister community in the second poorest country in the hemisphere (behind Haiti).

Your voluntary efforts and your financial support are making possible this 10th delegation and all of TSTSCA's other ongoing activities. Thank you! Please continue strengthening our 23-year relationship!

Donations to TSTSCA can be tax-deductible. (State employees may designate TSTSCA through the Combined Fund Drive, where our number is 0315175.) **Monthly or quarterly pledges sustain our work all year around.**

We sincerely thank you for your help and participation.

TSTSCA Steering Committee:

*Barbara Keyt, Maureen Hill, Jean Eberhardt, Michi Thacker, Alex Becker,
Susan Kavanaugh, Grace Cox, Lee Miller, Heather Earp, Ellie Mansfield,
Anna Shelton, Emily Calhoun Petrie, Maddy Stephens, Glen Anderson*

P.S. You are always welcome to join us at TSTSCA's meetings! Our meetings are enjoyable and productive. We start with a 6:30 informal potluck before the 7:00 meetings on the second Mondays of every month. To confirm the location please call Jean at (360) 943-8642 or e-mail us at TSTSCA@gmail.com. **Join us!**