

Olympia/Santo Tomás Update

US/Nicaragua Solidarity—Since 1989
Spring 2017

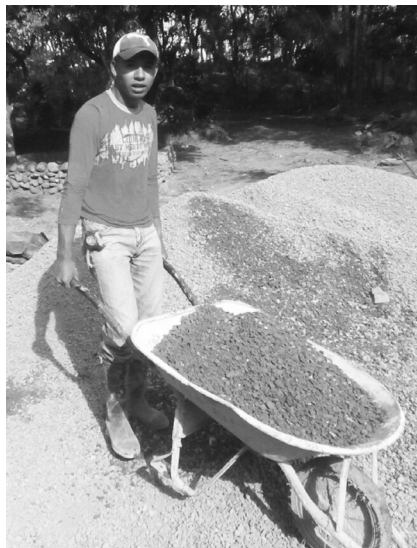
An update
from the
Thurston—Santo Tomás
Sister County
Association

Civil Engineering is this hardworking scholar's dream...

My name is Miguel Ángel Sequeira Gutiérrez. I was born to a humble, hardworking campesino family. My father is a laborer and my mother keeps the household running with eight kids; I am the youngest. I began my studies in a tiny, rural school 30 minutes from our home, across rivers and rough paths. It was hard to get through that first phase but I did it.

My high school experience was even harder. I walked an hour each way to the school in El Guabo. I worked for neighboring farmers to buy my school supplies because my parents couldn't help me. The little my father earned had to support our whole family. I often traveled to school hungry because I had to prioritize the materials I needed. I didn't participate in school events because I couldn't contribute to the costs associated with those activities. My classmates made fun of me for being poor, for wearing the rubber boots of field workers (my only shoes), and for being darker.

All of these hardships just made me want to do better, get ahead and help my family. I was, and am, determined to show everyone that humble country people, though we are poor, have dreams, are intelligent and can reach our goals. None of my brothers and sisters were able to go to high school. I am the only one in my family to attend and finish high school, earning the highest grades of my class. I have always dreamed of being a builder of houses and of having my own dignified home for my family. I would also like to help other



*Miguel Ángel Sequeira Gutiérrez
working his way through college*

people have their own homes. As the top placer in my rural high school, I was awarded a scholarship by the mayor's office and it was with this promise that I left home to pursue university studies in civil engineering. When I got there, I was told there weren't scholarships for this major. So, City Hall offered me work as a laborer and, with that, I was barely able to pay my expenses the first year. It was so hard to pay tuition, transportation to Juigalpa (where the university is), and food and housing in Santo Tomás, while trying to keep up with my classes and homework. Then my job ended.

A friend of mine, who receives a college scholarship from the Comité para Desarrollo Comunal through the sister relationship with Olympia, told me they were offering a few more scholarships to students with few economic resources. I decided to tell my personal history with great hopes because, in that moment, I had no way to begin my second year of higher education. Yuri Alfaro, the Coordinator of the Scholarship Project, asked for my transcripts and other documents which I submitted. Then she gave me the most exciting notice I've ever received, that I was awarded a scholarship! I am infinitely grateful to the Solidarity Com-

mittee (TSTSCA) because without you, many people of limited means would not be able to reach for their dreams of becoming professionals.

I want you to know that every student in this project that gives life truly needs this support and we will learn how to better ourselves through our studies and community work in our city. Thank you! ♦

Support for the Scholars... Several years ago, the Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association committed to fundraising to provide modest college scholarships to students in our sister community in Nicaragua who would otherwise be unable to pursue and complete university studies. The most recent delegation north from Santo Tomás in spring of 2016 included the energetic and delightful Aminta Rocha, a former scholarship recipient who studied five years of nursing and is now working in her field. For \$40 per month, you could help a young person become a professional and stay in their community to serve. Just send in the return form with your donation. Email tstsc@gmail.com or call (360) 943-8642 for more information.

This Scholar's dream: Plant Medicine & studies in Neuropathy



economic difficulties, I graduated with profound happiness and am still moving forward.

My big goal is to study and have a career in neuropathy. Ever since I was a little girl, I saw how my parents treated our family members' infirmities with natural medicines. I believe that my studies will be of great service to many people with health problems that haven't been resolved with pharmaceutical medicines. Soon I will be able to say I learned everything about this career so I could give, not to get a lot but, because I know what it is to not have.

I am a scholarship student and, thanks to the Comité del CDC and to the Hermanamiento de Olympia. I am studying exactly what I want to do and am learning so much more about natural medicine. Thanks to my university, as the top student, I was given the opportunity and economic support to travel to Guatemala to take a course on chiropractic and naturopathic medicine. All of my studies will serve me well in my professional life and the services I will bring to the people, contributing to their health through alternative modalities such as healing with plants and attention to healthy eating and lifestyles.

I am in my second year of this five year major and I feel able to complete my dream which, without your support, would not be possible. I thank you! ♦

Hi, I'm **Antonia Yamileth Acuña**, the third of four siblings. I'm 18 years old. I began my education at the elementary school Rubén Darío and did well, continuing on with a fervent desire to overcome barriers by attending the public high school Instituto Nacional 21 de junio where I am certain I left my fingerprints everywhere! I participated in many activities and competitions, in which with God's help and a tremendous amount of effort, I received many honors. Even with



Nicaraguan and US College Students Connect

After dinner, cultural presentations and easy conversations on April 9, 2017, group photos were taken with some of the Nicaraguan college scholarship recipients, the project coordinators, the five Evergreen college students, and a few really young aspiring scholars. With your annual support of \$480, there could be more college students from Santo Tomás helping to build their community. Consider hosting a fundraiser in your home or asking friends to go in on a full scholarship with you! tstca@gmail.com ♦



Early Reflections from the 12th Student delegation from The Evergreen State College (since 1996) to Santo Tomás

Five students, from the fulltime, yearlong academic program Spanish Speaking World: Cultural Crossings, are spending their spring quarter abroad, studying Nicaraguan literature and language, history and current events, completing an academic project of their own design and participating in community service projects.



Their host families have welcomed them with open arms. *Student delegation members: Gerardo Olguin, Duncan (Diego) Lopez, Wyatt Warner, Piper Aislinn, Stephanie Maldonado, with Evergreen Faculty Catalina Ocampo and Diego de Acosta*

Spring is a particularly hot time of year in Nicaragua, to which the students are adapting.

Stephanie Maldonado

The feeling of excitement and nervousness came to me at the moment I glanced from the airplane window to see Nicaragua for the first time. I knew that coming to Nicaragua was going to be a great opportunity for creating new memories with different communities. Having mentally prepared myself for new experiences, I met the Santo Tomás community members who were waiting for us at the airport. I had earlier contact with some *Tomásinx* through social media, but this was my first time meeting them in person.

In Managua until the next day, I had the opportunity to visit *Palacio Nacional*. It was amazing going around the museum and seeing moments of history and art pieces of Nicaragua. One



Stephanie looking out over a young banana plant in her host family's backyard orchard

of my favorite pieces was a table with the map of Nicaragua where I was able to physically see different regions and their diverse cultural identities.

Later, at the end of my first week in Santo Tomás, our group was invited to *La Hermandad* school where we attended a cooking class. I was excited to see one of the many pastries that the people from Santo Tomás create. The women from the cooking class made bread with



Making pasteles de pollo: Gerardo, Stephanie, baking student Alba Marina, Piper, maestra Angelita Gonzalez in the Baking School (Escuela de Reposteria) at the Hermandad

chicken stuffing which the community calls *pasteles de pollo*. As the members of the cooking class got closer to finishing baking I was given the opportunity to participate by stuffing the dough. I was thankful to

the students for giving me the chance to interact with the class.

The people from Santo Tomás have been so welcoming that I feel I have been in their community before. I am looking forward to creating new memories with people in Santo Tomás and seeing different areas of Nicaragua.

Wyatt Warner

I assumed that the wealth of preparatory meetings and classes we attended before arriving in Nicaragua was to prepare us for 10 weeks of working on our own. Imagine my surprise when I arrived to find myself instantly sup-

ported on all sides by the wonderful people of Santo Tomás. We were greeted at the Managua airport with hugs from four members of the youth group of the Committee for Community Development (the organization with whom we work here in Nicaragua). They instantly took us to lunch, helped us buy phones, bought some fruit for us to try, and taught us how to talk like Nicaraguans. They rented a minibus, showed us the sights, and came back with us on the four-hour drive to Santo Tomás, joking, laughing, and teaching all the way.

When we arrived in Santo Tomás (after a few quick tours of the capitol city and a couple museums) it quickly became clear why the Tomásinos and Tomásinas are so good at giving support: they've had tons of practice. Community projects are a source of pride and a depository of love and work. The Comedor Infantil, where I'll be volunteering during my stay, provides free lunch, counseling, access to recourses and a space to do homework and play to the kids of the town who need it. The free sewing school, beauty school, and cooking school teach the local women (and occasionally men) new trades with which they can support themselves and their families. The Peoples' Clinic provides cheap medical services to those in need. When community members were showing us around these projects they were immensely proud, and were grateful for the support Olympia and their other sister city of Mol, Belgium have provided in creating and maintaining many of them.

Even with only a week into my stay here, I'm constantly getting waves from my new friends when I walk around town, and organizers and friends alike constantly are asking whether I'm comfortable. I thought I knew what a healthy and powerful community looked like before I came here, but the people of Santo Tomás have inspired me to love my neighbor even more.

Gerardo Olguin

Exhausted as I was, there was so much to do and see. My curiosity of a new place and culture had piqued my interest but boy was I sweating inside and out.

As I walked through the streets of Managua with my classmates, the sun had set and yet the moon was bright as a star shining through the late evening night. Expecting it to be fresh and cool, I was wrong from the get go, as it felt as the sun was still out and I felt the heat throughout my body surging.



Gerardo in front of Sandino's silhouette in Managua on first night in Nicaragua

As we walked around, we encountered this beautiful set of lights with each strip containing the colors of certain countries and of the country's colors as well. Beautiful indeed but then I found a silhouette of a *campesino* that I thought was *twani* for sure. Even though I tried to copy the stance of the silhouette of Sandino, I think I failed terribly at that! Yet the breeze of wind would come and go, refreshing my body.

All through that first night in Nicaragua, I kept a smile on my face as there was so much to see and to admire, yet the stubborn heat was at hand.

Duncan (Diego) Stirling de la Caridad Roessner Lopez

My first week in Santo Tomás has been an inspiration. The community strength is like nothing I have ever seen. I used to think I was a really radical organizer for the work I was doing in Olympia, and while I am still proud of my achievements,

seeing the dedication people have to community projects here makes me feel like a Che wannabe



Misael Gonzalez, who works at the Finca Modelo, peeling sugar cane to share with the students

with too many red and black scarves. As people describe the projects they are involved in, I find myself time and time again taken aback by the profound love with which they describe the work they do. The sense of solidarity that stretches between Santo Tomás and Olympia fills me with a sense of joy and reaffirms all the values that brought me here. I came here to build alongside a community and to learn, and I have learned so much in my first week. What astounds me

even more is humbleness that goes with this. This isn't to say people don't take pride in what they are doing, as well they should. The work people do at places like La Clinica Popular and El Comedor Infantil goes beyond being commendable, they are sewing

the stitches that hold the fabric of a healthy society together. But when people tell us about their work, it isn't to brag about what they have accomplished, it is about the work in progress. They explain what they are doing to teach us so we can work with them. I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside the members of this strong and beautiful community, and I am so excited to take the knowledge I have acquired and apply it to building alongside my community in Olympia.

Piper Aislinn

The first week here in Nicaragua has been a whirlwind of activity—meeting people, visiting community projects, and spending time with our new host families. Even on our first day, we spent the evening walking around near Managua's central plaza, looking at statues of Sandino and Rubén Darío and the glittering trees of life. On Wednesday morning, the first full day in Santo Tomás, we decided to go to the *comarca* El Alto with a few Belgians from Santo Tomás' other sister city, Mol.

El Alto is a large swath of land a few miles from Santo Tomás, that is collectively tended and cared for by a group of people. There are cows, horses, chickens and pigs, and various buildings here and there, but a great majority of it is covered by beautiful, jungle-like forest. We rode to the *comarca* in the backs of three trucks, holding on to rails on the sides, with sunglasses and bandanas to block out the dust kicked up by the truck ahead of ours.

We arrived and met some of the people who work on the *comarca*, who led us from our trucks along a path

that overlooked the rolling hills and lush forest of the countryside. We came to a house, outside of which were tied several horses and chickens, and probably a dozen chicks and a tiny kitten raced around underfoot. We sat

for a bit to catch our breath. It was incredibly hot. After a brief *descanso* and some delicious *tamarindos* we started off again. This time, the path was less defined, and became progressively less so as we walked. Luckily, a few workers of the *comarca* skillfully guided us across the rugged, leaf-strewn forest floor. We followed a shallow stream for most of the way, crossing over when the bank on one side was too treacherous. One of the most exciting moments was seeing a black howler monkey they call a *congo*. The dogs accompanying us inspired a few yells of discontentment

from the monkey before it moved out of sight. At the end of our seemingly endless, incredibly sweaty walk, we arrived at a deep pond beside two caves, and we all sat to rest. As we approached the pond, there was a splash and I saw a tail disappear into the depths. One guide told us that it was a small crocodile, luckily too small to hurt anyone. It stayed well-hidden until we left. Another guide passed out *chicha*, a locally fermented alcoholic drink, to “give us energy for the walk back” and told us a bit about the *comarca* and its history.

The walk back was even more arduous and uphill than the way there, but eventually we made it back to where we'd parked and enjoyed some fruit before hopping back into the trucks. About halfway back to Santo Tomás, we stopped for lunch at the home of one of the workers of the *comarca*. It

was a delicious and refreshing end to a beautiful (although exhausting and sweaty) morning. ♦



Santo Tomás tour with Cruz Murillo, paused in front of the Catholic Church: Wyatt, Yoseling Karelia Miranda (member of the CDC youth group), Gerardo, Stephanie, Diego and Piper



Origins of Shoe Project Santo Tomás

by Sean Izzarone, AKA Ciano,
de mucha fama por sus tortas

Like many people the world over, I believe that education is the key to unlock doors that otherwise may remain closed to us. Those locked doors, in turn, can often keep us from developing the potential that we have as individuals and as community members and world citizens. For that reason I enrolled at The Evergreen State College in 1998, looking to expand my horizons as well as my consciousness. Perhaps the most important step in this process was my choice to study abroad for my final quarter at Evergreen as a member of a student delegation from Olympia to our sister city of Santo Tomás, Nicaragua in Spring 2001. The lessons that I learned and the friendships that were forged during that time were ones that changed the course of my life forever. So great was the change, that in 2010 I decided to leave the land where I was born, the united states, to live in the land where I was reborn, Nicaragua. The reasons for this decision are too many and too nuanced for the scope of this article, but I will say it is a decision that I have never regretted for even an instant.

When I was a student delegate in 2001, one of the components of the program was to work in one of the projects administered by our sister organization, the CDC (*Comité Para Desarrollo Comunal*). I chose to volunteer weekday mornings in the Comedor Infantil, the Children's Free Lunch program that provided, at that time, a hot meal for nearly 200 of the most impoverished children in Santo Tomás, as well as connections to other services like health and dental care. I always loved working with the kids of the Comedor and so when I moved to Santo Tomás for good, I continued to volunteer there whenever I was able. I even met my future wife there, as she was a preschool teacher at the Comedor. Suhey Yessenia Díaz Jirón and I were married in 2012 and currently live together in Santo Tomás with our three children Margarito, Fergie, and Patrick.

After moving to Santo Tomás in 2010, I began to

contemplate what kind of work I would do to support myself and to contribute to my new community. After a long and complex process, I decided that I would launch a new business selling cakes and natural drinks from a cart that I would push around the streets of Santo Tomás... I was now a cake monger!!! I was inspired by the vendors that walk the streets of our town selling anything and everything you can imagine, each with his or her own distinctive call that lets potential buyers know who the vendor is so they can buy from their most trusted sources. I wasn't sure if my idea would translate but my products quickly gained fame as being the very best and are currently purchased and enjoyed by a broad cross section of our community.

In late 2010, with my business flourishing, I began to think about how I could contribute part of my earnings to help our most vulnerable citizens. Since I had such a profound connection to the kids at the Comedor Infantil, I began to have conversations with Rosita Guerrero, the director of the Comedor, about what needs the children had that perhaps I could help fill. It was then that I recalled that many children were not able to study because their parents could not afford

to buy even the basics, like school shoes, or maybe could afford for only some of their children if they had many. It was not uncommon to see kids going to school in plastic sandals (flip flops) or in shoes that were 2 or 3 sizes too small. It was then that we decided to launch Shoe Project Santo Tomás as our way of helping to support education in our community.

Since 2011, Shoe Project Santo Tomás has donated more than 1200 pairs of school shoes to children who really need them. We began the project with just kids from the Comedor Infantil but have since expanded the project to include youngsters from practically every barrio, or neighborhood. We work with teachers, principals, and other community leaders to identify the families with the greatest need, a strategy that has helped greatly to increase the reach and efficiency of the Shoe Project. We also collaborate with supporters in the united states and here in Santo Tomás to raise



Continued on next page

Shoes

From previous page

the necessary funds, which currently amount to close to \$3000 a year. We are proud to count the Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Association as one of our most prominent partners in this endeavor. Although we could choose to buy cheaper Chinese-made shoes, we have decided to support the local economy by purchasing hand sewn leather shoes from local cobblers, providing seasonal work for a number of local artisans and keeping the money local. This project has now become a mainstay in the community and something that the local workers as well as the families that benefit look forward to year after year.

Although I do not personally know all of the kids from the Shoe Project or their families, I do know quite a few of them, some better than others. And I also know that many of these kids are amongst the highest achieving students in their schools, a testament to the dedication and desire of these students and their families to reach greater heights.

One of my favorite success stories involves a family that I have known for a long time. I first met Doña Virginia when I was a student delegate in 2001 and she was a young single mom volunteering at the Comedor. For many reasons, Doña Virginia has not been able to escape the cycle of poverty and continues to

Since 2011, Shoe Project Santo Tomás has donated more than 1200 pairs of school shoes to children who really need them.

struggle to provide for her family. She works full time washing and ironing clothes for other more affluent families, backbreaking work for which she earns only roughly \$30-40 a month, which is quite low even by Nicaraguan standards. For that reason, her two youngest children eat daily at the Comedor and have been chosen for the last few years as participants in the Shoe Project. This year when we were handing over the shoes, she produced the last year's report cards and proudly shared with us that both Carlos Andrés

(2nd grade) and José Antonio (4th grade) are the top students in their respective classes. She recounted with great emotion how proud she is of her two sons and how grateful she is that they

have the opportunity to study and to move ahead in their lives. It was an experience that truly touched me as I have known both of these kids since they were babies... my wife even taught them both in preschool so we have a long history with them.

It is because of youth like Carlos Andrés and José Antonio that we started Shoe Project Santo Tomás. Perhaps not all of them are going to be superstars, but they certainly all deserve the chance to be. They deserve that chance to educate themselves and to unlock those doors and opportunities so that they can be who they are destined to be. We are committed to giving them some shoes to be proud of when they go to school. The rest is up to these young stars and their families and we are so excited and proud to see where they will go next! Forward ever, backward never!!! ♦

Olympian Bill Zachmann's Connection to Nicaragua Spans Thirty-Nine Years!

Imagine February 1978: My arrival in Managua as a young Peace Corps trainee was met with caution. It was only two weeks after the popular newspaper owner/editor – and loudest opposition voice to then President Anastasio Somoza – Pedro Joaquín Chamorro was assassinated. Tensions were high everywhere. The army's machine-gun presence was strong. This was only five years after the devastating earthquake of '72 that left over 6,000 people dead. Downtown Managua was still mostly in ruins, and languished in natural disaster recovery mode. The entire country was struggling under a dictatorial monarchy. I soon learned it was enabled by a US trained, national guard that prowled the barrios every night with deadly results.

'Welcome to Nicaragua?' I wasn't confident I'd see the end of my two-year assignment given that era's

political tensions and escalating civil war. Still, there was much to learn, do and see in my new 'home away from home'. Much has happened since then but at least I can say: "Over a span of nearly four decades, I've seen Nicaragua through unique lenses, and helped where I could in a few small ways".

My Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) job: 'Introduce Nicaraguan land managers to better forest management practices for the eastern-jungle Siuna Region'. It sounded great and fun on paper, and it was partially doable from a stifling hot office in Managua. But, it wasn't very practical to do 'on-the-ground'. The only way to get there – besides costly flights – was via remote mountain roads where the Sandinista guerilla forces were camped. My rides were supposed to be in government-marked Jeeps! Clearly, ground travel was

Continued on page 8

Bill Zachmann

From previous page

not a safe option. In the end, my small contribution: Teaching staff how to map and characterize tropical-forest zones for soil erosion control.

Unfortunately, Peace Corps Nicaragua, 'cut short':

As the Sandinista revolution heated up in August and September of '78, most PCVs, including me, took advantage of transfer-out or early termination options. Continued PC life and projects in-country were stymied, and simply too dangerous to continue. I soon transferred to Chile to complete a great PC tour there. Yet, little did I know back then my association with Nicaragua was far from over.

Bikes Not Bombs!

Does anyone recall this project? It started in Boston during the Contra War period, spread nationwide, and included an Evergreen chapter! The basics: Collect, repair and partially dismantle donated bikes. Crate them off to Managua, then unpack, reassemble and give them to qualifying public-sector or NGO offices in Nicaragua.

First, I worked as a volunteer in Minneapolis on the front end. After that, I took a 'working-vacation' in '87 to assemble bikes at, and deliver them from, the Managua-based shop. This was a great project since it enabled me to see Managua and Nicaragua in a fresh, new light: Repaired infrastructure, no scary machine-gun presence in the capitol city, and a civil society on the mend, despite the Contra War's ongoing, horrific impacts on just about everyone.

So, what about TSTSCA? When I moved to Olympia in '89, I was eager to plug into some volunteerism related to Latin American needs. I soon learned about a group of Olympians that began construction on a building for a women's sewing cooperative and sew-

ing school in Santo Tomás (and financed its completion). At a potluck picnic at Yauger Park, I met Jean, Maureen and several others from the TSTSCA. All of a sudden I had a new project: Help sort, box-up, then move lots of donated baseball gear from Olympia WA to Oakland CA for shipping to Chontales. This was a bit challenging, since the goods needed to be delivered only weeks after that October's devastating earthquake in the Bay Area. My spouse and I eventually found the right warehouse after lots of detours, off-loaded the gear, and headed home. A most satisfying effort.

Fast forward through the last several years: I have to admit I haven't done much physically for TSTSCA

over the last several years, choosing mostly to donate financially and occasionally pitch in where I can at the annual Rummage (January) and Plant (May) Sales events. But now, with more time on my hands after retiring, I've renewed interest in equipping Santo Tomás' baseball teams: The Evergreen State College Spring 2017 Student

Delegation has recently delivered one large suitcase full of used, but in good condition, mitts, bats, balls and more that I collected last month.

The 'Next Project'? Please join me in working on an even larger round-up of sports gear – including corporate asks – for the planned

Summer 2018 Olympia Community Delegation. I really want to be part that trip, since I've never been to Santo Tomás. In the meantime, I cherish my ongoing involvement with Santo Tomás and all of Nicaragua's great people. ♦



Bikes Not Bombs Staff Deliver Bikes to Managua Mayor's Office, 1987



Start thinking now about joining the Summer 2018 Olympia Community Delegation to Nicaragua!

Emily Calhoun-Petrie and Audrey Levine and their families are planning to return to Santo Tomás for two to three weeks; the temperature will not be as hot as what the students experience in the spring! Audrey and Emily anticipate being the trip coordinators. Stay tuned for details as plans firm up. You are encouraged to indicate your interest on the return form that accompanies this newsletter.

March 23, 2017

Hello friends in Olympia!

We wish to express our appreciation for your constant and valuable collaboration throughout these many years with the Clínica Popular.

With the funding you sent in December, we bought a hospital bed, two bedside table/cabinets, four reception room benches with four seats on each and a used electrocauterizer. Our doctors were able to test out the used machine, which cost \$2,900 less than a new one. As there was still a bit of money left from our careful purchases, we decided to buy a refrigerator for the new laboratory area.

Attached are receipts, and photos of the equipment and furniture purchased.

With gratitude, on behalf of all of the clinic personnel.

Isaida Mejía, Administrator, Clínica Popular

Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua



Clinic personnel sitting on the new benches: Luis Felipe Urbina (Laboratory technician); Yuri Alfaro (Accountant and President of the CDC); Isaida Mejía (Administrator and accountant); María Azucena Alvarado (Pharmacist); Karla Rodríguez (Doctor); Lady Velásquez (Nurse); Yulmara Sequeira (Laboratory technician); Agustina Reyes (Nurse); Martha Martínez (Laboratory assistant); Rosibel Peralta (Custodial)



The doctor doing a procedure with the new/used cauterizer is Sergio Martínez, an orthopedist who comes from Juigalpa on Saturdays to provide services at the clinic



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Sister County Association**

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See inside:

Meet two more scholars
from Santo Tomás

The 12th Student Delegation
from Evergreen is in
Santo Tomás this spring

Shoe Project Santo Tomás

Bill Zachmann reflects on
39 year connection to
Nicaragua

Thanks from the
Clínica Popular

Annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser for Scholarships
Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9am to 3pm ♦ 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 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 tstca@gmail.com or text or call (360) 259-2974

