

Take Part in PeaceWorks'



January, 2009 Delegation to Nicaragua

Renewing Friendships and Sharing the Kindness of Our Supporters
experiencing the beauty, the challenges, and the sorrows of Nicaragua



Like many of PeaceWorks' undertakings, our delegations are a leap of faith — strangers coming together for an intense foray into another land and culture, into the depths of poverty, to the heights of friendship.

We will have about 10 full days in Nicaragua, along with the two travel days - an intense introduction to a different nation and culture. The poverty and living conditions in some areas may be a shock to some. People who have taken part in other PeaceWorks' delegations described the experience as life-changing. It will be exciting, but may also be deeply disturbing. It will be eye-opening, moving and memorable.

We offer the delegation as an opportunity to gain understanding about how others live and survive, to learn about another culture and people. But we also ask those participating to consider what they will do with this experience. We ask that there be some commitment to future participation such as: sharing your experience with others through presentations at school, religious congregations, or community groups; raising funds for PeaceWorks' projects we visit; collecting aid for our shipments to Nicaragua. We would also like each participant to raise funds to go towards our projects.

Itinerary. PeaceWorks has worked with the following partner organizations over many years. We visit them to learn of their work, needs, and hopes.

Inhijambia: Heroic Women — Inhijambia works with the street children of Managua, Nicaragua. We'll visit Inhijambia, seeking to understand not only the nature of the problem but also how Inhijambia is restoring hope to these young people who live at the extreme margins of Nicaraguan society.

Masaya Without Frontiers (MASINFA) — PeaceWorks has had a long relationship with this community development organization. In addition to its housing and development projects, MASINFA operates a computer and language school.

Masaya Women's Collective — This organization seeks to empower the women of Masaya through literacy training, counseling and therapy, legal assistance, and community advocacy, and economic self-sufficiency.

FEDICAMP. We'll take part in a reforestation project in areas threatened by desertification with this pioneering group in Northern Nicaragua that has planted over 1.2 million trees since 2003. *We will also visit the Jubilee House Community in Ciudad Sandino, Cafe Sandino in Managua, and other projects.*

Experiencing the Beauty and Culture of Nicaragua — A visit to Nicaragua would not be complete without experiencing the nation's beauty and culture. We'll visit the historic Coyotepe fortress, the smoldering Masaya volcano, the environmental wonder of a ecological preserve, the Laguna de Apoyo, and La Bogüita beach — *and more and . . .*

Health and Safety Considerations — PeaceWorks has been traveling to Nicaragua with delegations since 1988. Nicaragua is an extremely poor nation with all the attendant problems. Check with your doctor about necessary vaccinations. The web site for the Center for Disease Control would have the most recent travel information. Medical care is available if needed while in Nicaragua, in fact the owner of the hotel in which we will stay in Masaya is a doctor. Precautions about what one drinks and eats while in Nicaragua must be taken to avoid water and food borne illnesses.

Costs — The total costs would be from \$1,200 to \$1,400— airfare, food, travel, lodging, and organizational costs. We can work with interested participants to help raise funds, i.e. through house parties, and appeals to family, friends, or religious congregations. We may also be able to arrange for some parts of these costs to be covered as tax- deductible donations. We would like each participant to raise additional funds to go towards aid projects.

Lodging — We will stay in Masaya, a city of about 80,000 people 20 miles south of Managua at the Madera Inn which is very comfortable, has bathrooms in each room, and serves breakfast. We have stayed there for the past several years.

Let us know if you are interested. Call Jim Burchell at (973) 765-9102. Send us an email message at peaceworks@peaceworks.org or a note to our mailing address below. We need to firm-up dates and the itinerary, so please let us know of your interest very soon.

Images of our 2008 delegation. Photos on top of page: Jesse Friebrur with a FEDICAMP worker holding a reforestation planting; leadership of MASINFA; a graduate of Inhijambia's programs with her children; Marilyn Devroye with a Inhijambia participant; a young boy writing "I want to change my life." in an Inhijambia literacy class. Photo on upper left: members of the 2008 delegation gather at the base of the Cerro Negro volcano in Leon before hiking to the top — with some running down the steep cinder slope on the other side.