

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



December 2011

Dear friend of Santo Tomás,

During 2011 the Thurston – Santo Tomás Sister Community Association (TSTSCA) accomplished a lot with our partners in Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua. We list some of our accomplishments below and provide more information in the printed *Update*. **Your voluntary efforts and financial support will determine how much we can accomplish in 2012.**

### **We are proud of these accomplishments in 2011:**

- A delegation of six students from The Evergreen State College completed ten weeks of hands-on activities in Santo Tomás during Spring Quarter.
- A delegation of nine other members of the greater Olympia community participated actively in the life of Santo Tomás for two weeks in July.
- Each delegation brought a variety of high priority material aid with them and contributed financial support for TSTSCA's various projects there.
- Our Scholarship Program continues to help nine Tomasinos attend college leading to completing their degrees.
- Our Comedor/library project continues to provide 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 of 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 reached out to the community with feature articles in two progressive publications in the greater Olympia area and in a one-hour interview program and our TSTSCA documentary on Thurston Community Television.

### **How much can we accomplish in 2012?**

- We are organizing our tenth delegation from Santo Tomás to visit Olympia from April 11 to May 2, 2012. This exciting project requires a significant amount and variety of volunteer help (before and during) in addition to extra financial support. Will you pitch in?
- Can we afford to sustain our current projects and activities in Santo Tomás? Could we afford to do more?

**We will need your volunteer help  
as well as financial support for our  
10<sup>th</sup> Nicaraguan delegation from  
Santo Tomás to Olympia in April  
2012. See the *Update*.**

**While delegations 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 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 help to 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, Glen Anderson*

***You are always welcome to join us at TSTSCA's meetings!*** We meet on the third Mondays of each month (except the 12<sup>th</sup> instead of the 19<sup>th</sup> this December ). Please call Jean at (360) 943-8642 or e-mail us at [TSTSCA@gmail.com](mailto:TSTSCA@gmail.com) to confirm the location. ***Join us!***