

# SISTER CITY UPDATE

Number 7

Richland Center - Santa Teresa: Sisters for Ten Years

March 1997

## Sta. Teresa's New Mayor

In the October 1996 Nicaraguan elections, Arnaldo Aleman, former Managua mayor and right wing "Liberal Alliance" candidate, was elected President of Nicaragua.

But in Santa Teresa, Sandinista candidate Jose Martinez won the election for mayor. Martinez was Neil Bard's host when he visited Santa Teresa in 1995.

Neil describes Martinez as "a middle-income businessman who succeeds by 'having his fingers in many businesses.' From farming to trucking to ice cream sales to fiesta hall rentals, he succeeds with energy and determination. He is a leftist Sandinista, opposed to building a road to the Pacific beach at Chacocente for ecotourism, and in favor of supporting the common peasant. Yet he owns the most material goods of all the people I met in Santa Teresa."

## Hospital to Hospital

When Dr. Bill Cooke visited the hospital in Jinotepe near Santa Teresa last year, he made a list of the hospital's needs. One piece of equipment they lacked was an obstetric fetal monitor-- the machine that keeps track of the contractions of the mother and of the fetal heartbeat during labor, so the doctor or nurse can tell if the baby is doing well or is in distress.

The Richland Hospital donated its older fetal monitor, still in good working condition, to the Hospital Regional Santiago Jinotepe, where many Santa Teresa women go to give birth.

The monitor was sent to Nicaragua in November with the annual truck caravan "Pastors for Peace." Your donations paid the shipping expenses.

The Richland Hospital received a thank you letter from the Jinotepe Hospital, saying they were happy to now be able to assess their high-risk obstetric patients.

## Rural School Supplies

At our last meeting we decided to send \$500 for supplies to the rural schools of the Santa Teresa Municipality. The Richland Center delegation that visited Santa Teresa last March realized that even though the city schools have many needs, the children in the rural schools often lacked the basic necessities like pencils and paper.

Gloria, the superintendent of Santa Teresa schools, stressed that need for basic supplies and impressed the delegation as a person truly concerned with the welfare of the children.

In January we gave the \$500 to Donna Vukelich, our liaison in Managua, to be picked up by Gloria, who will be in charge of buying and distributing the school supplies.

## Burrito Supper & Dance on March 14

The Sister City Project will be holding a benefit supper and old-time dance on Friday evening March 4th. Come out and enjoy yourselves while raising money for health and education in Santa Teresa.

The 6:00 Burrito Supper will feature tortillas and all the fixings, Central American style rice, and delicious homemade desserts. Starting at 8:00, the Kettle Creek String Band will play and call old time dance music-- including squares, reels, polkas, and waltzes. Dances are taught and all ages are welcome. \$6.00 per adult or \$3.00 per child includes both dinner and dance. \$4.00 is the adult price for one event. Family prices are available.

Come eat and dance on the beautiful hardwood floor at Blue Highways (old Masonic Temple), 165 N. Central, Richland Center. If you can help with supper or contribute a dessert, call Mary Bard at 647-2594.

# BURRITO SUPPER & DANCE



**SISTER CITY BENEFIT**  
For Health + Schools in Santa Teresa, Nicaragua  
MARCH 14th // BLUE HIGHWAYS

Richland Area - Santa Teresa  
Sister City Project  
%Brewer Library  
Richland Center  
WI 53581

## Sister City Sisters

Meeting March 20, 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
by Kathy Neckar

During our visit to Santa Teresa last spring, I was grateful to be invited to a meeting of a women's collective there-- a group of women from the area working together to create a framework of support for themselves and their families in these difficult times. They have developed a candy-making business in which women (typically with young children) are able to work in their own homes.

We hear so often that the women are the heart of the community. I really found that to be true in Santa Teresa. It was a joy to begin to get to know them.

On the evening of Thursday, March 20, I'd like to introduce these women to you. I'll share some of my experiences there and show a few slides and photos. Charlotte Cannell has just returned from a trip to Nicaragua, and she will join us to tell about her experiences.

Several of the women of Santa Teresa entrusted me with letters to share with people here. They would like to get to know the people of Richland Center individually, and hope that some of us will write back to them. I'll

have those translated letters at the meeting on the 20th too. We'll meet from 7 to 8:30 pm upstairs at the Brewer Library.

I hope to see you there.

## Charlotte Cannell Visits Santa Teresa

In late February, Charlotte Cannell was kind enough to go to Santa Teresa for us and deliver several letters while she was visiting her daughter Jennifer, a Peace Corps health worker in Managua.

Charlotte and her son-in-law David spent a day in Santa Teresa. She describes her visit there as "a wonderful experience-- people were very gracious, inviting us into their homes."

She took our letter of congratulations to Mayor Martinez (who she says looked "very young"); gave our best wishes to Jader, "who had just been working out;" and took a letter and donation to the Women's Group. Bertha Sanchez, the head of the group, gave Charlotte some of the formed candies they produced and showed her the sewing workshop where the group gets together to sew a few nights each week.