

FIRST VISITOR FROM SANTA TERESA

This week we're going to welcome our first visitor ever from our Nicaraguan sister city, Santa Teresa. His name is Jader de Jesus Castro Guadamuz. He is 25 years old and works at the Santa Teresa Health Center. He is also studying computers at the University in Managua.

His job at the Health Center includes educating people about health care and sanitation, organizing community participation in health matters, and working with public service volunteer brigades and with midwives. He has also been an adult literacy teacher and active Sandinista community organizer.

He will be in the Richland area from July 23rd to August 13th for the health worker's training exchange proposed by Dr. Neil Bard. As Jader's primary interest is in public health administration, we hope to provide him with an overview of Richland County's health care delivery system. A number of local medical workers, including Dr. Bard, Martine Banda-Wolk, Dr. Bill Cooke and Linda Stadler, will be working with Jader and showing him around their territory.

To quote (translated) from Jader's letter "I am proud to have been proposed to participate in this exchange of experiences, which will be useful so that those in solidarity with my town can know a little about its rustic character and its problems, the needs of its humble people; and which will serve to tighten the bonds of brotherhood between our two peoples".

Mark Your Calendars

There will be a potluck supper to welcome Jader on Saturday, July 25th at 5:30 pm at Michael Wunnicke and Andrea Kaiser's house. To get there take Highway 14 East from Richland Center to County Trk B; turn left on B through Sextonville to Hwy 130, left on 130 North to Bear Valley. Turn left at first farmhouse past Bear Valley (fresh egg sign at road). Drive past set of farm buildings to Wunnicke Farm. Their phone number is 583-2928

Jader will be interviewed on WRCO's Morning Show on Wednesday, July 29th at 9:00am.

Jader will speak and answer questions at the Kickapoo Exchange on Monday, August 3rd at the Brewer Library, 325 W. Central, Richland Center, on Tuesday, August 4th. Both talks will begin at 7:00 pm. The RC event will be followed by informal conversation and a potluck dessert.

BENEFIT TO BE SCHEDULED

We are still working on arrangements to hold a Sister City benefit supper and dance during Jader's visit. We're hoping to get some of our favorite musicians to perform for us, with a meal served beforehand. The tentative date is Saturday, August 8, probably on the UWC-Richland campus. Watch for posters to get the finalized particulars. Proceeds from the event will go to pay for Jader's trip and to purchase medical supplies for him to take back to Santa Teresa.

NEWS FROM SANTA TERESA

The city's new pre-school, towards which the Richland area sent contributions, has been finished and is now in use.

Since the 1990 election, when the UNO national government came into power, it has been harder for Santa Teresa's Sandinista municipal government to find money for civic projects.

Through continuing strong popular organization and mobilization and international solidarity, the pre-school, two new elementary schools, improvements in water supplies and an owner built housing project have been accomplished in the last year and a half. The city is now building itself a market.

A Wisconsin doctor who visited the Santa Teresa Health Center in late 1990 gave us the impression that the medical care had deteriorated, with the most basic supplies being unavailable. This inspired us to begin a health workers exchange. We hope to learn from Jader the whole story of Santa Teresa's health situation, and how we can help them.

The situation in Santa Teresa reflects the deepening economic and social crisis in the country as a whole. Unemployment has risen to well over 50%, and severe cutbacks government health, education and agriculture programs have compounded the crisis for the vast majority of the population.

WCCN MATCHING GRANT

The Wisconsin Coordination Council on Nicaragua (WCCN) has awarded the Richland - Santa Teresa Sister City Project a \$1,000 matching grant for the health workers' exchange and other medical aid to Santa Teresa. Sonia Taddy, the Executive Director of WCCN has also been extremely helpful to us, visiting Santa Teresa on her trips to Nicaragua. Donna Vukelich, WCCN's in-country representative who lives in Managua has also been a vital link in helping us communicate with the people of Santa Teresa.

¿HABLA USTED ESPAÑOL?

Translators are needed for Jader's activities here, since he doesn't speak English. If you speak Spanish (you don't have to be a hot shot interpreter) and would have some time during his visit to help translate, please call Jane Furchgott at 583-2431.

We also need some volunteer drivers we can call on to take Jader from one place to another when his host family is unavailable. Call Ron Stadler at 538-3109 if you could be on this chauffeur's list.

You say you've forgotten all your high school Spanish and your car's in the shop? There are still things you can do. Assist with the benefit dance, provide Jader with a meal or two, make phone calls ... Please give one of us a call if you'd like to help out.

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