



## COMMUNITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Cultivating a New Generation of Leadership in Post-War Communities

**M**y first experience in El Salvador was on a 10-day educational delegation that changed the direction of my life goals and transformed my concept of global reality. I graduated from Macalester College with a degree in Psychology and Spanish, then spent a year working at the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis. Meanwhile, I was searching for an opportunity to return to El Salvador to volunteer in a community mental health program. CoCoDA connected me to ADES (Association of Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta), where I worked as Coordinator of their mental health program from September of 1996 until May of this year.

I was given the task of elaborating a proposal for the *Community Mental Health Program for the Youth and Children of Santa Marta*, to expand the existing program to reach a larger population. We then had to obtain funding and follow up to make the proposal a reality. We began with a small start-up grant from CoCoDA, and later were able to develop the program with additional funding from a European organization.

### Need for New Leadership

The program was not designed with a curative focus in mind. We did not come together to heal sick people, but rather to re-construct, educate and prevent future problems. As opposed to a therapeutic treatment model, we worked to address the many needs that currently confront the rural repatriated communities and to help them prepare themselves for the challenges of the future.



Youth participants in the mental health program perform a folkloric dance for a community presentation.

In these communities, there is a need for a new generation of leadership to take on more responsibility. There is a need for greater participation, of both men and women, in the efforts to re-build the community and work towards the resolution of its problems. There is also a need for healthy, positive environments for recreation and for participative learning that uses creative, interactive techniques. There is a need for the children and youth in communities like Santa Marta to take pride in their history and culture, utilizing art as a tool for learning, expressing, understanding and communicating, as a healthy medium for self-discovery.

*Kelly Lubeck, CoCoDA's Program Director, spent two years in El Salvador working with CoCoDA's associate organization ADES (Association for Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta) as Coordinator of the Community Mental Health Program for Youth and Children in Santa Marta.*

### In This Issue

- ❖ **Feature Article**  
"Community and Mental Health" p. 1
- ❖ **Program Update**
  - Women's Development p. 2
  - Economic Development p. 2
  - Popular Education p. 3
  - Democratic Communications p. 3
  - Community Health p. 3
- ❖ **The CoCo Forum**
  - Popular Teachers Advance p. 4
  - The Long Arm of the Law p. 5
  - Democracy in Communications p. 6

### History of Social Struggle

Erundina, a 36 year old mother of 4 children, learned leadership and community organization as an adolescent, organizing groups to educate and raise consciousness about the conditions of poverty in which they lived and the reasons for the injustices in her country. During the war, she worked in the health unit of the guerrilla forces, attending to the wounded and ill. She has been educated as a nurse and has worked as a health care worker since the war. She is one of the founding members of ADES and was elected last year to the community council of Santa Marta.

Erundina and her neighbors in the community have suffered tremendous losses. She lost her father when he refused to leave as the entire community was driven out in March of 1981 by government troops. While the people fled for safety towards the Lempa River to cross to Honduras, he sat in his home reading the Bible. His body was later found, with evidence of having been tortured.

Erundina often recalls moments during the war and still suffers from nightmares of burning villages, armed soldiers, dismembered bodies--

*(continued on page 7)*

**bringing together the perspectives and ideas of diverse participants, projecting our shared challenges and goals, and reporting on the achievements of our Companionship in Development**

# Program Update

## Companionship in Development

CoCoDA's Companionship in Development Program supports community development in El Salvador while promoting social responsibility in the United States for more just relations with Latin America.

CoCoDA supports projects and coordinates educational activities in partnership with six Salvadoran associate organizations (see side bar, p.3) and with "CoCo Groups," independent local groups and organizations in the United States.

CoCoDA is a non-profit organization. For more information about supporting our work or to participate in program activities, please contact the CoCoDA national office in Indianapolis.

## WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT



Photo by Kelly Luback

Forty percent of households in El Salvador are headed by women, most of whom live in poverty. The Campaign for Women's Development helps women in rural El Salvador find opportunities for employment close to home.

### ❖ Update:

*Voices Engendered: Developing Women in El Salvador* is the theme for a U.S. speaking tour November 2-21, 1998 featuring Mercedes Menjivar and Wendy Villalta Sarmiento of the CRC's Women's Secretariat in Suchitoto, Cuscatlán. Co-sponsors of the tour include the Blue Grass CoCo Project (KY), the Greencastle/DePauw CoCo (IN) and the Toledo Area Committee on Central America (OH).

### ❖ Grants for Women's Development Projects in El Salvador:

**April '98 / ADES: \$1,500** To fund a three-month course in business management for women from the communities of Cantón Santa Marta, Cabañas.

**June '98 / CRC: \$3,800** To support the construction and start-up costs of a café and restaurant in Suchitoto, Cuscatlán, to generate income to support the work of the Women's Secretariat.

Key supporters of the Campaign for Women's Development in El Salvador include the Blue Grass CoCo Project (KY) and the Central America Task Force of the River Road Unitarian Church (MD).

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### ❖ Update:

Craig Auchter, Chair of the CoCoDA Board, accompanied a four-member team of business management consultants from the Kellogg Corps of Northwestern University (IL) to El Salvador June 30 - July 24 in the final phase of a three-year series of feasibility studies to assess risks and opportunities for investment in economically viable, socially beneficial business projects in El Salvador. In March, a delegation from Reba Place Church and Plow Creek Fellowship (IL) made their annual visit to Valle Nuevo, Cabañas, with a focus this year on agricultural production and the possibilities of hydroponic gardening.

### ❖ Grants for Community Economic Development :

**February '98 / ADES: \$2,000** To provide assistance in the form of corn and beans to families in Valle Nuevo - Santa Marta, Cabañas, who suffered losses due to extreme weather conditions.

**February '98 / DIMECONU: \$1,000** To help cover logistical expenses for representatives of rural farming cooperatives associated with the Salvadoran Confederation of Cooperatives (CONSALCOOP) to participate in events of the National Council on Sustainable Development.

**August '98 / ADES: \$6,630** To establish an experimentation and training center for hydroponic gardening in Valle Nuevo - Santa Marta, Cabañas.

Key supporters of community economic development projects include Reba Place Church and Plow Creek Fellowship (IL), the Portage Area Coalition for Sanctuary (OH), and Kellogg Corps of Northwestern University (IL).

## Principles of Development

CoCoDA and our Salvadoran associates work to advance these guiding principles of human development:

- local, democratic participation*
- community organizing*
- self-development*
- cultural expression and identity*
- economic, social and ecological sustainability*

**ADES**—the Association for Social and Economic Development, Santa Marta—exists to promote sustainable human development in rural communities of northern Cabañas.

**ARPAS**—the Association of Participative Radios and Programs of El Salvador—works to open the Salvadoran airwaves to democratic participation.

**CRC**—the Committee for the Reconstruction and Socio-economic Development of Suchitoto, Cuscatlán—promotes socioeconomic development in 29 affiliated communities in northern Cuscatlán.

**DIMECONU**—Councils for Community Improvement in Northern Usulután—advocates community organizing for development and promotes cooperative production and marketing.

**IBE**—the Emmanuel Baptist Church—is a Salvadoran church that accompanies rural communities in agricultural work and social outreach.

**REDES**—the Salvadoran Foundation for Reconstruction and Development is a national NGO working to unify and support urban and rural sectors of limited resources for integrated self-development.

## POPULAR EDUCATION

### ❖ Update:

The Santa Marta - Takoma Park Companion Cities Project (MD) hosted a reception for Santos González and Connie Wilkinson (see p. 5) who reported on the advancement of ADES' education programs in northern Cabañas, and the national efforts of popular teachers in El Salvador (see p. 4).

### ❖ Grants for Popular Education Projects in El Salvador:

**June '98 / CRC: \$3,000** To establish a Scholarship Fund for Popular Education to provide financial assistance to popular teachers in rural communities of Suchitoto to obtain high school diplomas and university degrees in teaching and education.

Key supporters of the Scholarship Fund for Popular Education include the Greencastle/DePauw CoCo (IN) and the Toledo Area Committee on Central America (TACCA).

## DEMOCRATIC COMMUNICATIONS

### ❖ Update:

CoCoDA generated an open letter to ARPAS in support of the Forum on Communications and Citizenship held in San Salvador, September 9-11 (see p. 6). The sixty-nine signatories on the letter included radio stations, publications, NGO's, solidarity and civic groups, and individuals.

### ❖ Grants for Communications Projects in El Salvador:

**August '98 / ADES: \$4,000** To help cover operation costs and technical training for the Radio Victoria community radio station in Villa Victoria, Cabañas, whose recently expanded broadcast range has increased the opportunities and demands of their daily operations.

Key supporters of the Democratic Communications Campaign include the Rolf A. Merton Trust (NY) and the Committee for Democratic Communications (MD, IL).

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

### ❖ Update:

July 20 -28, Patchwork Central (Evansville, IN) took a delegation to El Salvador for the fifth consecutive year to support the efforts of the Emmanuel Baptist Church and rural communities in northern Usulután to secure financing for a permanent potable water system. The group also visited with community health promoters, representatives of the National Association of Promoters of Integral Health (ANPSI) and SIMETRESS, a national doctors' union.



Participants on the Patchwork Central delegation help out in a community clinic.

### ❖ Grants for Community Health Projects in El Salvador:

**April - September '98 / IBE: \$3,000** To support the work of Emmanuel Baptist Church and Dr. Rebecca Kragh with clinics and health promoters in remote rural communities of northern Usulután.

The key supporter of this community health project is Patchwork Central (IN).

# The CoCo Forum

## POPULAR TEACHERS KEEP ON MOVING FORWARD

Perspectives From El Salvador on the Slow but Steady Process of Popular Education

What if the youth and children of your community had no opportunity for an education? Imagine being the parent of a child who has no school to attend, in a remote area where few teachers want to go to teach.

Popular education grew out of this very need for teachers and schools, within the confines of the Salvadoran refugee camps during the 1980's. A few young people, with only elementary school level education, began to teach children and adults to read and write, using whatever materials they had available.

These were the beginnings of what is now a 17-year-old movement to educate, using participative methodology, employing local community leaders, and developing curricula attuned to the reality and culture of the rural Salvadoran communities.

Today, hundreds of popular teachers continue to provide quality educational opportunities for children in their communities, while pursuing high school and university degrees on the weekends. But, despite their hard work and proven effectiveness, most popular teachers in El Salvador receive only a modest stipend, if any, and still are not certified or supported by the Salvadoran government.

In recognition of the invaluable contribution popular teachers are making in their communities, CoCoDA has set up a **Scholarship Fund for Popular Education** to support Salvadoran popular teachers who need financial assistance to continue teaching and studying so that they can become certified by the government as professionally qualified teachers.

*"I will continue this hard but necessary struggle until the Ministry of Education recognizes us and accredits us as teachers. Our goal is to move these kids forward and I will be proud to have helped to achieve our mission: Destroying the ignorance that has imprisoned us for so many years."*

**Ramón Alfaro Velis**, 26, 8th grade teacher, Santa Marta, Cabañas; at the age of 14 began teaching in refugee camps

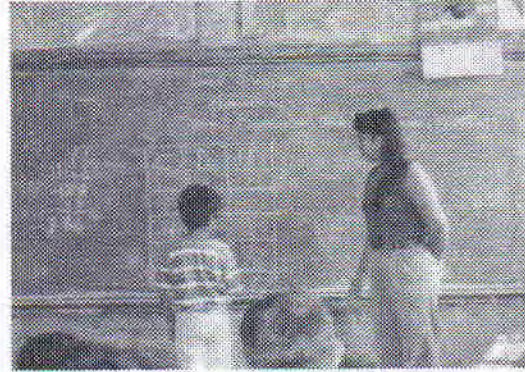


Photo by Kelly Lubeck

*"I want to develop myself intellectually and improve my skills as a teacher. By studying, I want to improve the quality of my own education and to be able to offer a better education to my students. I want to learn from them and for them to learn from me, to build mutual trust with my students."*

**Dora Alicia Melgar Acosta**, 19, 3rd grade teacher, La Mora, Cuscatlán

*"I want to be somebody in my life, somebody who helps pull our country out of poverty... Popular teachers identify with the people in the community because this is where we live. We know what is really happening and we understand the situation of the families whose children attend the school."*

**Rigoberto Alas Alas**, 20, 4th grade teacher, Las Delicias School, Cuscatlán

*"The unrelenting poverty forces people to think about feeding themselves instead of educating themselves. And with international support leaving the country, it is only getting more difficult...But we have to continue the struggle. Popular education affects the lives of the people and involves the people in the education of their children...it helps them become more aware of what they have to contribute."*

**Orlando Girón**  
Coordinator, Area of Education, CRC



Photo by Kelly Lubeck

Last year in Cabañas, ADES celebrated the graduation of 25 individuals from its high school program; 20 of them are now completing their university studies in education. In rural Suchitoto, Cuscatlán, 7 individuals supported by the CRC graduated with high school degrees and are now studying in the university.

*"Incorporating popular teachers into the formal education system may not be easy, but all our present efforts, pursuing university degrees and negotiating with the Ministry of Education, will pay off; this process will not be stopped."*

*Popular education is an undetainable march towards its objectives."*

**Antonio Pacheco**  
Executive Director,  
ADES

# THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW

## A New Law Places NGOs Under Scrutiny in El Salvador

In December 1996, a new law went into effect in El Salvador that governs the creation, functioning and termination of non-profit associations and foundations, the so-called "NGO Law." (NGO signifies non-governmental organization, the largest group of organizations subject to the law.) The law applies to both national (Salvadoran) organizations, such as CoCoDA's associate ADES (the Association for Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta), and foreign NGOs, such as CoCoDA, although there are some variations in the rules that apply to foreign NGOs.

When I arrived in El Salvador on December 16, 1996 to work with ADES, I was tasked with learning the law, figuring out how to secure ADES' legal status, and organizing ADES' internal structure to comply with the new legal requirements. Little did I realize that that project would continue throughout, if not beyond, my projected two-year stay.

In general terms, there are three major consequences of the provisions of the law. First, each organization must file a multitude of documents before it can be approved as a non-profit organization. Thereafter, it must comply with certain ongoing recordkeeping and record submission requirements. Moreover, any organization with more than about \$1,150 working capital must have a detailed accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and tax norms, authorized by the Register of Associations and Foundations of the Ministry of Interior, the government entity tasked with implementation of the NGO law.

Although these requirements sound straightforward, each raises issues. For example, the filing of lists identifying directors and members generates concern in a country where participants in certain types of activities were targeted for retaliation less than a decade ago. On a practical level, the need for a sophisticated accounting system and audited financial statements will increase significantly the administrative difficulty

and costs of the NGOs, as ADES has already discovered.

Certain provisions of the law have been criticized, generally because their lack of specificity creates the potential for abuse of discretion. Although the law refers to the action of the Register as "a recognition of legal status," what is actually required is an act of concession in the form of an agreement or a decree issued by the Register - in other words, a political act which may be granted or refused. Nor does the law specify under what criteria legal status may properly be denied; the standards for grant or denial of legal status are not explicit. In theory, this means that the Ministry of Interior arguably has the right to grant legal status to organizations of which it approves and deny legal status to organizations whose mission it does not support.

The placement of the Register in the Ministry of Interior is problematic as well, given that that agency has been highly politicized traditionally, and it is contrary to the modern trend to place authority for such activities in an independent technical entity. Although the law contains timeframes in which the approval process must take place, they are ambiguous as well. In practice, this has allowed the Ministry to manipulate the timeframes for its own convenience.

For example, although ADES initially had applied for legal status in May 1993 under an earlier law, the Ministry insisted that it was entitled to the additional time allowances, beginning not from the effective date of the law, or even from our first inquiry regarding the status of the application, but from the date we began putting pressure on the Ministry consistently. In fact, in the end, ADES was granted legal status, not in accordance with the time frames, but only because of political pressure brought to bear upon the Ministry as a result of our persistent lobbying.

Foreign non-profits that wish to operate in El Salvador must present an extensive list of documents, duly authenticated in accordance with a



*At a presentation in Takoma Park, MD in July, Connie Wilkinson holds up a shirt embroidered by women in Santa Marta. With her is Santos González, who works in popular education with ADES.*

complicated process. Once granted, the authorization to function may be suspended through an administrative proceeding before the Ministry of Interior, which may be initiated by that same Ministry, rather than through a more independent court proceeding.

The law also prohibits foreign NGOs from participating in political activities, without defining what is encompassed by that term. This is viewed with alarm given that much of the work of foreign NGOs implicates human rights, and could conceivably be classified as political, without having any connection to party politics.

Now that ADES has been granted its legal status, the struggle continues to prepare the books and records necessary for filing with the Ministry of Interior. Only recently has ADES received an approved audited financial report for 1997, and its detailed manual of application of financial accounts is still under review. Yet, slowly but surely, ADES is inching its way towards full compliance with the requirements of the NGO law. Perhaps on my two-year anniversary, we can celebrate the completion of that massive effort. ❖

*Connie Wilkinson, Sensuntepeque*

*Connie Wilkinson, of the Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., is nearing the end of two years working with ADES, CoCoDA's associate in Cabañas. She is part of CoCoDA's Coordination Team.*

# DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNICATIONS

## International Forum on Communications and Citizenship

San Salvador became the "Communications Capital of the World" from September 9th to 11th when the International Forum on Communications and Citizenship was held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Representatives from over 30 countries attended the Forum to debate themes related to the right to communication and information as indispensable ingredients in a democratic process.

El Salvador was chosen as the site of the Forum in recognition of the Salvadoran community radios' struggle to democratize the communications media. The Forum was sponsored by 13 international organizations and endorsed by Nobel Peace Laureates Rigoberta Menchu and Adolfo Perez Esquivel as well as Salvadoran universities, women's organizations, human rights institutes, social development groups and ARPAS (Salvadoran Association of Participative Radios and Programs).

During the three days of the Forum, over 150 communicators from radio, TV, computer networks and human rights and social justice organizations came together in plenary sessions and then in working groups to discuss specific topics.

During one of the plenary sessions, Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino spoke with

eloquence and passion about the oppression of truth by the media which condemns us to pre-meditated ignorance. "We are provided with certain 'news' while other information is concealed and we remain ignorant. Covering up the truth is dehumanizing and we must struggle to liberate the truth."

*A universal criteria for democracy is citizen participation where diverse social sectors, in addition to being informed, must have access to their own means of communication*

The International Forum for Communications and Citizenship closed with the presentation of "The Cuscatlán Letter," which affirms the right to communication as a necessary condition for the construction of democracy based on ethnic and racial diversity, equality of men and women, the promotion of justice

and respect for human dignity. The Letter declares that a universal criteria for democracy is citizen participation where diverse social sectors, in addition to being informed, must have access to their own means of communication in order to develop and strengthen their social movements. And finally the Letter calls for a World Congress of Communications Media that will articulate a social planetary movement to challenge the orthodoxy of market domination in communications media.

A clear example of that market domination was evident in the Salvadoran's media's complete blackout



Photo by Kelly Lubeck

*Wendy Wallas broadcasts at Radio Victoria, part of a network of community radios in El Salvador whose legal access to an FM frequency had to be purchased with international support.*

of the event. One speaker expressed, "this international forum has been disappeared by commercial media who are not interested in contributing to democratizing communication." But the participants in the Forum carry back to their countries the empowerment of exchanging experiences and ideas and of committing themselves collectively to combat exclusion, concentration and homogenization of communication, while promoting the right to communication, information and direct access to media as universal human rights. ✚

*Wendy Wallas, San Salvador*

**Wendy Wallas**, known by many as *Cristina Starr*, has worked with Radio Victoria in Villa Victoria, Cabañas, for five years. She is part of CoCoDA's Coordination Team.

### THE FORUM AND COCODA'S CAMPAIGN FOR DEMOCRATIC COMMUNICATIONS

CoCoDA sent an Open Letter to ARPAS expressing North American support for the Forum. The letter was signed by 69 individuals and organizations, representing radio stations, publications, NGO's, religious organizations and solidarity groups. Oscar Pérez, ARPAS' Executive Director, reported that the letter was distributed to all of the participants in the Forum and the 20 radio stations affiliated with ARPAS. The Forum has contributed substantial insight into the irrefutable connection between communications and human rights. As we continue to encourage radio stations and others in the United States to support community radios in El Salvador, we also want to prompt more dialogue about the issues that were raised at the Forum, to promote democracy in communications and communication for democracy.

#### Themes Discussed in Work Group Sessions at the Forum:

- Communication and Local Government
- Communication and Social Networks
- Communication and Indigenous Peoples
- Communication and Gender
- Communication and Spirituality
- Communication and Ethics
- Communication and Human Rights
- Communication, Education and a Culture of Peace

gruesome reminders of the 12 years of civil war. "There are images that I cannot erase from my mind," she explains.

Despite the bitter losses and suffering endured, Erundina continues to work for a better future, not only for her own children, but for her entire community. As one of the program's five mental health promoters, she facilitated a therapy group of 12 adolescents each week. The purpose of the group was to raise self-esteem, build leadership and create a space for youth, young women in particular, to participate and to use their voices to effect positive change in their community. They discussed alcoholism, dependency, violence in the community and in the home, teen pregnancy and other themes affecting the youth and their community. They used participative methods in speaking of the problems and searching for creative solutions.

### Dreams of Youth

The program also included monthly workshops for youth that focused on a specific theme relevant to their community. In a workshop on gender that was conducted for the 43 youth participating in the program, we dedicated an afternoon to the exploration of the meaning of gender, of what it means to be male and female in Salvadoran society, of what are the problems of gender and how to manage them. One of the activities involved each participant, with a partner, drawing the profile of their partner's upper body on a large sheet of paper. Then, individually, each person would write on their own profile, next to specific body parts, a description of how that part related to their identity as a female or male in the community.

For example, one might write next to the eyes, "As a young woman, the things I see are..." Or next to the hands, "As a young man, the work I do with my hands is..." Or next to the mouth, "As a young woman, the things I say are..." Or next to the heart, "As a young man, the things I love are..." Or next to the stomach, "As a young woman, the dreams I long to come true are..."

Fascinating responses arose from the creations of the adolescents present that day. They shared frustrations and dreams. They spoke of hard work and of love for family and each other. They spoke of hopes for their community and personal aspirations -- to be a secretary, an actress, a psychologist, a politician, a business owner.

### Challenges of Youth

Their dreams are beautiful, but their reality is harsh. These youth have adult responsibilities. They work the fields, they tend to the livestock. They wash the laundry by hand, they cook. They care for ailing parents and small children. They share the work of survival in the Salvadoran countryside, in which each family member contributes to the family economic and social system.



Photo by Kelly Lubeck

*The five mental health promoters (Nora, Aida, Erundina, Paty and Lito) stand on the shore of the Lempa River, 17 years after the massacre in their community, which left wounds that are still felt today.*

Almost all of the more than 700 youth and children involved in the program attend the popular schools for half of each day, and the older ones spend the rest of the day participating in family labor. This work often conflicted with the activities of the mental health program, making the participation of some of the youth difficult. Some parents, who depend upon their children's help in the fields and in the home, often resisted allowing their children to participate in activities for which they saw no immediate economic return. This situation threatened the continuation of the program.

We met a number of times with both the youth and the parents to discuss the importance of the program for their children and for the future of the community as a whole. In one such meeting, Erundina stood up and spoke of how she had worked for the community for years with no pay, because she believed in her home and her people, and that things would eventually get better with her contributions. After various meetings, the parents were convinced of the value of our activities and all of the youth participants remained in the program.

### Integrated Human Development

This work, it may be argued, has no place in a context where people are hungry and in need of health care, food,

clothing and better shelter. But the mental health program demonstrated how much perspective and outlook have to do with self-development. As people begin to believe themselves capable of effecting change, as they gain self-esteem and self-confidence, their participation increases and their actions have greater impact on their reality. ADES works from both social and economic angles to address the complex issues of self-development in a sustainable manner

within a matrix of integral development, which also addresses the most urgent needs of the community.

Our program's coordination team, composed of myself and 5 promoters, saw little girls whom we initially had to urge to speak only their names before the group, become confident, poised presenters before their peers. We saw giggling boys and girls who had been too timid to participate in the artistic workshops later stand in front of hundreds of people to give a theatre presentation on the history of their community.

José, a talented actor who blossomed on stage within just a few weeks of beginning the theatre workshops, approached me at my farewell party. The young man I had urged to become involved, despite his initial resistance, thanked me, saying, "I'm a good actor now. I never would have known I could act if I hadn't been involved in the workshops."

### Healing

My final activity with the participants in the program was the painting of murals that depict the history of the community, beginning with the repression before the civil war, then moving on to the flight to Honduras, the time in the refugee camps, the mass repatriations with the war still raging and the completion of the cycle with today's activities of education and organizing for community development.

As we completed the colorful visual testimony, it became clear that the program was in many ways about healing. Healing through sharing testimonies in a collective fashion, giving voice to a painful history; healing through measuring how far we've come and what has been learned; and healing by older leaders who are working with future leaders to construct a more just future for their community.

The people of Santa Marta and many other Salvadoran communities continue each day to struggle for survival, and the efforts to heal are a part of this same struggle. While the challenges of the future are great, the potential of new leadership to face that future is greater. ❖

Kelly Lubeck

*We envision  
a global  
community  
founded on just  
relationships  
among people  
and nations,  
rooted in the  
democratic  
sharing of  
resources for  
sustainable  
social and  
economic  
development.*

**CoCoDA**

**Vision Statement**

**CoCoDA**  
609 E. 29th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-4199

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 3333

**The Companion**

**Newsletter of Companion Community Development Alternatives**

❖ This issue of *The Companion* was produced by the CoCoDA Staff, Kelly Lubeck, Editor.

CoCoDA • 609 E. 29th St. • Indianapolis, IN 46205 • 317/920-8643 • e-mail: cocodaindy@igc.apc.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WILLIAM H. ABRASHIN  
Northampton, Massachusetts

CRAIG W. AUCHTER, Ph.D.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

DOROTHY T. CHAO  
Berea, Kentucky

DON CHERY  
Bethesda, Maryland

FRANK KENDRICK, Ph.D.  
Kent, Ohio

GENA KRUEGER  
Toledo, Ohio

MARY SAMUEL RUTHERFORD  
AND ALAN WINSLOW  
Evansville, IN

CINDY HOLLENBERG SNIDER  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

MARIA TERESA TULA  
St. Paul, Minnesota

DON VINI  
Leawood, Kansas

**STAFF**

TIM CROUSE  
KELLY LUBECK

Come to the  
**1999 CoCo Encuentro**

April, 1999  
(exact weekend TBA)  
Plow Creek Farm  
Tiskilwa, Illinois

The CoCo Encuentro is an annual weekend gathering of people from different parts of the United States who are active in CoCoDA's Companionship in Development Program. Each year a different community hosts the event. It is an opportunity to meet others who are committed to working for more just relations with Latin America, and to participate in workshops on strategies for supporting community development in El Salvador and promoting awareness and education in the United States. Contact the CoCoDA national office for registration information.

