



CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS WOMEN'S PROJECTS

Economic Opportunities and Community Organizing Are Focus of Support

Salvadoran women, particularly in the countryside, are known for being hard workers. They awake at dawn, walk to the community spigots or the river to carry water and go to gather firewood before beginning the work in their home of preparing meals, tortillas, getting the children up and ready for school and beginning their long day. Many also work to supplement the family income, whether it be in a factory in the free trade zone, working as a local community educator or promoter, running a store or restaurant (*comedor*) out of their home, selling produce or other goods in the marketplace, or making shoes or clothing.

Most of the money earned by women goes to directly support the home and their families. For this reason, creating economic opportunities for women is one real solution to the complex social and economic problems facing El Salvador.

Campaign for Women's Development

CoCoDA's Campaign for Women's Development supports projects that create economic opportunities for women in El Salvador. Presently, the Campaign is supporting two projects with our associates ADES (Association for Social and Economic Development, Santa Marta) and the CRC (Committee for the Reconstruction and Socio-economic Development of Suchitoto, Cuscatlán).

The Women's Secretariat of the CRC has a program to provide small loans to women and organize women's committees in the communities of Suchitoto, Cuscatlán. They also offer workshops on business management and administration of the loans, on human and women's rights and on gender and family planning. The Women's Secretariat and their loan fund were established with the support of a grant from CoCoDA in April of 1997 (see CoCo Forum, p.6).



Alicia Flores (on the right) of ADES speaks of the importance of women organizing to increase their potential as protagonists in local development.

ADES' Women's Program has five components: 1) micro-lending; 2) community organizing, including the Network of Women Microentrepreneurs; 3) business consultation; 4) training in business management and administration; and 5) training in artisan skills (ceramics, basketweaving, embroidery and sewing).

Immediate priorities of the Campaign have been determined with the CRC and ADES. With the CRC, the priority is to support the construction and furnishing of a café in Suchitoto to be managed by the Women's Secretariat. With ADES, the priority is to strengthen the Network of Women Microentrepreneurs in Cabañas.

The Campaign has three components: 1) Grants to projects that support women's development in El Salvador; 2) Education in the United States, promoting awareness and activism around issues pertinent to women and development; and 3) Networking, making connections and coordinating with other NGOs, academic

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institutions and religious organizations in joint initiatives.

U.S. Speaking Tours

In November and February, CoCoDA organized two U.S. speaking tours on the theme, "Voices Engendered: Developing Women in El Salvador," to raise awareness about the challenges facing women in El Salvador and to encourage groups and individuals in the United States to support the important work of the CRC's Women's Secretariat and ADES' Women's Program through our Campaign. Three of the host groups on the tours have committed to co-sponsor the Campaign by fund raising and helping to reach out to new groups and organizations. These groups include: the Bluegrass CoCo Project (KY), the Central America Task Force of the River Road Unitarian Church (MD) and the Columbus Peace Fellowship (IN).

The November tour featured Mercedes Menjivar and Wendy Villalta of the Women's Secretariat. They spoke of women's situation in the countryside. "Women are the first ones to awake in the morning, often at 4 a.m., and the last ones to rest at night," explained Mercedes. She went on to say that the Women's Secretariat

(continued on page 7)

Program Update

Companionship in Development

CoCoDA's Mission:

Support democratic, community-based, social and economic development in El Salvador and promote awareness, activism and social responsibility in the United States for more just relations with Latin America.

CoCoDA is a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. Most funding comes from members, who are individuals that contribute \$25 or more per year (\$15 student and low-income) and from CoCo Groups, which are independent groups and organizations in U.S. communities that co-sponsor CoCoDA program initiatives. New members and CoCo Groups are always welcome. For more information, please contact the CoCoDA national office in Indianapolis.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR POPULAR EDUCATION

❖ *Seeking Sponsors for Scholarships for Popular Teachers*

Fund raising to support scholarships for popular teachers in the rural communities of Santa Marta, Cabañas and Suchitoto, Cuscatlán is presently a top priority for CoCoDA. On weekdays in these two regions, approximately 65 popular teachers are teaching classes in 12 schools to over 2,000 students, then studying on weekends for their own high school diplomas and university degrees.

Until the popular teachers attain university degrees as teachers, the Salvadoran Ministry of Education will not consider funding the valuable education work they are doing. CoCoDA's associate NGOs ADES and the CRC are working to guarantee the resources needed for the popular teachers to continue their work and studies full-time until they become certified and the government assumes responsibility for funding their programs in the community schools.

We are looking for individuals and groups to sponsor one or more one-year scholarships for popular teachers at \$1,500 each. Scholarship sponsors will have opportunities to learn more about the innovative popular education programs in El Salvador and will receive a personal profile of one of the teachers benefitting from the Scholarship Fund.

Co-sponsors of the Scholarship Fund for Popular Education include: Greencastle/DePauw CoCo (IN), Toledo Area Committee on Central America (OH), Takoma Park - Santa Marta Companion Cities Project (MD) and Inter-America Committee of the Dumbarton United Methodist Church (DC).



Photo courtesy of ADES

"Educación Popular means education of, by and for the 'pueblo' -- organized by people in their own community..."
John L. Hammond, from his recently published book, *Fighting to Learn*.

CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

❖ *An Opportunity to Support Women's Advancement in El Salvador:*

The objective of the Campaign for Women's Development is to support community development projects in El Salvador that are led by and create opportunities for women, while networking with women in the United States and El Salvador to address issues and realities of particular importance to women and their families.

We are looking for more groups and organizations to be co-sponsors of the Campaign by making a commitment to raise \$1,000 or more in support of projects for women's development in El Salvador. Presently, the Campaign is supporting ADES' Women's Program in northern Cabañas and the Women's Secretariat of the CRC in Suchitoto, Cuscatlán.

Co-sponsors of the Campaign for Women's Development include: Central America Task Force of the River Road Unitarian Church (MD), Blue Grass CoCo Project (KY) and Columbus Peace Fellowship (IN).

Principles of Development

CoCoDA supports development projects with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in El Salvador that share 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—is devoted to supporting local development in Cabañas by helping socially and economically disadvantaged people assume an active role in determining their future.

ARPAS—the Association of Participatory 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 participatory planned development to improve the quality of life in 30 affiliated rural communities.

DIMECONU—Councils for Community Improvement in Northern Usulután—aims to improve the living conditions of rural families organized in business cooperatives.

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—works nationally to contribute to improving the quality of life for the population that is socially and economically marginalized.

CoCo ENCuentro 1999

At Plow Creek Farm in Tiskilwa, Illinois, April 16-18, twenty-eight people came from eight states to participate in the 1999 CoCo Encuentro. The weekend featured an evening of storytelling and an all-day session that included a critical assessment of our grassroots support for projects in El Salvador, a workshop on fund raising, and a discussion about CoCoDA's strategic plan 2000-2005. At left, a group discusses the value of strategic planning during a work session.

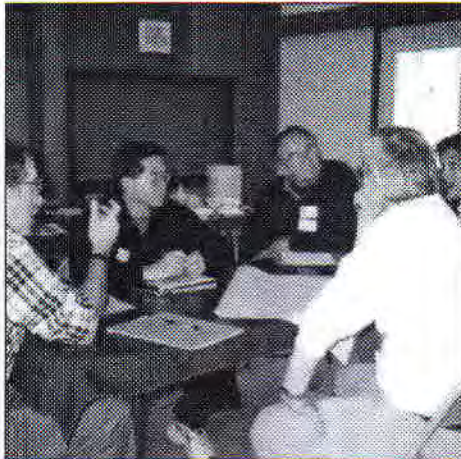


Photo by Kelly Liback

PROJECT UPDATES:

❖ **Community Health in Northern Usulután:**

IBE reports that their rural health outreach in Usulután in 1998 included clinic services in San Benito, La Barca and Río Los Bueyes; dental health training to 14 community promoters; training in infant survival, vaccinations, and clinic administration coordinated with CARITAS; training in making PVC water pumps for irrigation, coordinated with Life Water International; workshops on infant health and training for midwives coordinated with Women for Dignity and Life (Dignas); and a workshop on community organizing to support health programs coordinated with the health center in Mercedes Umaña. CoCoDA provided \$4,500 in grant support to this project in 1998, financed by the CoCo Group in Evansville, Indiana.

❖ **Emergency Relief for Flood Victims:**

The REDES Foundation and IBE coordinated emergency relief efforts for victims of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Mitch in the communities of northern Usulután in the lower Lempa River basin. CoCoDA provided \$3,000 in grants to both REDES and IBE which funded the work of two coordinators in the region, transportation and distribution of supplies, as well as preparation of a diagnostic of damage in the communities. REDES and IBE provided materials for provisional homes for families from Las Burras and La Barca, food and basic supplies (clothing, etc.), emergency medical attention and cleaning of wells. In Las Burras, 49 families lost their homes. Both organizations are now part of Phase II relief efforts, helping farmers recover from crop losses.

❖ **Valle Nuevo Land Project:**

Since 1992, CoCoDA has supported a project to acquire 265 acres of land for residents of the community of Valle Nuevo, Cabañas. In March, freelance consultant Yvonne Dilling and Chuck Matthei of Equity Trust (based in Voluntown, CT) joined CoCoDA staffperson Tim Crouse in meetings with community representatives to define a process for deciding upon a model for long-term management and use of the land. One of the goals of the project is to ensure the land remains accessible for the benefit of the local community residents on the long-term.

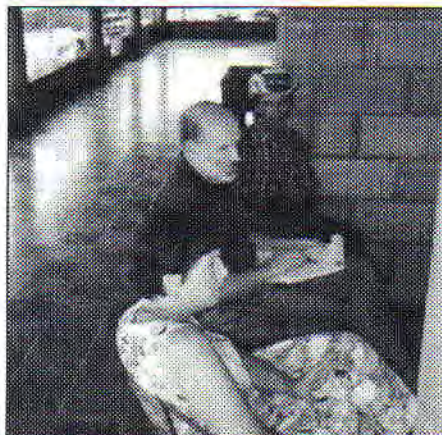


Photo by Tim Crouse

Chuck Matthei, Yvonne Dilling and community leaders discuss land issues.

The CoCo Forum

POLITICS AND RURAL HEALTH CARE IN CABAÑAS

Rehabilitation Specialist Brenda Hubbard Tells About Her Work in Santa Marta, Cabañas

From 1992 to 1998, CoCoDA supported the community health program in Cantón Santa Marta with our associate NGO ADES (see sidebar, p. 3). In 1998, community representatives in Santa Marta signed a contract for the Ministry of Health (MOH) to assume responsibility for health care services and operations of the Santa Marta Clinic. Following are one person's perspectives on how this arrangement is working, and on alternative approaches to rural health care. -Editor

When the Ministry of Health began working in the clinic in Santa Marta last June I was quite excited. The woman doctor and I had an agreement that the MOH would help us with some of our infrastructure and accessory needs for Rehabilitation and also would refer patients to us. We were supposed to turn over our monthly Rehabilitation control records to the MOH for them to add to their national records. I did hand over our first months' records to soon realize that the MOH was doing absolutely nothing for us.

Patients Get the Run-Around

The MOH doctor will refer patients to the hospital in the provincial capital of Sensuntepeque where they first see another doctor who refers them to rehabilitation there. This means at least a four-hour wait, then another wait and more costs for therapy. Most often these are people we could see right here in their own community. Some have come to us after going to Sensuntepeque, spending money, away from their home and work all day -- and at the end of it all not receiving much therapy.

Personally, I don't care where people get treatment, as long as they have it available to them. That is the purpose of us being in the community. Not many people can go to the local village of Villa Victoria or Sensuntepeque for treatment. Many women have been going to those clinics for head, back, arm and neck pains for years. They are given mild pain killers and sent home. Nothing is done to educate them as to the cause of their pain or how they can relieve or prevent pain themselves.

Rehabilitation in the Community

When people come to us, we take time to talk to them about their bodies, explain the roots of their aches and pains and how they might change some everyday habits in their work to help reduce their pain. At home I use my anatomy book to teach people about their bodies where they experience pain and need treatment. I am frustrated by the MOH's policy to put bandaids on the problem and never seek the cause, that people are kept in the dark about their bodies and the medicines they are given.

Since we reopened the Rehabilitation Center, René Beltrán (trained rehab promoter) has been seeing quite a few people. It is unfortunate that we cannot be open full time because we could see more people. My priority is to keep the Center open and get funding to train a woman in massage. I am seeing a great need to train a woman to work with

Every time I leave my house women tell me they are in pain and I know that basic massage would add painless days to their weeks.

women. Women are shy and not comfortable with a man doing massage. They also cannot travel to my home for treatment, not wanting to be far from their children and household chores. Every time I leave my house women tell me they are in pain and I know that basic massage would add painless days to their weeks. My goal is to find someone that I could eventually pass on what I have been learning in Myo-facial Release and Cranio-sacral Therapy.

That will be several years off, unless we get some good funding for training

Brenda Hubbard, CoCoDA's Field Representative for Community Health, is a specialist in physical rehabilitation and has worked in health-related projects in El Salvador since 1989. She now lives in the community of El Zapote, Cabañas.



Brenda (seated on the left) visits with a family in the community where she lives. She uses manual therapy to help women alleviate pain and stress.

someone in Rehab in the near future. There is actually a group here in El Salvador, "Capacitar" that does training in body work. It would be wonderful to be able to send a woman to receive training with them to do body work exclusively with women. Also, two women could come and give a two-day workshop on massage and healing techniques—a super project, teaching women body work and healing techniques.

At a Women's celebration in Santa Marta, below the mango tree on the side of the Clinic, women approached me about their aches and pains. This is pain I know could be greatly relieved with body work and massage therapy. Today I was fortunate to work with my 72 year-old neighbor who trades me cheese for treatment. It was worth it. She was in such pain when she arrived and she left feeling so much better.

Talking about Childbirth

Chase, who came for a visit for two weeks, is studying in the United States to be a midwife, but would be considered one here. She brought a video on home

births that include the fathers and family members. We gave six presentations, showing the video and a talk on the importance of "intentional births" and the participation of the father during pregnancy and at the birth. Wow, talk about breaking new ground! Most of the young had no or misguided information about childbirth.

At the beginning of the video one could hear the discomfort in the audience, but after about three births people began to relax and enjoy the miracle. We had open discussion afterwards and it was the women that spoke up. One young man at the school did say that pregnancy and childbirth are something the men are completely excluded from. "They have no involvement after impregnating the woman," he said. I was very pleased that he had the courage to speak up.

So far, the MOH doctor is open to the idea of empowering women about their own bodies, natural child birth inclusive of the family and intentional pregnancies. We consider this type of education part of health and rehabilitation in the communities.

Community Health Promoters

Regarding the contract signed with the MOH for operations of the Santa Marta Clinic, it appears that politics play a large role in the fulfillment of what was agreed to. There is a new MOH health promoter for our area, newly trained and now receiving a monthly paycheck of 2,200 colones (\$250). Unlike our health promoters, who have sacrificed their home lives, continued their training and education, have to plant corn and beans, raise their children, have house chores to attend to and still work five days a week at the clinic, this new MOH promoter has not worked in health since returning from the refugee camps over ten years ago. Five years ago this promoter became a member of the right-wing ARENA party, and worked for the ARENA mayor in Villa Victoria after the 1994 elections. He was very active promoting ARENA during the presidential campaign in March 1999.

It is a tragedy that none of the active community health promoters got that position. They are the ones who live close to the clinic, are working to continue their education and are supportive of the National Association of Health Promoters (ANPSI), a non-governmental

HEALTH BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

On a recent trip to El Salvador, I investigated health beliefs and practices in rural Cabañas. Brenda Hubbard, CoCoDA Field Representative for Community Health, was coordinator, translator, and collaborator in El Salvador and was an invaluable resource.

We interviewed families about how they stayed well (prevented illness). Most answered that they have never been well; health was rarely associated with clean air and water; and various home remedies were almost always used before "clinical" medicine. While many of these remedies relieved symptoms, it frequently delayed early treatment, resulting in serious complications, e.g., dehydration from diarrhea. Most of the women I talked with had

delivered their own babies in their own homes, tying and cutting the umbilical cord themselves.

Since this was a highly conflicted area during the recent war, every family I talked with had lost at least one member during that time. One mother lost four sons. She has no graves to visit, no closure for her sorrow, no end to her grief. She and thousands of others escaped to Honduras, most leaving with only the clothes on their backs. After years of living in refugee camps, they returned to the ashes of their homes to begin again. All had remembrances of the conflicts. Some could speak of it, others could not. These findings and many others affect the health of rural Salvadorans. ❖

Sammie Rutherford



Photo courtesy of Sammie Rutherford

Sammie looks at family photos with a woman from a rural community during an interview about her perspectives on health.

Mary Samuel Rutherford, "Sammie," is a CoCoDA Board Member and has made numerous trips to El Salvador. With others from Patchwork Central in Evansville, Indiana, she has supported community health projects in the region of Usulután.

organization advocating for the MOH to recognize the skills and respect the rights of community health promoters throughout the country. We have been waiting for a MOH paid position to open up in this zone for a long time now. But the Santa Marta health promoters receive only 25 colones (\$2.86) per workday which comes from the earnings of the clinic, approximately 625 colones (\$71.84) per month, and they work on average five hours per day and are on call every night and weekends. I have seen them working on weekends when the

MOH would only attend to a patient if they were hospitalized or in ER.

Integrated Alternative Healing

The philosophy of our community-based health work is that "everything is related, physical trauma, psychological trauma and our spirit -- we cannot treat only one area without treating the others." We want to confront the roots of the health problems in the communities, something we cannot do with pills and injections. ❖

Brenda Hubbard

LOAN FUND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

Member of Blue Grass CoCo Project Visits Women of Guazapa

This was my fifth visit to El Salvador. One of the reasons I went was to spend time with the women who are involved in the Women's Secretariat Revolving Loan Fund of the CRC, CoCoDA's associate organization in the Guazapa Valley of Cuscatlán. After a CoCoDA speaking tour with a representative from the CRC in 1996, a group of us in central Kentucky committed ourselves to raising money for the fund. With the help of many CoCoDA supporters and friends, we were able to send a grant to the Women's Secretariat.

Women's Secretariat Fund

When I was last in Suchitoto, May 1997, the fund had just begun to take form. When I went this past January, it was with a special sense of mission and delight and some trepidation because I went by myself for the first time. Mercedes and Wendy, the Coordinator and Promoter of the Women's Secretariat, are down-home people with a marvelous intelligence, sense of humor, patience with my questions and poor Spanish, and such warmth. Finally, I had the opportunity to see the fund in operation, to understand how the loans were made, to talk with the beneficiaries of the fund and to learn about their projects and how the loans have helped them.

It is in this second year that the fund has been in full operation. This past year, about forty loans have been made. By our standards they are pretty modest -- between \$23.00 and \$46.00. The fund charges interest below the going rate. The women pay a small fee, about \$3.50, to become a part of the Women's Secretariat. This helps to defray administration expenses. When they receive a loan they pay ten colones a month to a restricted account. This is to encourage saving and is returned to each woman when she repays the loan. This way she has a little extra for her next project.

Beneficiaries and the Local Economy

We visited with a number of the women beneficiaries. María Margarita, living in Hacienda #1, used her loan to buy ten canisters of bottled gas, Tropigas.

She had initially wanted to start a cow project. However, there is a very real problem with cattle rustling. She was afraid of losing her cows and not being able to pay back the loan. So she decided on the Tropigas. She rents these to people in her area for a small profit. They don't have to make the trip into Aguilares to get the propane, which saves them both time and money. Cooking with gas is easier and has the benefit of being better for the environment as an option to cutting down trees for firewood and polluting by burning the wood. María Margarita has a very detailed understanding of her costs and profit margin. She has just paid back her loan. When she can, she wants to apply for another loan so she can buy 20 more canisters. This way, the gas supplier in Aguilares will come to her house with refills and she won't have to spend her time and money on the trip to bring the canisters back on the bus.

Women Making Change

In San Antonio, a group of women met at the house of Tránsito del Carmen, the head of the women's committee there. Several of them, including the kindergarten teacher, used loans to purchase fertilizer and pesticides so that they could cultivate their own cornfields. Others raised sesame, beans, yuca and even sugar cane, which is hard work. One woman is an expert seamstress. She sews school uniforms for the children, among other things. With her loan, she bought zippers, buttons, thread and other sewing materials. Now she has an inventory on hand. This gives her more options when she is sewing at home because going to town for these things is costly in terms of both time and money.

I asked them what they did with their profits. They use the money to go to the clinic when the children are sick, to buy a little pig (*tunquito*) that will become big and maybe have more pigs. They buy clothes, school uniforms, soap, and medicine, spending their earnings in ways that benefit the family. It is significant that women are more inclined than men to use their earnings directly for the family. The money gets spent in their communities,



María Margarita stands by her canisters of Tropigas, which she rents to neighbors from her home. She started the project with a loan from the Women's Secretariat.

which helps their neighbors economically. So this revolving loan fund has a ripple effect in the area.

Other Benefits from the Fund

There are other, perhaps more subtle, benefits from the fund. It is administered by the women and for the women, most of whom have little or no schooling. The women are learning that they are valuable to their families and their communities. They can accept responsibilities and make a monetary contribution to their families. They are learning how to do accounts, how to think in terms of profits and losses, how to plan and realize that plan. Their sense of themselves is growing.

The loans are small. The effects are small. But the ramifications and possibilities are great. The fund is modest and so are the projects. With more money in the fund, they could make loans to many more women who could qualify. Also, the program could be expanded. As always in El Salvador, with more money more could be done.

Through CoCoDA there has been a lot of interaction between Salvadorans and North Americans. Sitting with Mercedes and friends in my own kitchen during the fall 1998 women's tour, I realized that we were talking about how the women of Guazapa could help the women in the Bluegrass, about how WE need this interchange. We had shifted from talking about their needs to talking about our needs and how they could help us. We have a lot to learn and they have a lot to teach us. We each contribute in our own way. ❖

Harriet Bromley

(Campaign, continued from page 1)

was born to create a space for women's participation in social and economic development in order to strengthen the family and thereby the community.

The February tour featured Alicia Flores, Coordinator of ADES' Women's Program. Alicia, who is also Subdirector of ADES, spoke on the situation of women, the economy and their integrated approach to supporting women's development. "Economics determine everything. If a woman does not have economic opportunities, she doesn't have a chance," explained Alicia. However, for the women to have power and a voice in the marketplace, they must organize with other women microentrepreneurs. "There are a number of microlending programs in El Salvador, but what makes ours unique is the organizing component," she said.

The Network of Women Microentrepreneurs, for example, makes it possible for its members to go together to buy goods to sell in the market. "When they organize, they are able to buy more, get a better price, work together to pay the costs of transport and assure quality of products," Alicia explained further.

The Network Grows

Sarah Kramer is an activist and member of the Columbus Peace Fellowship in Columbus, Indiana. She hosted a pitch-in dinner at her home on the November tour. By the end of the evening, Wendy and Mercedes had deeply touched and impressed the people from Columbus, who decided shortly thereafter to become a CoCo Group and support the Campaign for Women's Development.

Wendy and Mercedes were also guests at a dinner at the Ft. Wayne Country Club in Indiana. The dinner was organized by Dr. Mike Mirro, who in January of 1998 travelled to Suchitoto, Cuscatlán as part of the DePauw

University Winter Term Service Trip. Moved by his experience working with health promoters in rural Cuscatlán, Dr. Mirro organized the dinner, inviting colleagues from the business and civic community of Ft. Wayne. He is now working with CoCoDA staff to organize a delegation to El Salvador next January, which will focus on health and economic development.

During the February tour, Alicia and CoCoDA staff met with representatives of Kellogg Corps at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, to begin preparations for an upcoming study delegation. In June and July, this year's Kellogg Corps team, made up of three women from Japan, Holland and the United States, will work with ADES on strategies for strengthening the Network of Women Micro-entrepreneurs.

Near the end of her visit, Alicia sat at María Teresa Tula's table in her home in St. Paul, Minnesota. María, a member of CoCoDA's Board and a Salvadoran human rights activist, promotes the Campaign for Women's Development when she gives presentations at churches, universities and special events around the United States. She and Alicia, both activists who survived the civil war in their country, reminisced on different historic moments of the social struggle, recalling protests, important events, losses and gains, and reflected on the challenges still ahead.

In the words of María, "The truth is, we lack resources to continue building these dreams that, little by little, are becoming a reality. Those who have a social conscience will never tire of working in the



Members of the Women's Secretariat participate in a workshop in Suchitoto. The Secretariat promotes women's involvement in local development.

struggle for equality of economic and cultural rights."

Why Support the Campaign?

In both the CRC and ADES programs, the coordinators have witnessed increased levels of self-esteem in the women, increased knowledge about how to defend themselves and their rights, increased capacity to manage money and their businesses, and even increased confidence in the way they carry themselves as individuals. Now, with an increased level of organization, they are finding a stronger voice, not only as women, but as a sector of the economy.

The Campaign for Women's Development offers people in the United States an opportunity to support the efforts of Salvadoran women working for self-development. The Campaign is an investment, not only in the women, but also in their families and their communities. ❖

Kelly Lubeck and Tim Crouse

The last three decades have seen many changes in women's economic and labor market participation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Women are increasingly entering the labor market and are participating more visibly across all sectors. Yet, despite their increasing participation, they remain concentrated in lower income, lower hierarchy employment. Across cultures and continents women typically have less access to productive resources and assets such as land, credit, foreign exchange, financial, physical and human capital. Women usually work longer hours in both the productive and reproductive sectors, have less resources available to them, possess fewer opportunities, earn lower wages, face greater time constraints and consume less leisure. Given these characteristics, it may come as no surprise that households that depend on female income are more likely to be poor in Latin America.

Sarah Gammage, International Center for Research on Women, "Gender Dimension of Household Poverty: Is Headship Still a Useful Concept?", June 1998

*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

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The Companion

Newsletter of Companion Community Development Alternatives

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CoCoDA Calendar Upcoming Activities

<i>June</i>	<i>Kellogg Corps Team in El Salvador</i>
<i>July 18-31</i>	<i>Delegation to Cabañas and Usulután</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>CoCoDA Board Meeting in Indianapolis</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Staff workshops with CoCo Groups</i>
<i>January 2000</i>	<i>Health and Economic Development Delegation</i>

Please contact the CoCoDA national office for more information.

