

# The Companion

Winter-Spring 2002



Newsletter of Companion Community Development Alternatives

Vol. 7 No.1

10 years of supporting community development in El Salvador and promoting social responsibility in the United States

## MITIGATING DISASTERS

REDES, CoCoDA implement HUD project


The fourth heaviest rains to fall in thirty years were soaking El Salvador in early September, 1999, evoking memories of Hurricane Fifi in 1974, the Montebello mudslides near San Salvador in 1982, and, most immediately, the pummeling of Central America by Hurricane Mitch less than a year before. Mitch had killed 240 Salvadorans and forced 50,000 flood victims from their homes.

With that traumatic experience fresh in their minds, workers at the Salvadoran Foundation for Reconstruction and Development (REDES) went on emergency alert. They began contacting other organizations that worked with the population in the flood-prone region known as the Bajo Lempa, by the banks of the Lempa River where it makes its final journey to the Pacific Ocean.

They contacted government agencies such as the National Emergency Committee (COEN), the Sixth Brigade of the Armed Forces, the National Civilian Police, and local provincial and municipal governments; and non-governmental agencies such as the Catholic Church, CARE, Comandos de Salvamento (The Salvadoran Green Cross) and, especially, the United Communities of the Bajo Lempa, a grassroots group formed by residents of 21 communities in the municipality of Jiquilisco, one of the zones at highest risk of flooding.

By October, 1999, flooding of the Lempa River had left more than 4,500 families homeless and 1,100 more evacuated. Thirty-six schools had been closed, some of them being used as refugee centers. Crop losses were

### Teachers are first to benefit from Computer Center established with CoCoDA grant



**Computer Literacy** -- All 37 teachers in the rural schools of Santa Marta, El Salvador passed their university computer exams in 2001, thanks to training they received in the Santa Marta Computer Center. Established with a CoCoDA grant in 2000, made possible by the River Road Unitarian Church Latin America Task Network (RRUC-LATN) in Bethesda, Maryland, the Center has 10 networked computers.

William Alejo (above with students) is the instructor, whose salary is being funded by CoCoDA and RRUC-LATN for the first 18 months of operations. In 2002, 40 high school youth are expected to receive basic computer training. The Association for Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta (ADES), a CoCoDA associate, manages the project.

Photo by Don Cherry (2001)

estimated at close to \$4 million. People in flooded areas had contracted severe respiratory and eye infections, skin diseases, and gastrointestinal illnesses. Two people had died, swept away by floodwaters in the province of La Union.

REDES' efforts, despite limited resources, helped to avoid a far worse human disaster. Using money from a small emergency relief fund raised by REDES and CoCoDA in the U.S. in the aftermath of Mitch, REDES mobilized seven full-time relief workers in the flood zone, with three 4x4 vehicles, two motorcycles, and a few mobile radios and cell phones.

When the floods receded and outreach for reconstruction assistance began,

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# Project news *"Cooperation, not charity"*

## Popular Teachers get certified

### *salaried positions for popular teachers in Santa Marta, Cabañas*

Popular teachers in the rural community of Santa Marta, Cabañas will soon become salaried professionals, after ten years of volunteer teaching, traveling on weekends to attend the university, and seemingly unending negotiations with the Ministry of Education.

In January, 2002, the Salvadoran government agreed to hire the 18 teachers in Santa Marta who expect to graduate with education degrees this year. Negotiations continue regarding 19 other Santa Marta teachers who plan to graduate from the university in 2003.

The ECAP (Evaluation of Academic and Pedagogical Competency) exam, a new and notoriously demanding requirement of the Salvadoran government for certification of teachers, is still an obstacle for 10 of the 18 teachers who did not score high enough on their first attempt. They will take the exam again in June.

The financial burden to ADES (see sidebar, p. 3), CoCoDA's associate in Cabañas, for funding the 37 popular teachers has driven the organization into debt. Last year CoCoDA sent \$8,000 to ADES for scholarships, this year our goal is to raise \$15,000.

### ❖ *Three Suchitoto teachers certified*

Three popular teachers in the rural community schools of La Mora and Mazatapéque in Suchitoto were certified and hired by the Salvadoran government last year. CoCoDA sent \$5,775 to the CRC (see side bar p. 3), CoCoDA's associate in Suchitoto, for scholarships for 5 popular teachers in Suchitoto schools in 2001, and 9 others were funded by Salvadoran organizations (CIAZO and CEES).

The seven schools supported by the CRC education program had 347 students attend classes in 2001. Fifty children in the schools of La Mora and Las Delicias studied in a new special education program for children with learning difficulties. Popular teachers also led 10 workshops with students' parents in each of the 7 schools last school year.

The CRC has asked for CoCoDA's support for 8 popular teachers in 2002. Three of them are still studying at the university on weekends, three have completed their studies but are not yet accredited and employed by the government, and two are high school students assisting until the government places permanent teachers in the schools. Our goal is to raise \$8,000 to meet this need in 2002.

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Photo by Laura M. Chinn (2001)

*Promoter -- Otilia "Yesenia" Gonzalez helps her 8-year old son Wilfredo with homework in their home in Hacienda El Sitio, Suchitoto. A single mother, Otilia works as a promoter for the CRC's Education for Community Development program which helps rural communities organize and plan for the future.*

*Last year this included restructuring 8 community councils; forming youth committees in 6 communities; forming 2 school boards for accrediting schools with the government; and assisting 3 communities in promoting long term development plans. CoCoDA provided a grant for Otilia's stipend in 2001.*

### **What is Popular Education?**

Popular teachers teach children, youth and sometimes adults in schools of rural and marginal urban communities in El Salvador, although they themselves may not have the academic credentials to be certified by the government.

Most of these teachers have years of experience teaching, using creative, participatory methods, often achieving extraordinary results despite extremely limited resources. The popular education philosophy emphasizes social conscience, community service, and awareness of one's own culture and history, values easily lost in the globalizing of the world.

### **Scholarship Fund for Popular Education**

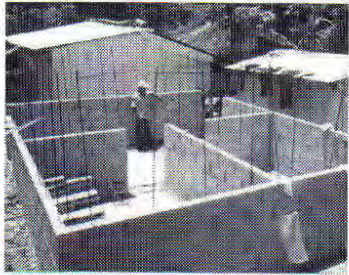
Thanks to many contributors to CoCoDA's Scholarship Fund for Popular Education in El Salvador, CoCoDA has funded scholarships for popular teachers in rural Salvadoran schools in Suchitoto, Cuscatlán and Santa Marta, Cabañas since 1992. Our goal is to support these teachers in the classroom and in their own academic advancement until they become certified and employed by the government. We still need your support!

\$2,500 = full one-year scholarship for a teacher in Sta. Marta.

\$1,500 = full one-year scholarship for a teacher in Suchitoto.



Photo by Alfonso Rivas (2001)



**Reconstruction** -- One of the homes with reinforced walls constructed in San Francisco, Cuscatlán, a community severely damaged by the February 13, 2001 earthquake. CoCoDA contributed \$8,361 to the CRC to help finish this reconstruction project, benefiting 69 families in San Francisco, 42 in Santa Cruz Arriba, 13 in Barrio El Centro in the municipality of San Cristóbal, and 10 families in Plan de Chala, San Ramón.

❖ **CoCoDA continues support for community health programs in Santa Marta, two delegations sweat it out**

The Rehabilitation Center in Santa Marta, Cabañas served 308 people in 2001, made possible in part by a CoCoDA grant for operations. Presently there is one male therapist from the communities working in the Center, but they would like to train and employ a woman if they can obtain funding. Doctors for Global Health also supported the Center last year.

**Fence** -- A CoCoDA youth delegation from the River Road Unitarian Church and Blair High School in Maryland funded and worked with local residents to build a fence around the Santa Marta Clinic and Rehab Center (below). This will help keep animals and vagrants out of the complex. The Salvadoran Ministry of Health has approved a project for building repair on the Clinic this year.

In January, 2002, a DePauw University (DPU) Winter Term in Service team funded and helped build a new room and roof on the Center. Brenda



Photo by Alfonso Rivas (2001)

Hubbard, coordinator of a number of health-related projects in Santa Marta, worked with the DPU health team, made up of students and health professionals, in health brigade visits to communities in the region. Pro-Vida, a Salvadoran NGO, worked with the team.

Hubbard has been leading an educational program for AIDS prevention and sex education in the region called CoCoSI. A group of local young people lead CoCoSI workshops, which reached 2,098 people in 2001. Hubbard has also worked with a group of 10 youth to educate the rural population about the environmental and health consequences of using toxic chemicals for farming.

Photo by Douglas Harris (2002)



**Health Team** -- Katherine Breeding, Courtney Driscoll and Krista Brucker, students on the January, 2002 DePauw University Winter Term in Service trip to El Salvador, attend to a baby with scabies. The DPU construction team helped build a new room and roof on the Santa Marta Rehabilitation Center. There were 18 students, 2 faculty and 3 health professionals on the trip, which was coordinated by CoCoDA.

COMPANIONSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT

# CoCoDA

Companion Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA) supports democratic, community-based, social and economic development in El Salvador and promotes awareness, activism and social responsibility in the United States for more just relations with Latin America. CoCoDA cooperates in development projects with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in El Salvador in the areas of:

- Popular Education •
- Women's Development •
- Community Economic Development •
- Democratic Communications •
- Community Health •



Salvadoran associate organizations:

- ADES: Association for Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta •
- CRC: Committee for the Reconstruction and Socio-economic Development of Communities of Suchitoto, Cuscatlán •
- IBE: Emmanuel Baptist Church •
- REDES: Salvadoran Foundation for Reconstruction and Development •



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Most of CoCoDA's funding comes from individual members who contribute \$25 or more per year (\$15 student and low-income) and from CoCo Groups, which are independent groups and organizations in the United States that cooperate with CoCoDA in program initiatives. New members and CoCo Groups are always welcome.



### ❖ Technical assistance for women's economic development in Suchitoto

Fifty women from rural communities of Suchitoto, Cuscatlán are attending workshops in credit management and agricultural production in the first months of 2002. The workshops are part of a CoCoDA technical assistance grant for women associated with the CRC's Women's Secretariat. The grant was made possible by the Partners in Justice Fund of the Sisters of St.

Joseph of Carondelet in Minnesota. There will also be training for 7 women in business administration, and 3 women will learn new recipes for the Las Orquideas cafetín, a small business of the Women's Secretariat.

### ❖ Radio Victoria upgrades, Equity Trust still matching contributions

Since 1992, CoCoDA has supported community radio stations in rural areas of El Salvador, particularly Radio Suchitlán in Suchitoto, Cuscatlán and Radio Victoria in Victoria, Cabañas.

Equity Trust, Inc. in Voluntown, Connecticut made a challenge grant to Radio Victoria in 2000, offering to match every contribution up to \$15,000 that the station can raise for upgrading their facilities. Thanks to 8 contributions, including major contributions from Neal Nix and the Rolf Merton Trust, Radio Victoria raised \$7,500 by last fall, which Equity Trust then doubled.

There is still a challenge out to match up to \$7,500 in contributions to the Radio. The purpose of the Equity Trust challenge, apart of helping to upgrade the Radio's broadcasting capacity, is to help them develop a stronger fund raising program for the long-term.

*Tiendita -- Margarita Silvadias of Hacienda El Sitio in Suchitoto (below) in her tiendita (small store) with a loan from the Women's Secretariat (WS) Credit Fund. "The bank will lend you money, but their interest rates are higher," she says referring to one advantage the WS program offers women. Most of her profits go to pay costs for her 3 kids to attend school.*



Photo by Laura M. Chen (2001)

### *(Disaster mitigation, continued from page 1)*

REDES was outspoken in their criticism of the government's poor response to yet another disaster. "It seems that those responsible for disaster emergencies have not learned from our repeated and terribly painful lessons," stated a REDES document to international agencies. "No matter what they say, we continue to improvise as always."

But REDES didn't just criticize. They put together a proposal, based on their experiences in the '98 and '99 disasters, for helping communities in the flood planes of the Bajo Lempa to better prepare themselves for the threat of future disasters.

### REDES-HUD-CoCoDA Project

Robyn Braverman, the first-ever Central America representative for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), worked as a journalist covering the Salvadoran civil war in the 1980s. She returned to El Salvador in 2000 with a team from HUD to

identify projects for post-Mitch reconstruction. They were especially looking for innovative ways to reduce the risks of disasters, projects that could serve as models in other high-risk regions of Central America and the Caribbean.

Javier Martínez, REDES' Executive Director, gave Braverman and her colleagues a copy of REDES' proposal for Strengthening Communities and Municipal Government for Disaster Mitigation in Jiquilisco, Usulután (Bajo Lempa). The HUD team liked the project, which was different from any other they had seen in El Salvador, and offered to fund it. At REDES' recommendation, HUD selected CoCoDA to be the U.S.-based sponsoring organization to administer and monitor performance under the HUD grant, which totaled \$129,900.

"This project marked a shift in the focus we had in regards to risks," explained Walter Navarrete, who was appointed REDES Coordinator for the project. "We had only worked in emergency response: rescue, evacuation, medical attention, and

managing temporary shelters. We hadn't worked in organizing, leadership development, training and education, all of which is the most important. This is why this project has been so important."

The earthquakes of January and February, 2001 hit El Salvador just as the disaster mitigation project was getting started. Once again, REDES was forced to direct their resources to responding to another national emergency. But even with these complications, the HUD project was underway by February and finished on time in mid-December, 2001. Thirty communities participated, with a population of 1,555 families (6,580 people).

Participation of local residents was the key innovation of the project. "The population of these 30 communities has known how to react to disasters," says Navarrete. "What they have lacked, though, have been tools to reduce damages from potential disasters." The tools (see inset, p. 5) were developed with the participation of local residents.

*(continued on next page)*



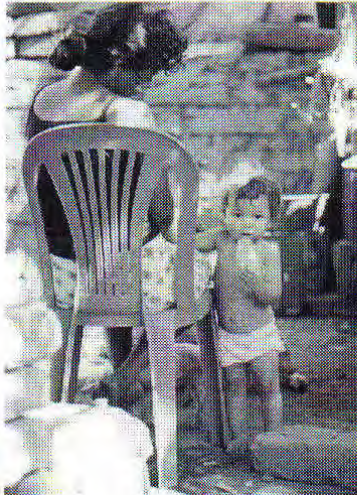
(Disaster mitigation, continued from page 4)

### Measuring the impact

As a domestic federal agency, HUD's venture beyond U.S. borders has been exploratory. The REDES Jiquilisco project is a model for strengthening local capacity for improved planning and training, one of three targets identified by HUD for its experimental program in the Central America/Caribbean region. Enhancing building construction and housing finance are the other two targets.

"Everyone has been very pleased with what has come out of the REDES-CoCoDA project," says Madlyn Wohlman-Rodriguez, program analyst in the HUD International Affairs Office in Washington, D.C. "We're not going to necessarily see the outcome until another disaster threat tests if the communities will be able to respond. But the people clearly have received knowledge and information and become more capable of dealing with their circumstances."

According to Navarrete, the fact that REDES "only facilitated the process of discussion" throughout the project is what makes the outcome, the tools, especially useful. Ironically, the biggest obstacle was coordinating with the numerous assistance organizations operating in the region. National government agencies in



Disaster victims -- A mother and child wait for food assistance in a community in the Bajo Lempa.



Participation -- Committees from Bajo Lempa communities participate in a workshop with REDES specialists and representatives from local government and other agencies active in the region.

particular were reluctant to participate, seeming to view the project as competition rather than an opportunity for creating solutions.

Eduardo Serrano, a resident of the community El Marillo II and member of the United Communities of the Bajo Lempa, anticipated this problem during one of the first planning meetings of community representatives, CoCoDA, and REDES, held on the porch of a small, tin-roofed house on steamy morning in October, 2000. "The communities are pedacitadas (broken into pieces)," said Serrano. "There are 10 political parties with a committee in each community! The only way this project will work is if we focus the struggle on our needs, not our colors."

There may have been some exaggeration in Serrano's comments, but his point was valid. From the beginning, REDES placed the focus on "Solidaridad Desde la Comunidad!" ("Solidarity coming from the community!"). This theme was projected in a series of nationally-broadcast promotional radio ads and led to a remarkably high level of cooperation, ranging from the National Geographic Institute to the University of El Salvador to the provincial government of Usulután.

The over-all emphasis of the Jiquilisco Disaster Mitigation Project is to promote what REDES calls "social accountability" of all agencies, regardless of their character, that operate in the region -- a reversal of the traditional "beneficiary-to-agency" accountability pattern. This approach recognizes the knowledge and abilities of the residents, not to mention

### Tools for Mitigating Disasters in the Bajo Lempa, Usulután (REDES - CoCoDA - HUD Project)

**Regional Diagnostic and Development Plan:** Assesses risks and resources in each of the 30 communities and regionally; proposes possibilities for improving living conditions over a 15-year period;

**Risk Maps:** Signs posted in each community, indicating high risk flood zones and evacuation areas;

**Prevention and Early Alert Plans:** Operated by a trained committee in each community; inter-committee coordination in four zones; regional coordination with the municipal government and outside agencies;

**Radio Communications Network:** Four frequencies licensed by the national communications authority (SIGET);

**Regional Information Center:** To monitor weather conditions, issue warnings, and serve as a base of communications and coordination for disaster mitigation and management.

their invested interest in it's outcome. As one local put it, in a jab at their poor living conditions, "¿Qué marrano conoce mejor su charco? ¡Quién vive allí, pues!" ("Which pig better knows its mudhole? The one that lives there, of course!")

The average family income of families in the Bajo Lempa communities is \$50 per month, which covers about 17% of what is estimated necessary to meet the basic needs of food, housing, clothing, health care, education, and transportation.

The Regional Development Plan, one of outcomes of the Jiquilisco Disaster Mitigation Project, can serve the communities of the Bajo Lempa and development agencies as a guide for addressing the impoverished conditions that underlie all threats to the safety and well-being of the people. But mitigating poverty is much more controversial than coping with heavy rains. ❖

Tim Crouse  
CoCoDA Staff



# The CoCo Forum

## THE VILLAGE AND THE WORLD

The World Bank, social justice and globalization

*The CoCo Forum presents insights and opinions of participants in the Companionship in Development Program. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of CoCoDA or its members.*

What is it like to be an American committed to poverty reduction, involved in grassroots social justice work, and also employed at the World Bank? In our current global environment, I think we must work at both the personal and the policy levels.

On the personal level, my CoCoDA-sponsored visits to Santa Marta, El Salvador taught me about how authentic human spirit deals with suffering and unites for common good to help communities thrive. At the same time, I learned much from my 21-year experience at the World Bank about the importance of sharing and adapting good practices among countries, of how macro-policies affect locally-driven development, always working as part of a diverse team of committed professionals. The challenge for all of us in the immediate future is to learn to build on our common ground – on the goals and passions we share – at both village and world levels.

What is the "current global environment"? Thomas Friedman, in his *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, attempts to make sense of the fundamentally new state of affairs in the last decade, which many call globalization. He urges a multi-dimensional view that considers the interaction of changing politics, culture, security, finance, technology, information and environment. Each of these dimensions has become irreversibly international; many people are affected by and in touch with events and persons around the world.

I shared with Salvadorans a stunning photo from Friedman's book – a man at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem holding up his cellphone so that his relative in Paris could pray at the Wall also. What if Santa Martans, with the help of the school's newly functioning computer center, could transcend boundaries in a similar way? For a village to share knowledge, generate modern employment opportunities, be linked to relatives, what would it take? Local infrastructure like

telecommunications, surely, but also modern concepts of innovation, competition and efficiency. Can we, while empowering the Salvadoran communities, explore these concepts with them?

I accept globalization, free trade and international labor mobility (Salvadorans working here in Washington send over \$1 billion back to their country). I take intensified internationalization as a given, a potentially positive trend. We need to learn how to live constructively in this new state of affairs.

I believe we urgently need to focus on economic justice and labor conditions within that context.

Do the managers of assembly plants in Central America manufacturing goods for export offer a respectable wage to

their Salvadoran employees? Do they assure workplace safety and health protection? Are they fair in hiring and firing and do they avoid hiring children? It is my impression that Salvadoran free-trade factory employees welcome their incomes, considering their alternative of poverty. But they do not welcome harsh labor conditions, and we need to support their advocacy for improvements.

The World Bank's role in supporting human development is vital. The Bank – which is after all like a giant cooperative – is the largest lender in the world for education, health and AIDS prevention. In El Salvador, the World Bank has helped finance the EDUCO program, in which the Ministry of Education turns over much of the decision-making about administering schools to the local communities. Though there is still a lot of distrust to overcome in communities regarding whether the government is forthcoming and fair in this program, I see an EDUCO designation for popular schools as the best way to move quickly to better incomes for the popular

teachers and more resources for the students.

Ideally, strong communities like Santa Marta can influence EDUCO to strengthen and adapt this program to their needs. World Bank itself can be even more participatory, more sensitive to local culture when it funds such programs, but in the last ten years, as a result partly of an NGO-encouraged participatory development learning group, I have seen awareness of the benefits of consultation and participation spread dramatically among World Bank professionals. More and more, the Bank's support for policy reforms and debt reduction now follow strategic discussions in the member countries with broad participation of many different elements of civil society.

***"I have seen awareness of the benefits of consultation and participation spread dramatically among World Bank professionals."***

Might we explore together with our Salvadoran colleagues ways to bring more understanding of these global changes to all of us? Let's find how to extract the potential of greater, more accessible knowledge, better incomes and the freedom to break out of our boundaries. If we all can communicate respectfully with people around the world, might North Americans in the future be more likely to comprehend legitimate demands for human rights and economic justice of poor peoples?

After the events of September 11, I see no alternative but to combine deeper understanding of the village with deeper appreciation of worldwide trends, and peaceful conflict resolution. ❖

**Charlotte Jones Carroll**

*Charlotte Jones Carroll worked in economic development 21 years with the World Bank and 10 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). She is a member of the River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, MD.*





## NO CAUSE JUSTIFIES METHODS LIKE THESE

Salvadoran civic leader comments on the September 11 attacks

*Editors note: This opinion piece was written in the days following September 11, 2001. Some sections were edited due to limited space.*

**T**he barbaric acts committed the 11th of September in the United States by individuals without any human sensitivity nor any political criteria whatsoever are deserving of an indisputable punishment.

In the face of this barbarism, we express our solidarity and join the people of the United States in their pain, especially the pain of the families of the victims of the terrorist acts and of the rescue workers who in fulfilling their duty offered their lives as well.

We as Salvadorans understand very well these types of abominable acts, since we have lived in our own flesh and blood such outrage and destruction. In our case, it was generated by a policy of extermination that was pursued by the Salvadoran state against the political opposition. We regret that Washington

has always directly and indirectly backed this policy.

We understand too well the pain incarnate in this tragedy brought about by such cruel acts. However, this pain should not be utilized to justify actions that increase the suffering of more human beings within and outside of the United States. The U.S. government representatives bear much responsibility for the decisions that they make in response to the September 11th events. The victims should not be utilized to generate new victims. The emphasis that U.S. government representatives and some European governments are placing on a military response is regrettable.

The events of September 11th should push us to undergo a profound reflection about the world in which we live and the serious problems which engulf it. We cannot let ourselves forget that all of the symptoms observed in the social, economic, political and environmental

***"The events of September 11th should push us to undergo a profound reflection about the world in which we live and the serious problems which engulf it... we have the clear conviction that each of those problems has a solution."***

spheres are highly explosive and should be treated with equanimity, outside of all unilateral, militaristic and vengeful logic. If the latter is imposed, it can drag this world into a catastrophe without limits.

We know the problems that concern humanity are serious. However, we have the clear conviction that each of those problems has a solution. For this reason we can be sure that hope is not lost. We have the enormous opportunity to build an international community where love, justice and peace prevail. ❖

**Antonio Pacheco**

*(Translated from Spanish by Kelly Lubeck)*

*Antonio Pacheco is co-founder and Executive Director of the Association for Economic and Social Development, Santa Marta (ADES), a CoCoDA associate NGO with the mission of contributing to and accompanying the development of individuals and communities in northern Cabañas, El Salvador. He joined the Salvadoran student movement for democracy when he was 17 years old, then spent the 12 years of civil war with the rebel forces of the FMLN as a mid-level commander.*

### CoCoDA's 10th Anniversary 1992 - 2002

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, we invite anyone who has been involved with a CoCoDA project or activity to submit a brief greeting or expression of solidarity for our friends and colleagues in El Salvador.

Messages will be included in a bi-lingual anniversary publication for distribution in El Salvador and the United States.

Submissions should be no longer than 30 words and must be received by August 1, 2002. With your message, please include your full name, current address, a description of how you have been a part of CoCoDA's first decade, and what you are doing now. Send to:

CoCoDA Anniversary  
609 E. 29th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-4199  
Email: cocodaindy@igc.org Fax: 317/920-8649



*Solidarity -- Teresa Batto (above, right) of the Greencastle-DePauw CoCo in Indiana receives a letter from the CRC, CoCoDA's associate organization in Suchitoto, El Salvador, naming her an honorary member.*

*Alfonso Rivas (above, left), CoCoDA Projects Coordinator, delivered letters to CoCoDA and a number of individuals and groups whom the CRC acknowledged for their "spirit of human solidarity" and "valuable support in the quest for the development of our communities" over the past 15 years.*

*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

**Co  
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609 E. 29th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-4199  
Email: [cococlindy@jgc.org](mailto:cococlindy@jgc.org)  
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*Come to the...*



**2002 CoCo Encuentro  
Berea, Kentucky  
May 11, 2002**

***“Women & Development”***

**A day of participatory learning with  
women community leaders from El Salvador,  
then an evening of local culture with Blue Grass music!**

**Hosted by the Blue Grass CoCo Project  
(contact the CoCoDA office for registration information)**