

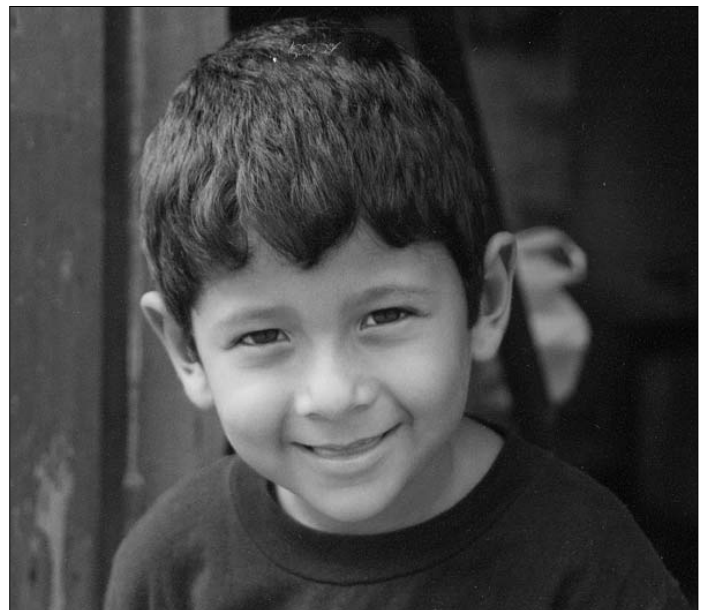
Celebrating Sixteen Years of Solidarity

The Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua (WCCN)

2000 Annual Report



P.O. BOX 1534
MADISON, WI 53701
(608) 257-7230
FAX (608) 257-7904
wccn@wccnica.org
www.wccnica.org



A Message from WCCN's Executive Director

April 2001

Dear Friends,

The Annual Report is an opportunity to look retrospectively over the past year and to earlier times—particularly as we start this new millennium. Looking back, it seems that solidarity with Nicaragua during the 1980s was more straightforward. The U.S. government had overtly and covertly declared war on the people of Nicaragua and was using tax money to destroy the Sandinista government, Nicaraguan communities, and the Nicaraguan experiment in building a more equitable society.

Along with hundreds of other solidarity groups and religious communities and thousands of individuals, WCCN responded to the situation by being in open and active opposition to the U.S. policy and in support of the Nicaraguan people, by speaking out against lies in the mainstream media, by challenging the embargo, and by traveling to Nicaragua to witness the Nicaraguan reality and impact of the U.S. policies there.

The 1990s were a more ambiguous time for solidarity with Nicaragua. The Sandinistas lost presidential power, the Contra War had ostensibly ended and U.S. attention was drawn to other international arenas and domestic issues. Nicaragua had fallen out of the headlines, except for a brief resurgence after Hurricane Mitch (compounded by failed political and economic policies) left a trail of destruction through Nicaragua and other parts of Central America. What rarely made the headlines was the impact on Nicaragua and other countries of structural adjustment policies and of the unjust external debt imposed on them by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United States.

During the past decade, many solidarity groups ceased to exist or struggled along with a handful of dedicated volunteers. WCCN grappled with, and continues to examine, its role as a solidarity organization and how to continue its mission of building people-to-people ties and working with the people and organizations of Nicaragua to construct equitable relationships between our countries on the grassroots level.

The outcome of this self-reflection and active dialogue with Nicaraguan counterparts is WCCN's two dynamic projects—the Nicaraguan Credit Alternatives Fund (NICA Fund) and the U.S.-Nicaragua Women's Empowerment Project (WEP). These projects have evolved over the past decade as needs have changed and we and our Nicaraguan counterparts have grown and learned more. The most obvious example of this is the evolution of WCCN's first alternative credit project, the Nicaraguan Community Development Loan Fund, into the NICA Fund—a process which took place over 1998 and 1999. WEP also changed and grew, expanding its relationships to include Nicaragua's nationally active Network of Women Against Violence.

The Annual Report is also an opportunity to look towards the future. As the disastrous effects of abusive patriarchy and corporate driven globalization become more and more evident, so is the growing "globalization" of activism across borders. This activism gives hope for a re-energized and redefined global solidarity movement.

The on-going work of WCCN and other groups working for peace with justice has contributed to the building of this movement. It would be easy to see Nicaragua as just an example of world globalization gone awry. But Nicaragua is more than just an example. For WCCN—staff, board, volunteers, and members—Nicaragua is people whose lives are intertwined with ours in obvious and obscure ways. And as WCCN looks to the future, we plan to continue to work with Nicaraguans to build the people-to-people connections that are necessary for building globalized solidarity. We hope that you will continue to be a part of WCCN, through your time, ideas, investments and donations, as we work towards a more just world.

In solidarity,

Julie Andersen
WCCN Executive Director

WCCN Activities in 2000

January WCCN's Nicaraguan Credit Alternatives Fund (NICA Fund) begins the year with \$2,227,446 in invested funds.

January The NICA Fund disburses a \$150,000 loan to PRESTANIC and a \$200,000 loan to Fundación José Nieborowski.

January WCCN sponsors a study tour to Nicaragua titled "Rural Credit in Nicaragua." It focuses on the need for credit in rural Nicaragua and how WCCN's NICA Fund helps to fill those needs.

February WCCN Development Director Judith Siers presents on WCCN's work and international opportunities in the Global Studies Capstone seminar at UW-Madison.

March WCCN Executive Director Julie Andersen presents on the work of the NICA Fund during a "Seeds of Hope" series in Champaign, IL.

March WCCN's US-Nicaragua Women's Empowerment Project sponsors its third annual celebration of International Women's Day. The 2000 event, titled "Women Confronting Challenges in the New Millennium," includes a panel of women representing Nigeria, Nicaragua, Iran, India, and the US speaking about violence against women.

March WCCN Board President Dan Rodman presents at Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison on the effect of the external debt on Nicaragua.

March As the organization that facilitates the Madison-Managua Sister City

Project, WCCN participates in the fourth annual Madison Sister Cities Fair. Local Nicaraguan folk dancers entertain the crowd.

April Julie Andersen presents on WCCN's work in a Rural Sociology class at UW-Madison titled "Managing the Global Commons."

April WCCN co-hosts the visit to Madison of representatives of United Electrical Workers (UE) and the Mexican Frente Autentica de los Trabajadores (FAT).

April WCCN is represented at the World Bank/IMF protests and the concurrent Latin American Solidarity Conference in Washington, DC.

April WCCN's Annual Meeting is held and features a panel discussion by participants in WCCN's January study tour to Nicaragua.

May The NICA Fund disburses \$200,000 loans to both ACODEP and CARUNA.

May WCCN co-hosts and Julie Andersen presents at a presentation on socially responsible investing in conjunction with the Madison visit of the authors of "Robin Hood Was Right."

May WCCN co-sponsors the Madison visit of Rosa Ocampo, a worker from Nicaragua who was fired for labor organizing in the Mil Colores Free Trade Zone factory, where she worked.

May Julie Andersen is a co-presenter on "sistering" at the annual RadFest event held near the Wisconsin Dells.

Individual Donors

Tom & Carol Aageson
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June WCCN's US-Nicaragua Women's Empowerment Project sponsors the "Vital Connections" delegation to Nicaragua. The delegation includes a three-day conference of healing therapies and techniques that includes workshops presented by six delegation participants. The conference is co-sponsored by WCCN and Nicaragua's Network of Women Against Violence. One hundred women and several men from throughout Nicaragua travel to Managua to attend.

June Christina Jennings begins as Loan Fund Manager, replacing Scott Nicholson.

June As of June 30, 2000, the NICA Fund has \$2,446,056 in investments.

July WCCN Board Member Kris Hoffschmidt presents on WCCN's work at the Socialist Potluck in Madison.

July WCCN participates in a leafleting action at a Madison Kohl's department store to protest unionbusting in Nicaragua's Free Trade Zone.

July Long-time WCCN member and volunteer Julie Knop returns from her nine-month stay in Nicaragua as a volunteer with the Network of Women Against Violence. Her work was sponsored by WCCN and the Women's Empowerment Project. Julie gave a public presentation on her participation in the Network's "emotional reconstruction" project.

August The NICA Fund disburses a \$300,000 loan to Nitlapán-FDL.

October WCCN participates, with labor and other groups, in a simultaneous leafleting action at all three Madison Kohl's department store locations to protest unionbusting in Nicaragua's Free Trade Zone.

October WCCN participates in the annual assembly of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice.

October WCCN Loan Fund Manager Christina Jennings and Loan Fund Representative in Nicaragua Francisco Barquero attend the annual training conference of the Small Enterprise, Education, and Promotion (SEEP) Network.

October WCCN co-sponsors, with the UW-Madison Havens Center for the Study of Social Structure and Social Change, the Madison visit of Dr. Alejandro Bendaña, former Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United Nations and current member of Jubilee South.

November The NICA Fund disburses a \$300,000 loan to FAMA and a \$200,000 loan to ACODEP.

November WCCN is represented at the vigil to close the School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, GA.

November WCCN leads a coalition of twenty-three local groups in Dane County, WI's first observation of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women, which is marked in more than 90 countries world-wide. The 16 Days campaign begins November 25 and concludes on December 10.

December As part of the 16 Days, Violeta Delgado, Secretary General of Nicaragua's Network of Women Against Violence, visits Madison as WCCN's guest. She meets with local women's groups and gives several presentations.

December WCCN participates in Madison's fourth annual Alternative Holiday Fair. The Fair provides holiday shoppers with fair trade gift alternatives and information on labor rights and conditions worldwide.

December Judith Siers presents on current events in Nicaragua to the DCRC, a local faith-based group concerned with Central America.

December As of December 31, 2000, the NICA Fund has grown to \$2,650,806 in investments.

Focus on the NICA Fund

During 2000, the NICA Fund disbursed seven loans totaling \$1,550,000 to six alternative credit organizations in Nicaragua. Three of the six organizations were new borrowers for the NICA Fund.

In two years of lending operations, the NICA Fund has created a diverse portfolio with its eight borrower agencies, which include programs that have national coverage, several programs that specialize in specific regions, some programs that specialize in rural lending and others in urban. The programs include a diversity of organizational structures and lending modalities as well.

In 2000 the NICA Fund designed a pilot version of a new short-term loan type to meet seasonal needs of borrower agencies and their clients. This loan was disbursed to a current NICA Fund borrower agency, ACODEP, to meet the increased demand for credit by its end-clients with retail businesses before the Christmas holiday season. The NICA Fund will consider the possibility of future loans of this type and others to continue to creatively support our borrowing agencies.

End borrowers that benefited from the NICA Fund's collaboration with Nicaraguan organizations include Lacteos del Sur, pictured below. They are a small-scale dairy-processing plant established and run by a multi-service cooperative, COMSUR. The cooperative's 37 members represent industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors.



The Lacteos plant was established to give co-op members a consistent market for their milk and to provide a source of hygienic, reliable dairy products to the area of Rivas in the southern part of the country. The dairy produces pasteurized milk, various types of cheeses, sour cream and buttermilk and has used loans to purchase a pasteurizer, cheese-making equipment and basic inputs. Lacteos del Sur gives its members an opportunity to improve their incomes and offers the community healthy, locally produced dairy products.

photo by Julie Andersen

Jack & Phyllis Courtney
 Colleen Cox
 Maralyn A. & Stanton J. Curry
 David & Janet Dahl
 Eddee Daniel
 Doug Davis
 Matthew D. & Nancy Davis
 Faith & Frank Davison
 Dr. Julio de Arteaga
 James Robert Deal
 Anne & John Deckard
 James Delaplain
 Kay L. Deli
 John Denham
 Barbara Dennis
 Betty Dickerhoof
 Karen Shevet Dinah
 Liz DiNovella
 Diana Ditsch
 Edie Ehlert & Glenn Donovan
 Terry Donovan
 Jean Dorman
 Elaine Dorough Johnson
 Hildegard Dorrer
 Joanne Droppers
 Cheri Dubiel
 Doris & Richard Dubielzig
 Susan DuBois
 Anthony Earl
 Sheila Coyle Earl
 Emily Earley
 Jean Eberhardt
 Fern M. Ebertz
 Stephanie Frank & Peter Eckart
 Norman Eddy
 Polly Edgar
 Jane Edwards
 Laurie Egge
 Jan & Jim Eisner
 Jane Eisner
 Stephen W. Ela
 Calvin C. & Eloise R. Eland
 Rachel & Robert Ellis
 Kathryn Elwers
 Heike & Wallace B. Eubanks
 Connie & Doug Evans
 Kit Everts
 John & Paula Ewers
 Juliet Evers
 Mary Ann Fahl
 Leo McDonnell & Gail Faithfull
 David Fallow
 Diane Farsetta
 Cecilee & Walter Faster
 Jennifer Feldman
 André & Elaina Feliciano
 Bernadette Fenton
 Anthony & Elissa Fernandez
 Asano Fertig
 Gerhard & Lucille Fischer

Phil Fisher
 Jan Flora
 Amabelle C. & J. David Follett
 Ariel Ford
 Suzanne Desan & Barbara Forrest
 Dwight & June Forsyth
 Judi Munaker & John Fournelle
 Geraldine Frank
 Peg Franklin
 J. William Franta, DDS
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 Marty Collier & Carter Garber
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 Enrique Gentzsch
 Donald Gilpin
 Lara Gingerich
 Marjorie & Tracy Gipson
 Alison & Richard Gist
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 Richard Glines
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 Curtis & Kristi Hart
 Marcia Haslett
 James Hawkins
 Cal & Mary Hayenga
 Evelyn & Richard Headen
 Lieslotte Heil
 Keith Heimforth
 Dr. Robert Hellen
 Louis & Sally Hellwig

Staff & Interns

Staff

Julie Andersen, Executive Director
 Francisco Barquero, Loan Fund Representative in Nicaragua
 Christina Jennings, Loan Fund Manager (June 2000 to present)
 Scott Nicholson, Loan Fund Manager (until June 2000)
 Judith Siers, Development Director
 De Ette Tomlinson (October 2000 to present)
 Margaret Van Styn, Bookkeeper (until October 2000)
 Matt Earley, Administrative Assistant
 Tom Coleman & John Laun, Consultants to the NICA Fund
 Aynn Setright, Nicaragua-based Consultant

Thanks to past WCCN staff members Scott Nicholson and Margie Van Styn for their work to promote our mission and work.

Volunteers

Brad Barham
 Diana Fletchner
 Nathalie Gons
 Dorothy Gosting
 Soren Hauge
 Julie Knop
 Otoniel Mora
 Randy Mullis
 Jon Peacock
 Jean-Marc Poisson
 Sheldon Rampton

Judith Rasmussen
 Liz Rice
 Grace Valentine
 Virginia Waddick
 Kira Williams
 Richard Winslow

Interns

Eliana Garofalo
 Yali Lipschutz
 Rosie Mische-John
 Meghan Quinlan
 Julie Rammer



The WCCN staff: from left to right, De Ette Tomlinson, Julie Andersen, Christina Jennings, and Judith Siers. photo by Stephen Thompson

Board of Directors, as of December 2000

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Cheri Dubiel

Dwight Haase

Jodi Hanna, Treasurer

Cate Harrington

Kris Hoffschmidt,
Executive Committee Member

Sue Lloyd

Susan Nossal

Anne Porter

Lilliam Post

Dan Rodman, President

Peter Staudenmaier

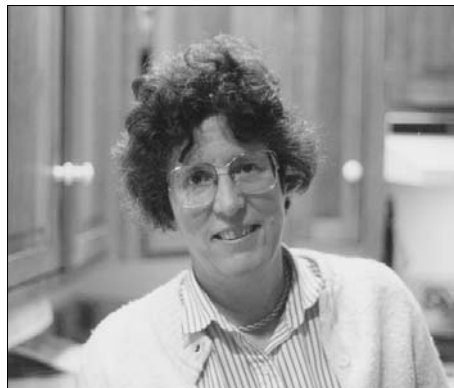
Rob Suls, Secretary

Donna Vukelich

*Welcome to Sheldon Rampton,
Judith Rasmussen, and Anne Reynolds
who are joining the Board in the first
half of 2001.*

*Thanks to outgoing Board
officers Kris Hoffschmidt, Executive
Committee Member, and Sue Lloyd,
Treasurer, for their service to WCCN.*

*Best wishes to Dwight Haase, Kris
Hoffschmidt, Anne Porter, and Lilliam
Post as they leave the WCCN board to
pursue other activities and adventures.*



*from top to bottom: WCCN board
members Donna Vukelich, Sue Lloyd,
Peter Staudenmaier, and Kris Hoffschmidt.*

Michael Helperin
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James P. Higgins
Carrie Hirsch
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 Julie Melton
 Mary Merchant
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 Jay Metzler
 Sylvia Lee Metzler
 Cecile Meyer
 Elena Meyer
 Mary Michal

Focus on the US- Nicaragua Women's Empowerment Project

2000 was an exciting year for WCCN's US-Nicaragua Women's Empowerment Project (WEP). In March, WEP sponsored its annual celebration of International Women's Day, which was titled "Women Confronting Challenges in the New Millennium." Pictured below is one element of that celebration, a panel that discussed the status of women around the world. Panel members represented Nigeria, Nicaragua, India, Iran, and the US and shared information on challenges to women's equality and safety, as well as stories of hope and resistance.

In June, WCCN sponsored its annual study tour focusing on women's issues. For the second year in a row, the study tour included a conference on healing therapies and techniques for which tour participants provided workshops. This conference was part of the continuing relationship between WCCN and the Network of Women Against Violence in Nicaragua. WCCN and the Network have worked together since 1998's Hurricane Mitch, particularly on the "emotional reconstruction" work of the Network's Psycho-Social Commission.

In November, the US-Nicaragua Women's Empowerment Project initiated the first ever Dane County, Wisconsin observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women. The 16 Days campaign is observed worldwide in more than 90 countries by more than 800 organizations. The Dane County observance—coordinated by a twenty-three group coalition—included close to twenty events, extensive publicity and media coverage, bookstore and library displays, and participation in an international campaign to promote US ratification of the UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

A highlight of the 16 Days observance for WCCN was the visit to Madison of Violeta Delgado, Secretary General of the Network of Women Against Violence. Violeta gave several public presentations and participated in a panel on labor and women around the world.



photo by Judith Siers

Bernard F. Micke, M.D.
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 Mark Miller
 Andrew Mills
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 Women's Transit Authority (WTA),
 Madison, WI
 YWCA Madison, Madison, WI

Apologies in advance to any individual or group donors who have been inadvertently omitted from this list. Your support is greatly appreciated.

WCCN Comparative Consolidated Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

| REVENUE | 2000 | 1999 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Undesignated Grants and Contributions | \$ 99,476 | \$ 85,795 |
| Grants and Contributions to Projects | 74,730 | 112,447 |
| Program Fees and Tour Revenues | 43,969 | 57,362 |
| Interest Income (banks and loans) | 253,500 | 175,037 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | <u>471,675</u> | <u>430,641</u> |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Program and Study Tours | 217,070 | 248,270 |
| NICA Fund/NCDLF Interest Expense | 103,322 | 112,220 |
| Fundraising | 13,576 | 18,639 |
| Administration | 30,730 | 24,092 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>364,698</u> | <u>403,221</u> |
| NET INCOME (DEFICIT) | <u>106,977</u> | <u>27,420</u> |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| ASSETS | 12/31/00 | 12/31/99 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Cash and Other Current Assets | \$ 1,424,094 | \$ 1,425,640 |
| Equipment (less accumulated depreciation) | 2,475 | 2,880 |
| Accrued Interest Receivable | 28,215 | 12,173 |
| Notes Receivable, NCDLF | 379,000 | 756,550 |
| Notes Receivable, NICA Fund | 1,746,004 | 1,115,500 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>3,579,788</u> | <u>3,312,743</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accrued Interest & Rebates Payable | 105,029 | 57,772 |
| Notes Payable, NICA Fund | 2,650,806 | 2,210,446 |
| Notes Payable, NCDLF | 379,000 | 756,550 |
| NICA Fund deposits payable | 115,000 | 65,000 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | <u>3,249,835</u> | <u>3,089,768</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Temporarily Restricted Funds | 68,840 | 38,096 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 75,397 | 70,783 |
| NICA Fund Equity | 185,716 | 114,096 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | <u>329,953</u> | <u>222,975</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | <u>3,579,788</u> | <u>3,312,743</u> |

These are unaudited financial summaries.
Full audited financial reports are available at the WCCN office upon request.



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