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Dear friends:

**How to sum up the past year? How to convey the urgent needs of our Nicaraguan partners RIGHT NOW?** I can't separate the political upheaval and violence in Nicaragua since April, the separation of families at our border, the sending of troops to prevent entry to desperate asylum seekers to our country, and the recent mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill. Squirrel Hill is the Pittsburgh neighborhood where we got our start and Tree of Life houses the congregation of our co-founder Barb Wein. In Pittsburgh, many of us are talking with renewed urgency about how to build LOVE rather than HATE in our communities and in our wider world.



**In my mind, all of these difficult situations are interconnected at a time when working toward social justice, environmental sustainability, democracy, and human rights is threatened.**

**Let me focus on Nicaragua: many non-profits working there have had to lay off staff and close programs since April.** The once booming tourist economy has crashed, taking with it thousands of jobs. Citizens have to defend their own shops and property. Roadblocks make it difficult to access food and fuel. And the once lively streets in Granada, Nicaragua, where our schools are located, are now empty of visitors and volunteers. In a country where hardship was no stranger to much of the population, everyday existence has gotten that much tougher. People are suffering, and as their children are intimidated, jailed or even killed for protesting, thousands of people are fleeing the country.

**Through all this turmoil Building New Hope remains a steady presence thanks to the commitment of our Nicaraguan staff and students' families.** We've kept our doors open at our afterschool programs providing a refuge during very stressful times for children. And we continue to support the families of the El Porvenir coffee cooperative. **But we need your engagement, donations, and partnership to keep our programs going strong.**

This December we will do something extra during this especially difficult time. **We will provide each family with a *canasta básica* a basket of necessities: rice,**

beans, cooking oil, a tin of tuna, and soap. In order to do so, we need to raise \$5,000. Will you help us?

BNH continues to provide important support as a fiscal sponsor for other projects in Nicaragua including the Casa Lupita vet clinic, Puedo Leer lending library, and AMAN which works with young people with disabilities. In Guatemala, we continue to serve as the fiscal sponsor for an indigenous education project in Santa María Tzejá. We do all this with only part-time staff in Pittsburgh and the help of many dedicated volunteers. However, none of this work is possible without your generous donations.

Consider joining me to build LOVE and not HATE in our communities:

- \$25 - provides a basic basket, or *ecpcuvc"dauec*, for a family in need
- \$50 - buys coffee tree seedlings for the coffee cooperative
- \$100 - provides much needed textbooks for BNH schools, or a *ecpcuvc"dauec* for four families
- \$150 - sponsors a student scholarship at the coffee cooperative
- \$250 - sponsors a high school scholarship student from our schools
- \$500 - provides a field trip or cultural enrichment program for all of the students at our BNH schools
- \$1,000 - provides critical infrastructure repairs at the coffee cooperative
- \$3,000 - provides one annual teaching salary for a dedicated teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_Any amount helps us to make a positive difference - you decide!

With gratitude,

Jennifer Novelli  
Executive Director



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