

BOULDER/JALAPA FRIENDSHIP CITY PROJECTS

<http://boulderjalapa.org>

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL for 2012

April 10, 2013

1. Friendship City Projects (FCP) is a 501(c)(3) corporation.
2. The Board of Directors meets once per month in or near Boulder. The board currently numbers seven directors, who were elected by the membership at the December 2012 annual meeting. No member of the board is a part of any commercial venture in Jalapa. The current directors are:

Mercedes Alvarez	Boulder
Zuza Bohley	Boulder
Gregory Bowles	Boulder
Gary Mills	Boulder
Francoise Poinatte	Boulder
Tasia Poinatte	Washington DC
Philip Wegener	Boulder

3. The criteria for membership are established by the By-laws which were adopted in 1992, as amended in 2008. Members are those who have paid current dues of \$25. Honorary members are those who have been designated as deserving by the FCP board. Members are non-voting for the first year that they are a member, and active members after that. The board may deny membership status to anyone, but does not intend to do this except in very unusual cases.
4. Copies of the budget and fundraising report for 2012 are attached. The current status and work plan for 2013 are as follows:

In 2012 we did not have an in-country representative from Boulder working full-time in Jalapa. We are still supporting the work of Karla Pozo, a very talented community organizer who lives in Jalapa. She promotes FCP's work in Jalapa and builds relationships between FCP and the people of the Jalapa Valley. FCP also now works in partnership with a Colorado-based non-profit which focuses on building of potable water systems in developing countries. This non-profit, Second Mile Water, has built two stages of a potable water system in the village of Pasmata, located in the Jalapa Valley. Working together with FCP, Second Mile Water, a 501(c)3, expects to complete this water system in 2013. Jeff Walters of Second Mile Waters, was nominated by FCP for Volunteer of The Year.

FCP works together with a local counterpart board, Pueblos Unidos, and FCP has worked for several years to help establish this organization. Pueblos Unidos is made up of local people in Jalapa who are active in community development. All decisions on joint projects undertaken with FCP and all work plans are made together with Pueblos Unidos.

In 2011 FCP and Pueblos Unidos continued the Huertos Familiares (Family Garden) Program in which family members grow the food they need for a well-balanced diet. The program includes using organic fertilizer made by the community, and also organic pest control solutions made from local plants which don't depend on imported chemicals.

A scholarship fund for Jalapa students that was created by FCP members Vivian Underhill and Kelsey Batson is now called Project FE, and is managed by Tasia Poinatte, Helen Vernier, and Sophia

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Laguna. It enables needy Jalapa children and adults to enroll in school. Although tuition is free at

public schools, many people do not have the money to pay for materials, uniforms, transportation and other necessities. This can cost as little as \$100 per student for one year, which is still beyond the means of many Nicaraguans. The program is entirely run by high school and college age people here in the U.S.

We have seen an important trend developing in Jalapa over the years. In FCP's early years, we focused on fairly large projects which involved significant amounts of money and presented the community with completed schools, water systems, and so forth. The trend now is toward much more community involvement and initiation of projects. Resources are still required, of course, but the process is much more one of collaboration than of gift giving. This trend is only for the better, and promises to continue.

Background Information

Jalapa is located in northern Nicaragua close to the Honduran border. Geographically, it is similar to Boulder in that it is located in a broad valley, near mountains covered with pine and other trees. The soil and tropical climate make the area agriculturally productive. The people of Jalapa share a love of music and the arts with the people of Boulder.

Boulder Jalapa Friendship City Projects (FCP), a sister city organization, was formed in Boulder in 1984 and is dedicated to building peace and understanding between the people of Jalapa and Boulder. FCP funds projects that have a social contract to create community and work for the greater good of its residents and fosters people-to-people diplomacy through organizing delegations to and from Nicaragua. The project provides the framework which enables skilled volunteers to work in the Jalapa area of Nicaragua providing direct services and/or technical assistance. FCP is responsible for the creation of a preschool and five potable water projects in the municipality of Jalapa and has maintained a full time representative in the Jalapa area most of the time since 1990.

FCP's constituency is not limited to the city of Jalapa, but includes the whole of the Jalapa valley (in Nicaragua, this is known as the Jalapa Municipality).

More information about FCP is available on the Web at

www.boulderjalapa.org

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BUDGET- 2012

Total income \$26182

Expenses

Karla Pozo, in Jalap Nicaragua	\$4248
Jeff Walters/2 Mile Water	\$15860
MattTalarco, videographer	\$1200
bank fees	\$223
misc admin	\$58