



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The **Boulder Friendship City Projects (FCP)** is an all-volunteer, non-political 501(c)(3), charitable organization. Membership is open to all regardless of race, religion, nationality and political beliefs.

CITY OF BOULDER RESOLUTION 631 COMPLIANCE

Boulder Friendship City Projects maintains compliance with all provisions of Resolution 631:

- 501(c)(3) Status, Tax ID number is 52-1328597
- Membership Requirements: Annual membership fees: \$25 (regular) and \$15 (for students or members with reduced income) supports FCP programs and projects in Jalapa, Nicaragua, includes bi-annual newsletter publications and annual election of board members in early December.
- Boulder-based Board of Directors: Most of our board members reside in Boulder. We have currently 2 board members living in Nicaragua and one board member residing in New York City. All board members contribute to programming and fundraising.
- Financial Reporting
- Work Plan reporting

2014 HIGHLIGHTS MONTH BY MONTH

In December 2013 FCP was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant by the Benito & Frances C. Gaguine Foundation to undertake the coordination, financing and construction of improving and expanding the El Trapiche water system. This project was originally estimated to cost \$15,000.

The first quarter of the year 2014 FCP focused on site, feasibility and sustainability studies surrounding this water project and seeking actively partnerships with other NGOs to bring this proposed project to completion.

In January 2014 Solar Women of Nicaragua, also known in Nicaragua as FUPROSOMONIC, was awarded the Golden Globe for sustainability in Austria. Mercedes Alvarez, FCP board member since 2012 and founder of this highly successful program, was unable to receive the award in person because she was in the process of applying for US citizenship at that time.



The Energy Globe World Award goes to the organization FUPROSOMONIC from Nicaragua

In the meantime, FCP partnered with ISLA (Interfaith Service Latin America), a Minnesota NGO located in Jalapa, in a Greenhouse project at the Jalapa Maternity Home. While ISLA financed the materials for the greenhouse to



provide year round nutrition, FCP was responsible for the organic garden workshops and training of staff and community members.

In March 2014 Jeff Walters was honored with the volunteer of the year award of the City of Boulder. From March 30-April 10, FCP hosted visiting artist Marlon Moreno co-founder of Taller Artistico Xuchialt. Marlon Moreno taught several art workshops a day sharing his culture and primitivista style painting with elementary, middle and high school student across Boulder. He also taught a workshop for adults at the Spanish Institute.



Marlon Moreno teaches primitivista style art workshops in Boulder

In April Mercedes Alvarez built a sample solar oven in Boulder to be able to demonstrate her work in Nicaragua.

In May Mark Van Nostrand, a Boulder water engineer joined the FCP board of directors to assist with his expertise by advancing the El Trapiche water project.

Also, a group of artists from the Taller Artistico Xuchialt from Leon, Nicaragua, visited Jalapa artists and communities to discuss a Boulder – Jalapa mural project, working with Nicaraguan and US artists and developing an educational mural that tells the story of US Nicaraguan history and Boulder – Jalapa friendship. In Jalapa this mural will be painted on one of the walls of the public library. In Boulder, FCP is still working on creating more awareness, visibility and support for such a mural project and is seeking an appropriately located wall space.

In June 2014 Travis Ramos (Second Mile Water and former FCP technical partner) lead a Rotary delegation to Jalapa, visiting Pasmata (2013), El Trapiche and other communities in need to receive access to clean water. During this visit it became evident that FCP and Second Mile Water were unable to continue their partnership. In response to this financial set-back, the Gaguine Foundation raised their matching grant to \$25,000.

In June and July Jeff Walters visited Nicaragua. He was hired by the Denver based water organization El Porvenir to evaluate clean water systems across the country. On one of his free weekends he visited Jalapa, visiting the communities of Pasmata and El Trapiche. He visited friends and interviewed community leaders.



July 19 – August 4th, 2015 Narayan Shrestha traveled to Jalapa with a delegation of his non-profit Helping Hands Education USA, active in Jalapa since 2009. This delegation included 20 dentists and 3 engineers, serving 14 villages in dental brigades and exploring the site and terrain for a new English Immersion school, an undertaking in partnership with Helping Hands Education USA and Edge of Seven. Narayan's English Immersion school has 4 teachers and 2 staff members, 60 students between the ages of 3-7.

On July 29, 2015 Mercedes Alvarez received her US citizenship and was honored by the city council, proclaiming that same day as Maria Mercedes Alvarez day for her outstanding service to strengthen the sister city relations between Boulder, Colorado and Jalapa, Nicaragua.



Maria Mercedes Alvarez Valle with her certificate of US citizenship.

Project FE, the scholarship program under the umbrella of FCP, was able to fundraise scholarships to support 4 college students through a massive news and blog campaign.

In September 2015 FCP contacted the Rotary of Boulder Valley to explore partnering with the El Trapiche water project. Maria Alvarez returned to Nicaragua, working on a demonstration site with organic farming for her solar women's program. This site is seeking to reach eco tourists traveling through Nicaragua.

In October, FCP, Dushanbe and Nablus Friendship Project collaborated with the United Nations Association of Boulder County to celebrated UNDay. The topic of this event was the global water crisis and local effects and calls to action.

In November we hosted the 30th Anniversary celebration and fundraiser, bringing together many delegation participants from the early 1980's. In a small survey we learned that most FCP members want their donations to support clean water projects (87%), health and education (79%).



In partnership FCP and the El Trapiche water board hired a local Nicaraguan engineering company to re-design the El Trapiche water system to warrant feasibility, efficiency and sustainability over the next 20 years.

In mid-November, a group of CU engineering students traveled to Nicaragua, including Jalapa to bring and install water saving drip water systems for small organic farming cooperatives.

In December 2014, the El Trapiche water project was divided in 4 major phases to focus on mile stones for fundraising and construction purposes. Phase 1: Installation of a new 80 cubic meter water tank, Phase 2: Extension and improvement of the water captivation holding dam, Phase 3: Construction of the main conduction line with breaker boxes, and Phase 4: Connecting individual households to the main conduction line.

In late December the Rotary Club of Ocotal, Nicaragua visited Jalapa and joined the Boulder Valley Rotary Club, FCP and El Trapiche community partnership. FCP was able to match the \$25,000 matching grant before the end of the year. The check was written in mid-January 2015.

2015 WORK PLAN

The El Trapiche water project was initiated in January 2015. Phase I (\$25,000) will be completed by March or April. The Boulder Valley Rotary Club and FCP signed a MOU that outlines the partnership and collaboration between both organizations. BV Rotary is applying for a global development grant to sponsor the materials for Phase 2 and 3 (\$45,000). FCP is committed to completing Phase I and contributing up to \$10,000 to Phase 2 and 3 other expenses (such as expert labor) not covered by the global grant. The global grant will not be awarded until June or July 2015. Thus construction on Phases 2 and 3 cannot start until after the rainy season (September/October 2015). Phases 2 and 3 will take 2-3 months to complete. The final Phase of the water project (\$25,000) will be implemented and financed in partnership between the El Trapiche community and FCP and is foreseen to take place at the end of 2015.

In February 2015 Maria Alvarez and her organization Solar Women of Nicaragua received a \$30,000 Award from Dubai for the successful clean energy and women empowerment program. The award will be used to develop the solar oven and dryer demonstration site with organic farming, workshop sites and eco-tourism café and restaurant.



Mercedes Alvarez in Dubai, February 2015.



Boulder-Jalapa

friendship city projects

working in solidarity since 1984

In March 2015 Narayan Shrestha and Troup Wood will be awarded the volunteer of the year award for Boulder sister cities. The documentary film by Troup Wood and about Narayan Shrestha's life and work in Nepal and Nicaragua will be screened at the Nomad Theater in April/ May 2015 to raise awareness about Narayan's work, demonstrating fruitful collaborations and partnerships between non-profit organizations and social ventures, across cultures and national boundaries.

In May FCP will bring 3 visiting artists to Boulder teaching art workshops in visual art, dance and music in schools and with diverse community groups (Intercambio, Spanish Institute, Centro Amistad). This is an attempt to raise visibility and awareness of the sister city: Jalapa and create interest and support for a Boulder – Jalapa Mural project in the near future.

Narayan Shrestha is planning another dentist brigade with 70 visiting dentists to the Jalapa valley this summer. Moreover, he will inaugurate the construction of the new English Immersion School that includes a high school as well as dormitories in July 2015.

FCP needs to continue raising funds and awareness of the powerful, highly active and effective sister city program. We have two CU student and four new community volunteers who will be working on actively promote our organization within the community. We are seeking to grow our board of directors and outreach to the broader Boulder community.

2014 MEETING DATES

Board meetings occur on every second Wednesday of the month from 6-7:30pm at Zuza Bohley's (president) home: 3237 Wright Ave., Boulder, CO 80301. Meetings are open to the public. Light dinner is served. Please, RSVP at info@boulderjalapa.org.

Attachments A – Resolution 631 Requirements: 501(c) (3) Certificate of Good Standing, Membership Requirements, Board of Directors, Financial & Fundraising Report
Attachment B – 2015 Work Plan

Internal Revenue Service
District Director

Department of the Treasury

EIN# 52-1328597

Date:

JUL 27 1984

Friendship City Projects
P.O. Box 7452
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Employer Identification Number:
52-1328597
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Foundation Status Classification:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi) & 509(a)(1)
Advance Ruling Period Ends:
December 31
Person to Contact:
EO TECHNICAL ASSISTOR
Contact Telephone Number:
(214) 767-3526
EO:7213:309:LKS

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Because you are a newly created organization, we are not now making a final determination of your foundation status under section 509(a) of the Code. However, we have determined that you can reasonably be expected to be a publicly supported organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) & 509(a)(1).

Accordingly, you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period. This advance ruling period begins on the date of your inception and ends on the date shown above.

Within 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period, you must submit to us information needed to determine whether you have met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period. If you establish that you have been a publicly supported organization, you will be classified as a section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization as long as you continue to meet the requirements of the applicable support test. If you do not meet the public support requirements during the advance ruling period, you will be classified as a private foundation for future periods. Also, if you are classified as a private foundation, you will be treated as a private foundation from the date of your inception for purposes of sections 507(d) and 4940.

Grantors and donors may rely on the determination that you are not a private foundation until 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period. If you submit the required information within the 90 days, grantors and donors may continue to rely on the advance determination until the Service makes a final determination of your foundation status. However, if notice that you will no longer be treated as a section 509(a)(1) organization is published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, grantors and donors may not rely on this determination after the date of such publication. Also, a grantor or donor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act that resulted in your loss of section 509(a)(1) status, or acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would be removed from classification as a section 509(a)(1) organization.

1100 Commerce St., Dallas, Texas 75242

Letter 1045(DO) (Rev. 10-83)

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/ Nicaragua since August 2014
Zuza Bohley	Boulder
Gregory Bowles	Boulder/ Nicaragua since May 2014
Gary Mills	Boulder
Francoise Poinatte	Boulder
Tasia Poinatte	New York City
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. Karla Pozo receives a monthly stipend from FCP and is FCP's local coordinator. Her tasks are to organize and supervise and coordinate monthly Pueblos Unidos meetings (our sister board formed of community leaders of the Jalapa Valley) as well as on-going projects and programs and write monthly reports. FCP has been encouraging and supporting Karla's academic studies. Karla has been taking university classes (on weekends and evenings) over the course of the past 5 years and will complete her Masters degree during the academic year of 2013.

FCP works together with a local counterpart board, Pueblos Unidos and sponsors their monthly meetings. FCP has worked for several years (since 2003) 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 organic 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. FCP supports organic family gardens in 5 communities of the Jalapa valley: El Porvenir, Pasmata, Santa Martha, Santa Rosa, and San Rafael. In January 2014 the organic family garden program was expanded to develop an organic greenhouse project at the Jalapa Birthing Home. FCP is working in partnership with ISLA (Interfaith Service Latin America) to bring year around organic food to young and becoming mothers in need.

A scholarship fund for Jalapa students that was originally created by FCP members Vivian Underhill and Kelsey Batson is now called **Project FE**, and is managed by Tasia Poinatte, Helen Vernier, and Sofia Laguna. It enables needy Jalapa children and adults to enroll in schools, receiving an education beyond primary 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 \$150 per student for one year, which is still beyond the means of many Nicaraguans. The program is entirely organized and run by college students here in the U.S. In the fall of 2013 Project FE was able to first sponsor a college bound student, going to nursing

school in nearby Esteli. During the year of 2014 Project FE was able to secure more sponsorships to support a total of four college bound students in achieving their dream for higher education. A University sponsorship amounts to \$450 a year per student. It includes transportation, tuition and books.

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

Boulder Jalapa Friendship City Projects
PO Box 7452
Boulder CO 80306

Friendship City Projects Fundraising and financial report 2014

EXPENSES:

Yearly Stipend for coordinator Karla Pozo:	- \$3000.00
1 month Expert labor (Victor Ponce):	- \$650.00
Masonry labor	-\$400.00
Pueblos Unidos meetings and transport	-\$740.00
Travel	0
Art workshop materials	-\$123.66
Garden workshops	-\$1,020.00
Engineering company (water project design)	-\$2,400.00
Project FE University scholarships	-\$1,800.00
Project FE High school scholarships	-\$900.00
Fundraising expenses (in-kind donation by board)	-\$500.00
Cost of goods sold	0
Printing & Postage	-\$576.10
Money transfer for Project materials paid to hardware store	-\$19,161.00
Money transfer for expert labor	-\$1,541.00
Transaction Fees (paypal and bank fees)	-\$92.30
Miscellaneous	0
Total expenses in 2014	-\$32,404.06

FUNDRAISING REPORT

INCOME

Beginning balance in January 2014	\$6704.30
General donations	\$25,000.00
In-kind board donations (from board members)	\$1199.76
Matching Grant	0*)
Total Income	+\$32,404.06

Local Boulder expenses amount to 3.7% of the total expenses and are covered by board member in-kind donations.

¹ Received in January 2015