

# SCHOOLS

Weston Forum  
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## Spanish Club supports Quest for Peace

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Imagine going to school and having no paper, no pencils and no books.

Those are the conditions for students living in impoverished areas of Nicaragua.

As a way to help those less fortunate, collection drives were held at schools throughout the state as part of the "Nicaragua Quest for Peace" drive.

The Spanish Club of Weston Middle School, guided by Karen Murano, the club's advisor, spearheaded the local campaign to collect supplies for the drive.

For one week in October, plastic drop-off bins were placed outside the main office of the middle school where students in grades six through eight could donate school supplies such as pens, notebooks, crayons and rulers and personal hygiene items such as soap and shampoo.

Items collected throughout the state were loaded onto 45-foot trailer trucks at the New Canaan Presbyterian Church before being shipped off to Nicaragua so they could arrive at schools and orphanages before Christmas.

Before the start of the drive,

Linda and Randy Klein, co-presidents of Connecticut Quest for Peace, a non-profit organization, shared a slide presentation and photographs with members of the Spanish Club, to reinforce the conditions and needs of children living in Nicaragua.

The Quest for Peace drive is a child-to-child project, where children from one country provide gifts to those less fortunate in another country.

In past drives, Connecticut Quest for Peace has provided considerable humanitarian aid to Central America, collecting and distributing truckloads of school and health supplies, tools, food, clothing, computers, medicine, wheelchairs, sewing machines, toys, and musical instruments.

It has raised money to help finance projects, schools, and farms, and purchased a building to be used as a meeting center for the teaching staffs of two schools. It has also raised money to feed thousands of children in schools and feeding centers.

In 2004, the organization's delegates made three visits to meet with their Nicaraguan partners, and gave educational talks at churches, schools and civic organizations.



Members of the middle school Spanish Club met with members of Connecticut Quest for Peace before starting a drive to help impoverished students. Top row, from left, are Carlye Rosen, Alexandra Fumai, Anahita Daghoghi, Karen Murano, Linda Klein, Eileen Brown, Leland Barlow, Shannon Delaney, and Randy Klein. Bottom row, from left, are Paavan Chopra, Hana Glasberg, Kellie Nalbandian and Rachel Mitchell.