

SUPPORTING RURAL EDUCATION...

June 2024

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In this letter we are highlighting a project started by a Peace Corps Volunteer who asked if it would be possible to send books written in English to her project. This was a real need because libraries in Nicaragua never allow books to leave the building. Having reading materials that one could borrow was a true blessing.

With the assistance of retired teachers from the CT Education Association, school systems were asked to donate books and teaching materials they no longer needed. Our faithful warehouse organizer saved any books she thought would be useful and members of the Benedictine Grange also answered the call. Basically, we had a village gathering books for a village. These thousands of books were like manna from heaven for this community.

The CT Quest book donations were the start of the Community English Center (CEC) which has grown over the last 10 years. The CEC director said, "English empowers our students to communicate, connect, and create with confidence; it opens doors to a world of knowledge, fostering curiosity, and expanding horizons beyond geographical boundaries. In addition, the CEC has been a fundamental part of the professional growth of many English teachers by building their personal confidence and providing teaching methods and strategies." The CEC has not only withstood the test of time, but it has expanded its original focus to include even more educational opportunities for the community. On the back of this letter, you will see how the CEC incorporated a variety of educational activities like sewing, robotics, organic gardening, and computer courses... while always keeping the focus on introducing English vocabulary and phrases.

Your donations are not only helping to make this project grow, but you are offering Nicaraguans the opportunity to better their lives.

Gracias,



Maureen Shanley
VP CT Quest for Peace

The back of the CEC showing the one room school and the lower space called the Natural Classroom that was created by utilizing a retaining wall and leftover materials so that the CEC could have an additional teaching space.



PO Box 356
Georgetown, CT 06829

www.ctquestforpeace.org



Learning about organic gardening from the bottom up.



Journaling after reading a short story in English.



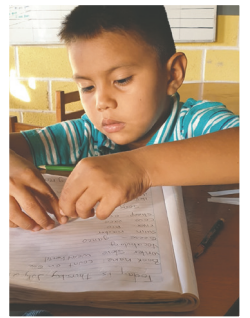
Discovering that the English word for the color ORANGE was also the word for a yummy fruit.



Reading books – windows to the world!



Practicing speaking English in a study group.



Practicing writing English.



Creating art based on a book they just read.



Learning your words for colors in English can be fun too!



Winning prizes in the National Robotics Olympics.