

**IFCLA** works for justice at home and in Latin America focusing on immigration policy reform, fair trade, human rights, environment, and non-violence. Always trying to put a human face on the issues, we aim to accompany our sisters and brothers in mutuality and respect.

### **IMMIGRATION**

- ❖ IFCLA initiated three *Intercambio* sites for language and culture exchange: Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, Carl Kabat Catholic Worker and CAMP (Community Arts and Media Project).
- ❖ IFCLA is an active member of MIRA (Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates).
  - Briefings in Jefferson City
  - Support for National Legislation to reform Immigration Laws
  - Lobbying for state legislation which welcomes immigrants
- ❖ IFCLA participated in thirty-two panels, workshops, and talks at churches, schools, clubs, and community organizations.
- ❖ IFCLA is participating in the Rapid Response Team project for Missouri to respond to workplace raids by ICE. We are seeking individuals and groups to sign the commitment card and leafleting "know your rights" brochures in English and Spanish.
- ❖ IFCLA supports the goals of the statement made by the major religious groups endorsing principles for comprehensive immigration reform:
  - a process for the undocumented to legalize their status,
  - family reunification,
  - a legal avenue for workers to enter the U.S. ,
  - just and humane policies for border protection.

### **ACCOMPANIMENT/IMMERSION**

- ❖ The Ana Manganaro Clinic received the support of \$8000.00 due to a grant from the Loretto Community.
- ❖ The documentary film about Dr. Ann Manganaro's life is in the translating stage.

- ❖ Recent St. Louis University School of Medicine graduates and a pre-med student spent time volunteering in the clinic in May and August.
- ❖ Eight Nerinx Hall students spend a week in Guarjila and San Salvador. They brought scholarships for young women students.
- ❖ IFCLA planned speaking engagements for Jerónimo Osorio Chen and Dr. Conchita Reyes of Guatemala and Jim Fitz of CPT (Christian Peacemaking Teams) in Colombia.

### **INVESTMENT**

- ❖ IFCLA connected with the Interdisciplinary Environmental Law Clinic at Washington University to support grassroots efforts in the Ixcán (Guatemala) to oppose the Xalalá dam project.
- ❖ The effects of NAFTA, CAFTA and the Free Market policies of the US continue to force thousands of poor farmers off their lands adding to the immigration issues.
- ❖ IFCLA is monitoring US influence in the Salvadoran elections.
- ❖ IFCLA continues to support the communities in Chalatenango as they resist the mining and high-way projects proposed for their region.
- ❖ IFCLA spoke with Senator McCaskill about the relationship between the Peru Free Trade Agreement and immigration. She voted against it.
- ❖ IFCLA is working Friends of La Oroya, part of the Helping Hands project of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, to draw attention to the lead contamination of the population by the Doe Run Peru mine.
- ❖ IFCLA supports FAIR TRADE by marketing products from our sister communities. We sell weaving, jewelry, and embroidery at craft fairs and sponsor a night at Plowsharing Crafts each December.

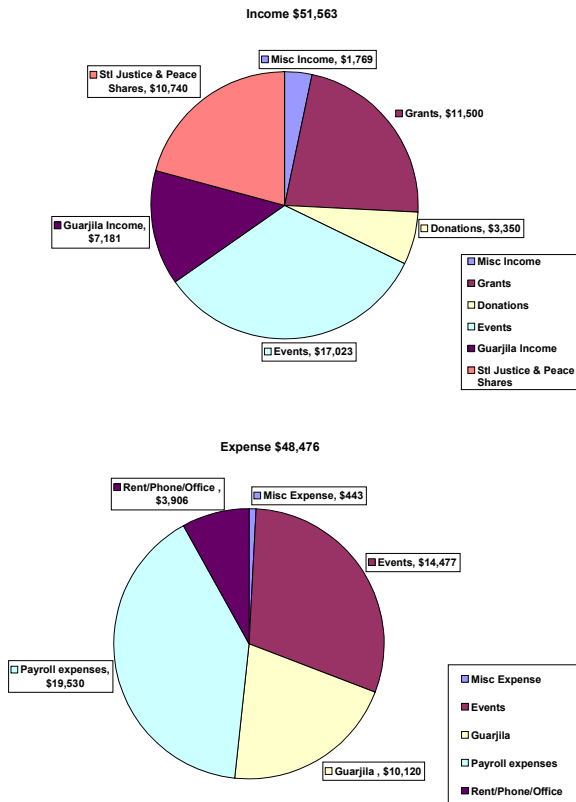
### **INTERVENTION**

- ❖ Tina Busch-Nema reported on her delegation to Colombia with Christian Peacemaking Teams. Tina visited communities seeking justice for miners and resisting violence sponsored by Plan Colombia.
- ❖ The Mérida Initiative will send millions of dollars of military aid to México, threatening the popular movements in Oaxaca and Chiapas.
- ❖ The on-going militarization of the US-Mexico border is a great concern: increased border patrol, electronic sensors and lack of due process. IFCLA connected with Ruben Garcia of Annunciation House to understand the situation.

### **School of the Americas/WHINSEC**

- ❖ IFCLA is active in the national campaign to close the School of the Americas (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Since 1946, graduates have been implicated in and convicted of crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity in many countries of Latin America.
- ❖ This year IFCLA
  - Made presentations at various schools.
  - Published a letter to the editor of the St. Louis Review signed by sixteen religious leaders calling for legislation to close WHINSEC.
  - Initiated a lead article in the St. Louis Beacon about the group going to the vigil this year.
  - Sponsored two busloads of 95 students and activists (Nerinx Hall, Ursuline Academy, St. Louis U High, Chaminade, Cor Jesu, Villa Duchesne, Rosati-Kain, Metro HS, Prince of Peace Academy Clinton, IA, Webster University and Vincentian Volunteers) to the vigil in Fr. Benning, GA.
  - Promoted the Petition to President-elect Obama to close the school by executive order.

## FINANCIAL REPORT January-December 2008



### IFCLA WORK

- ❖ Maintains news, events, alerts and country updates on the webpage: [www.ifcla.net](http://www.ifcla.net) and sends weekly Headlines to keep constituents informed.
- ❖ Mentors interns and volunteers.
- ❖ Provides opportunities for young adults to meet to learn and share experiences in Latin America.

- ❖ Serves as a resource for groups planning immersion experiences in Latin America.
- ❖ Endorses campaigns for environmental justice, workers rights and protection of farmworkers.
- ❖ Meets monthly with Staff Members of JPS groups.
- ❖ Communicates regularly with Senate and Representative offices regarding legislation affecting Latin America.
- ❖ Networks with PLAN (Professional Latino Action Network), IPM (International Partners in Mission) Advisory Council, Friends of La Oroya, and other local peace and justice groups.

### VOLUNTEER/GET INVOLVED/SHARE YOUR GIFTS

- ❖ **Join an Intercambio group.**
- ❖ **Sign on to the Rapid Response Team.**
- ❖ **Translate/transcribe dvds for the Ann Manganaro documentary.**
- ❖ **Find funding sources for JPS and IFCLA.**
- ❖ **Monitor Legislation related to the issues we work with at National/State and Local Level.**
- ❖ **Invite a speaker to speak at your school, congregation, or organization.**
- ❖ **Join delegations to our sister communities and other countries in Latin America.**
- ❖ **Prepare articles for the web page and the newsletter.**
- ❖ **Organize fair trade campaigns in schools, congregations, and neighborhoods.**
- ❖ **Represent IFCLA in local organizations.**

### THANK YOU

We are grateful for those who serve on the Core Committee, help plan events, advocate for justice in their communities, prepare mailings, sell crafts, balance the books, solve computer problems, master the webpage, captain the SOA buses, offer hospitality, interpret for speakers, translate, cook, raise funds, make music, facilitate our visioning, and so many little things. ¡Mil Gracias!

# 2008 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

*Building relationships between  
St. Louis and the people  
of Latin America*



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