



Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad

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CIS organizing during COVID-19: delivering food & hygiene baskets, studying on a cell phone, delivering computers and internet to students



San Salvador, December 2020

Dear Friends,

Season's Greetings from the CIS, wishing you and your families physical and mental health and energy to contribute to building a better world. ***We thank all of you who have continued providing solidarity to the people of El Salvador during the pandemic.*** We are writing with a brief update, our year-end report, and a request for your continued solidarity.

El Salvador has suffered through the pandemic with over 1,000 lives lost, the loss of jobs and income, and material loss from three major storms – Amanda (May 31), a major landslide in Nejapa (October 29), and Eta (November 4). The mental health impact has been difficult: students have been in classes online since March without adequate technology; youth and adults have lost contact with their social circles; and families are enclosed in very small spaces, which has resulted in increased cases of inter-family violence.

The Salvadoran government has been able to reduce the spread of the virus and its consequences and reduce the economic impact. They were not prepared in the beginning – inheriting a run-down national hospital system that virtually collapsed in June and July with patients lying on the floors and the hospitals running out of oxygen tanks. With a strict quarantine put in place, the government was able to gain some time and start to build a new hospital. It was ready in August, is exclusively for COVID-19 patients, and has all the latest infrastructure, technology, and medical training. Since August, the hospital system has been able to respond and give patients first-class treatment with no cost to all Salvadorans. Salvadorans with symptoms of COVID-19 can call a national hotline, vitamins and medicines are delivered, and a follow-up call is made every 24 hours to make sure the patient does not need hospitalization. Salvadorans wear their masks as required in public, and all establishments carry out temperature checks and sanitizing measures.

Most businesses re-opened in August and commercial flights resumed in September. Passengers are required to present a negative COVID-19 test before boarding a plane to El Salvador. Schools are closed until February of 2021, when a partial re-opening is projected. Economically, Salvadorans in need were provided with a \$300 subsidy check, and later all families were provided with two to three large baskets of food by the government and additional supplies by NGOs (including CIS). The Government distributed seeds and fertilizers to farmers

twice. Funds for small and medium businesses were made available with no interest for the first year, and with low interest rates in subsequent years to try to jump start the economy and businesses that had to shut down.

Below are adjustments and highlights of CIS solidarity, empowerment, and transformation work in 2020:

- CIS Scholarship and Leadership development program included **534 students this year!** 107 students graduated: 18 from university and 89 from high school. Twelve are in the graduation process but have been delayed due to the pandemic. We suspended our leadership course and volunteer community projects, but students were able to continue classes online and receive their scholarships. Many students formed part of local health committees and were active leaders in sanitation, tutoring, and supporting younger students as classes moved online. Twenty-four students dropped out, because of economic and technological difficulties related to the pandemic and we hope to re-incorporate them next year.
- CIS distributed 60 new laptop computers, 18 internet subscriptions, 7 antennas, and other accessories in 28 communities so that underprivileged youth would not fall behind in their studies.
- CIS completed the construction of 64 dignified homes in Paso Puente, together with the Salvadoran Government Housing Ministry and Homes from the Heart. **The Government just approved a subsidy for an additional 50 homes in 2021!**
- CIS distributed food, hygiene, and cleaning baskets to over 500 families in need and PPE to municipal sanitization committees in over 50 communities.
- We suspended our School for Solidarity and Social Transformation due to the pandemic, but now that we have internet and computers installed in most of the communities we work in, we plan to develop online courses for 2021 until we are able to meet again safely in person.
- Women in prison: Five women were released from prison due to international solidarity and the coalition to Free the 17. "Las 17" have been falsely accused of abortion. CIS was able to support the released women and others with care packages and 14 gender scholarships. Unfortunately, four dropped out due to extreme poverty and not having internet access during the pandemic.
- CIS delegation program was suspended, and several delegations canceled, weakening people-to-people solidarity. As technology has been installed in the communities, we have been able to facilitate some Zoom meetings between youth scholarship students and sister relationships.
- We converted our English and Spanish language schools completely to online. We now do training for online English teachers, and **you can volunteer to teach English or study Spanish with CIS from anywhere in the world, provided there is an internet connection.**
- **CIS is planning our 14th International Election Observer Mission**, and we need long-term and short-term volunteers. Many traditional meetings will be online, but we will organize community visits and activities outdoors with measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. El Salvador is one of three countries in Latin America deemed safe for travel by international tourism agencies, despite COVID-19. You must have a negative BCR COVID-19 test to board a plane to El Salvador. We invite those who are not at high risk to participate in this small but effective observer mission.

We ask for your support and solidarity:

- **\$75** will provide a family with training, a clean water filter, and buckets that will last 10 years! **We need your support to relaunch our Clean Water and Environment Program.**
- **\$600** will subsidize an international volunteer living in El Salvador or a non-partisan Salvadoran to be an election observer, since we know it will be difficult for most people to travel.
- **We continue to request funds for our COVID-19 Relief Fund**, focused on improving technology for students to be able to have quality studies. \$800 will purchase a computer, \$700 an 18-month internet contract, \$410 an antenna, \$70 a worktable, \$90 a UPS, and \$20 a computer case.
- **\$4,000** will complete a dignified home (any amount welcome).
- **Join the CIS International Election Mission Feb 22 – March 2, 2021 or as a long-term volunteer Jan 3 – Mar 26. Write us for more information at electionmission@cis-elsalvador.org**

We look forward to hearing from you. Blessings and Solidarity,

Leslie Schuld, CIS Director and Los Olivos CIS Representative in El Salvador

CIS Board of Directors: Wilfredo Medrano, Delmy Valencia, Mario Arévalo, Héctor Díaz, Verónica Arévalo, Arnulfo Meléndez, and Cathy Howell.

Los Olivos CIS Board of Directors: Mimi Jordan, Robyn Smith, Gary Ellis, Mary Frances Ross, Sara Mulrooney, Rosemary Biggins, Mike Tork, Susan Mull, Ed Osowski, and Kerm Fendler.

CIS and Los Olivos CIS staff: Bellini Castro, Víctor Andaluz, Vicenta Martínez, Wilmer Erroa, Arturo Severo, Delmy Linarez, Yessenia Flores, Luis Aguillón, Yeny Girón, Josué Duran, Noemi Torres, Iris Hernández, Leonor Huevo, Esmeralda Reyes, and Evelyn Portillo.

CIS 2020 Year End Report * Solidarity during the Pandemic!

PROGRAM: LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

AREA: MELIDA ANAYA MONTES SP ANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS had 17 students in person and 45 students online, for a total of 62 students, from 10 countries: The United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, India, Denmark, Poland, and Austria. We maintained two teachers full-time and four teachers as needed. We opened classes for youth to study online. This marks a significant drop, and we are working on improving promotion to be able to increase online classes; we will partially open to students in person in 2021. We thank institutions who continue to send their volunteers and members to study at the CIS: **Maryknoll Missionaries, Cristosal, Share Foundation, York and New Brunswick Universities, and the Mennonite Central Committee.**

"I have been taking Spanish classes from CIS for several years now, as I am working in El Salvador. I am extremely fortunate to have a brilliant professor of Spanish who not only helps me understand grammar and practice speaking in all grammatical tenses but also who has helped me understand the history of and current situation in El Salvador. This is CIS's special approach since they are strongly involved in social justice and believe that history is important in order to understand and be able to act in the present. I learned about amazing poets and writers and musicians, political and religious figures, and discussed the presidential election, the pandemic and tropical storm, and many other interesting issues. I love this CIS program and I am very blessed to have such a truly amazing professor. I love her dearly."

Randal Joy Thompson, USA. PhD. Institute for Social Innovation Fellow. Fielding Graduate University. Author of *Proleptic Leadership on the Commons: Ushering in a New Global Order.*

AREA: MELIDA ANAYA MONTES ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS English School trained 22 volunteer teachers from the U.S., Canada, El Salvador, and the United Kingdom, who covered 27 classes (some volunteered multiple cycles) to teach English as a Second Language using popular education methodology. Five were from El Salvador, nine from the United States, seven from Canada, and one from the United Kingdom. The teachers taught classes to **138 students** in four 9-week cycles during the year. In the first cycle we had 55 students, and the graduation was the last public activity we had at CIS just days before the quarantine. We transferred all classes online and developed new teacher training skills. It was a slow process, as Salvadorans were not accustomed to receiving classes online, many did not have internet, and many lost their income and could not continue. We are grateful to many former volunteer teachers who donated so students with economic hardship could get a complete scholarship and we could keep the school open. Little by little we grew the internet alumni, from 17 students in the 2nd cycle, to 30 in the 3rd cycle and 36 in the 4th. We plan to continue online and open some in-person classes in 2021. Thanks to agreements with **York and New Brunswick Universities in Canada and the Brethren Volunteer Service**, we could count on core volunteers to prepare a manual, so that CIS can teach to pass the ESL (TOEFL) exams for Salvadoran students and teachers.

We are grateful to the team of 22 long-term volunteers who made this possible: **Jill Stiemsma, Ann Legg, Evelia Sierra, Abhijit Gopal, Evelyn Portillo, Cameron Clark, Ricardo Calderon, Eleanor Millard, Jennifer Suchi Au, C.J. Humes, Alison Janus, James Simmers, Bobbie Laine, Kirsten Gallagher, Naqaa Mohammed, Vithusha Kangatharan, Maria Waheed, Enrique Sigui, Nancy Carlman, Walberto Aviles, Edwin Guevara, and Sarah Briggs.** Now you can volunteer for CIS English School from anywhere in the world! ¡Mil gracias!



DIGNIFIED HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT: Paso Puente Community



together with CIS and Paso Puente Community to build 50 more homes in 2021! The government is completing their promise of installing potable water in each home. This is the first time the government is investing in *urban shanty towns*, the heart of gang activity, inequality, and discrimination. Dignified homes – together with CIS’s scholarship program, women’s empowerment, and government investment – are part of a process of social transformation and inclusion.

AREA: SOCIAL INCLUSION & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Chiuchiarella family has donated school supplies to youth in Romero Community since 2008, giving kids an incentive and hope to look for alternatives to violence and migration, and helping families with scarce economic resources send their kids to school. This is in addition to scholarships provided by **St. Elizabeth’s, Holy Spirit Parish, and CIS donors in the zone.**

AREA: YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SCHOLARSHIPS

CIS works with 20 local Salvadoran scholarship committees, 20 sister organizations and individual donors to fund **535 scholarships. In 2020, 204 youth could go to university, 249 could go to high school, 79 could attend the K-9 levels, and three students took courses in graphic design.**

COVID-19 RESPONSE: Adjustments to Youth Leadership Development and Scholarships

As all classes were moved online, we quickly became aware of the need for technological support so that students did not fall behind. Students with scarce economic resources were taking classes, exams, and writing papers on small mobile phones, often climbing up a hill or going to cow pastures to get a phone signal. CIS surveyed the needs in each community, and with necessary support from solidarity partners and donors we were able to distribute 60 new computers, install 17 internet connections and seven antennas (where internet companies would not go and a signal was viable), and provide solar phone chargers to students without electricity (as well as other accessories).

CIS suspended its traditional student volunteer projects for “giving back” in order to comply with the national quarantine. Still many students organized and participated in sanitation committees in their communities to keep the virus out and keep people healthy. Many students helped neighboring families who had not been able to access a government subsidy of \$300 because of lack of ability to get on the internet and file a form. Scholarship students helped families and shared cell phones so that all youth in their communities could do their homework and not fall behind or drop out. For instance, students on Tasajera Island printed homework assignments for a student living in extreme poverty (without phone or electricity) so he could stay up to date with his studies.

It was also not viable to continue leadership development programs, our annual retreat, or CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation. But with technological capacity now installed in 28 communities, we are designing leadership courses that we can carry out online in 2021 as long as the pandemic lasts, and use as a tool to multiply leadership courses after the pandemic.

This year 107 students will graduate: 18 from University and 89 from high school. Special congratulations to university graduates: **Comasagua** – Melvin Flores Artiga in English Language; **San Pablo Tacachico** – Fatima Violeta Tobias Mojica in Nursing; **Mejicanos** – Andrea Natalia Lara Hernandez in Social Work; **Comunidad Ellacuria** – Erika Johana Ramos Dubon in Agro-industrial Engineering and Anabel Recinos Alvarenga in Judicial Science; **San Pedro Perulapan** – Saul Guadalupe Perez Nieto in Judicial Science; Wendy Carolina Lopez Gonzalez and Mariano Isaac Perez

Mendoza in Business Administration; Martir Celso Guzman Perez in Communications; Eliza Yamileth Perez Cruz and Douglas Emanuel Gonzalez Iraheta in Education with a focus in English; Maria Eunice Martinez Beltran in Tourism Management and Development; **San Antonio del Monte, Suchitoto** – Yeny Concepcion Jiron in Business Administration; **Isla Tasajera** – Tania Lisseth Cruz Gomez in Judicial Science; **Cinquera** - Jhoselyn Guadalupe Rivas Gonzalez and Ana Elsy Cruz, both in Education with an Emphasis on English Language; **Llano Largo, Jutiapa** - Nathali Gabriela Alfaro Rivas in Tourism Management and Development and Katherin Johanna Vasquez in Dairy and Meat Production and Management.

Scholarship beneficiaries during 2020 and their sponsors: *includes K- high school

	<i>Scholarship programs 2020</i>	<i>Thank you solidarity partners!!!</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>High school / k-9</i>
1996	Cinquera	St. Sabina, KC	11	
1998	Comunidad Ellacuría, Chalatenango	Notre Dame Prep School, MD Friends of Ellacuria St. John Fisher Parish, MI	17	19
2001	Estanzuelas	St. Patrick's Church, KC, MO	17	27
2007	Tamanique	Assumption Church, Granger, IA	8	20
2008	San Rafael Cedros	Our Lady of Presentation, KC, MO	14	20
2008	Comasagua	Corpus Christi University Parish, Toledo, OH Resurrection Church, Solon, OH	8	26
2009	San Pedro Perulapán	Foundation for Cultural Exchange, CO	21	9
2010	San Pablo Tacachico – ADEMGUAPE	Pasadena Committee, CA	9	20
2010	Romero Community, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	7	10 / 42 *
2017	Paso Puente, Tonacatepeque	Holy Spirit and St Elizabeth	4	11 / 33 *
2017	Distrito Italia, Tonacatepeque	Holy Spirit, CIS, PazSalud	7	8
2013	Residencial Libertad, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth and CIS scholarship fund	2	2 / 3 *
2011	Isla El Espíritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo	Rainbow of Hope for Children, Canada	13	15
2011	San Francisco de Asís Parish, Mejicanos	St. Peter's Church, KC, MO	6	9
2011	San José Palo Grande, Suchitoto	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	14	12
2011	Artisans– Jaragua, Las Tinecas	REVV Fair Trade, Cleveland, OH	1	1
2013	Isla Tasajera, San Luis la Herradura	First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eugene, OR	10	10
2014	Tehuiste, San Pedro Nonualco	Caminos de Accion	7	4
2015	Llano Largo, Jutiapa	CIS Scholarship Fund	6	3
2016	San Isidro, Cabanas	CIS Scholarship Fund (2 St. Sabina)	7	10
2017	Gender	CIS scholarship fund	7	3
2018	Ita Maura Community San Pablo Tacachico	St. Regis Church, KC, MO	3	10
	At Large: El Congo, Sacacoyo, Soyapango, Cuscatancingo; Los Hoyos, Ilobasco.	CIS scholarship fund: PeaceHealth contributes to medical and nursing students in four of the programs listed above.	5	
	TOTAL: 534		204 +3*	249/ 78

*CIS awarded three scholarships for a 6-month design course at the Jesuit University to: Diana, from Mejicanos, who graduated in Graphic Design; Delmy, the Coordinator of the Indigo and Sewing Cooperative in Comasagua; and Evelyn, coordinator of Jaragua coconut jewelry and CIS Art and Mental Health Program in Distrito Italia.

AREA: SALVADORAN ENTERPRISES FOR WOMEN

Women's businesses suffered or were suspended during the pandemic:

- Three bakeries continued their operations during the pandemic. They had difficulty getting supplies, since public transportation was suspended over three months. But food suppliers were permitted to operate, so the women did house-to-house orders and delivery during a 5-month quarantine.
- Other food businesses – corner stores, sausages, and dairy products – continued during the pandemic. Small corner stores thrived due to the limits on going to grocery stores and the unavailability of public transportation.
- Two sewing and indigo-dyeing cooperatives had to cut back drastically as government contracts for uniforms were not re-instated until July. Sales of indigo-dyed clothing and accessories came to a halt. So, both cooperatives instantly became producers of masks – white cotton with filter material for the local clinics, and indigo-dyed masks mostly for export to the United States. The women's resilience and creativity has paid off! Income generated has helped compensate for lost revenues.
- The Colorado Seamstresses, who sell colorful purses and accessories, came to a halt. Not only were CIS sales, other contracts, and tourism halted completely, but also the mail system in El Salvador was shut down, so we could not even promote orders abroad. The CIS purchased 60 computer cases from Colorado Seamstresses for our COVID-19 relief efforts.

- Indigo cultivating and processing: The two cooperatives that cultivate and produce indigo dye have continued working. However, they've had no or very scarce revenue during this period, as the market for indigo products dried up, and indigo masks use little dye.
- Island Coconut Candy and Tamanique Tropical Ice cream came to a halt. We are working with them to re-activate now that the economy is re-opening. The principal clients of tropical ice cream are school children, but schools are closed until next year, so it will mean developing new clientele.
- The CIS provided a large food basket that included cleaning and hygiene supplies to each of the women in the businesses during COVID-19.
- CIS's plan to work with a new group of women in Paso Puente was thwarted. Many of the women in this area cannot read or write. Most are single mothers. CIS has facilitated a literacy teacher.

CIS Strategies for 2020/2021 to reactivate Women's Enterprises:

- Work with businesses to do an evaluation and make a work plan for 2021.
- Provide training and orientation to promote online sales and establish Facebook pages for businesses that would benefit from this marketing strategy.
- CIS donated a computer and trained three women's businesses so they can do online promotion and have archives for their legal processes and for their accounting.
- Accompany legal processes for businesses: Colorado Seamstresses, Carry Out Sausage (focus on health and hygiene requirements), and Holy Spirit Candy. The businesses on the islands need to do this quickly to be able to take advantage of the government "Surf City" tourism plan on the coast.
- Restart the plan of formation, organization, and training with the women in Paso Puente.
- Make a design and budget and build a storage unit for the Holy Spirit Candy business (required by the Ministry of Health) and graduate the business, which is largely self-sufficient.

AREA: ENVIRONMENT & CLEAN WATER

CIS Clean Water Program worked with seven local water committees. CIS gave training and distributed water filters to 290 families, despite having to suspend the program for seven months and having filters stuck in the United States when flights were suspended. We were not able to install Clean Water for the World Purifiers this year since schools have been closed since March. CIS donated a water filter in the Distrito Italia Clinic to serve hundreds of patients with clean water. CIS thanks *PeaceHealth, Clean Water for the World, University of Toledo Engineering students, Give Safe Water, Visitation Parish, St. John Fisher Parish, and Caminos de Accion, and individual donors*, for their partnership with CIS Clean Water Program in 2020. We thank *Rainbow of Hope for Children Foundation* for their commitment to clean water and water diagnosis in Romero Community.

CIS and the Romero Community donated a plot of land for ANDA, the national water utility, to drill a well that will provide water to families in **Paso Puente, Romero, and surrounding communities**. The project is almost complete, and ANDA is doing the surveying to put in sewage for the same communities.

CIS, along with **Rainbow of Hope for Children Foundation**, purchased land for the community of **Bellos Horizontes**, Comasagua, to have a source of water and drill a well for **205 families** to have clean running water in their homes. Although we had purchased the land several years ago, working out the inheritance rights of the owner's children took some time. This year CIS provided legal support, and we were able to get the land title in the community's name, so they now have water security.

CIS provided tools and implements to develop an organic garden for 25 families in **Valle Nuevo**, Tonacatepeque.

Distribution of Sawyer home water filters:

Distribution by Department and Municipality	Community	# filter 2020	# beneficiaries 2020
LA LIBERTAD			
Comasagua	Bellos Horizontes	30	120
	San Luis Los Ranchos	20	85
CABAÑAS			
San Isidro		20	79
CUSCATLAN			
San Pedro Perulapán		14	70
San Rafael Cedros		20	86
LA PAZ			
San Luis La Herradura	Isla Tasajera	4	12

USULUTAN			
Puerto El Triunfo	Isla El Espiritu Santo	35	120
CHALATENANGO			
Chalatenango	Comunidad Ellacuria	86	350
SAN SALVADOR			
Tonacatepeque	Paso Puente	30	120
	Distrito Italia – Health Clinic	1	100
San Salvador	María Madre de los Pobres	25	90
	Misc.	5	15
TOTAL		290	1,247

AREA: SOLIDARITY CRAFTS

CIS supports 16 artisan workshops which generate income for 75 families. Quality products are available at the CIS and online, including organic coffee, coconut jewelry, jewelry and cards from recycled materials, painted wooden crafts, indigo scarves and clothing, embroidery, purses from hand-woven cloth, and other beautiful handcrafts. *Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we have had few sales. The Post Office suspended international packages (though it's set to resume in December), and delegations have been suspended. We can ship indigo-dyed masks quickly via DHL (since they are so lightweight) to our distributor to reduce postage costs.* They make great gifts and stocking stuffers. info@cis-elsalvador.org

CIS gives artisans the benefit of fair-trade practices – paying higher prices than they receive from the local markets, with payment upfront so they can pay their workers and invest in materials. Most local markets only offer payment on consignment – which requires time and bus fare to collect from sales, and scarce economic resources are tied up in inventory. **Please include a stop at the CIS artisan store when your visits to El Salvador resume, and visit our NEW on-line store anytime! Generating employment and fair trade is a revolutionary act. Salvadorans do not want to migrate but do so when they cannot put food on the table. Your purchases support Salvadoran families to be able to stay in El Salvador.**



AREA: CIS SOLIDARITY DELEGATIONS

CIS hosted four delegations with 32 participants in January and February, and then the pandemic hit, suspending all incoming travel to El Salvador. The CIS had to suspend eight confirmed delegations, including two organized around celebrations for the 40th anniversary of St. Romero and for the four U.S. religious women killed in El Salvador. This has had a big impact on CIS and the communities we serve, as this is the heart of solidarity and walking together, learning from each other, and building a more just world.

We are grateful for the visits of Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Assumption, St. Elizabeth’s, and St. Sabina Parishes, Homes from the Heart, and Norwegian Popular Aid before the pandemic. We hope to reschedule the groups that had to cancel: University of Toledo Engineering Students, Northern Wyoming Community College TRIO Program, Somos Hermanos, Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, and St. Patrick’s Church.

Even as we were trying to get computers and internet capacity to the villages where we work, Evelyn, CIS’s delegation coordinator, was setting up Zoom exchanges between sister relations and Salvadoran scholarship students and communities, to share how each has been affected by and is adjusting to the pandemic. *Our Lady of Presentation, St. Patrick’s Church, Holy Spirit, St. Elizabeth’s, and the First Congregational United Church of Christ were all able to connect to their communities through virtual exchanges.*

Evelyn Ramirez from Distrito Italia reflected on one call, *“We all share this common challenge and difficulties during the pandemic. This experience is helping us unlearn bad behavior that has been brought to light, and we*

have been made more aware of: disregard for the environment, inter-family violence, lack of health and cleanliness measures or options. If we don't change, we have not learned the lesson.”

AREA: CIS 14TH INTERNATIONAL MISSION OF ELECTION OBSERVERS 2021

CIS is going ahead with our international mission of election observers, to observe El Salvador's February 28, 2021 elections of all 262 mayors and municipal councils and all 84 legislative deputies.

We expect a small number of observers, due to the situation, and will include more foreign volunteers and non-partisan Salvadorans in our mission. All passengers flying to El Salvador are required to present a negative BCR COVID-19 test before boarding the plane. El Salvador is one of three Latin American countries deemed safe to travel to during COVID by international tourism agencies. Many of the traditional meetings we hold will be online, and we will interweave visits that can be held outside and take all preventive measures. Masks must always be worn.

We ask those who are not at risk to consider joining the mission or perhaps donating so we can finance a Salvadoran or international volunteer living in El Salvador to observe:

- Observer Mission: February 22 – March 2nd. \$800-\$900 per person for all in-country costs; discounts for people with their own housing.
- Long-term Observers: January 3 – March 26. These observers cover their living expenses but do not pay any program fees. CIS helps set up family stays, if requested.
- A donation of \$600 will cover a scholarship for a Salvadoran or International Volunteer living in El Salvador.

Write us at electionmission@cis-elsalvador.org or visit our website for more info: www.cis-elsalvador.org

PROGRAM: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

AREAS: PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION & FUNDRAISING

Do not forget to “like” us on Facebook – CIS – Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad – if you haven't already! We have over 5,300 likes on Facebook, 327 Twitter and 220 Instagram followers.

Check out our new website built during the pandemic: www.cis-elsalvador.org.

The CIS and Los Olivos CIS employ 16 persons on a permanent basis, including 11 women and five men; 14 are Salvadoran, one from the U.S., and one from Mexico. We give thanks to Cameron Clark for his second year of service with the CIS as a **Brethren Volunteer** collaborating with Clean Water Program, teaching English, and translating scholarship profiles. **Thank you, Cameron and Brethren Volunteer Service!**

¡Gracias!

Please donate generously to CIS solidarity work for social and economic transformation.

Please check one:

Enclosed find my donation of _____ for CIS Clean Water.

Enclosed find my donation of _____ for scholarship fund for Election Observers.

Enclosed find my donation of _____ for COVID-19 Relief.

Enclosed find my donation of _____ for dignified homes in Paso Puente.

My interest is to support the program indicated above, but my donation is unrestricted and may be used for any CIS program, or

My donation is restricted to be used ONLY for the program I have indicated above.

Please note, CIS respects the wishes of its donors and will use your generous gift for the program indicated, but to simplify our accounting, we encourage you to make an unrestricted gift.

Tax deductible donations can be made payable to and mailed to:

Los Olivos CIS (in U.S. dollars)

PO Box 76

Westmont, IL 60559-0076, USA

Debit/credit card donations can be made online:

www.cis-elsalvador.org/donate.html

For more information: Toll free number in U.S.: 1-866-887-2665; El Salvador: ++ 503-2226-5362

www.cis-elsalvador.org; info@cis-elsalvador.org

If you would like to give a gift of stock or IRA distribution or to remember CIS in your will, please call our toll-free number at 1-866-887-2665 and we can work with you to facilitate your generous gift.