



Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad

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San Salvador, December 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays from the CIS!!! Getting through these difficult two years has convinced us more of the importance of solidarity! Even though we have been physically separated, your continued support and connection is empowering and transforming lives. We can see how the CIS programs address the root causes of migration as more and more young people are believing in and building their communities.

As we have always said, the main root causes of the war in El Salvador were the social and economic inequality dating back to the Spanish conquest in 1524 and the lack of democracy and human rights taking root with matanza (massacre) in 1932 and the subsequent installation of a military dictatorship.

With the signing of the Peace Accords in 1992, the government and the FMLN arrived at agreements to guarantee an end to the armed conflict, promote democracy, respect human rights, and reunify the Salvadoran society. Unfortunately, the poverty, social insecurity, and economic inequality were not adequately addressed in the accords nor were there many advances in the subsequent administrations that signed the accords. The biggest investment in the economically marginalized zones was repression. At the same time, the subsequent governments continued with patterns of corruption and were disconnected from the population. As a result, the population resented the abandonment and lack of coherency. Additionally, there were no openings to involve new generations in the political parties or political process.

As a result of the corruption, and a lack of addressing the needs of the population adequately, the 2019 presidential elections were won by a third political force that made an alliance with then candidate Nayib Bukele. After governing for two years without a political party in the Legislative Assembly, President Bukele's new party won an unprecedented victory of 56 of 84 seats in the 2021 Legislative Elections, as well as a great majority of the municipal elections.

In a short time, the government has made important advances to close the gap of social and economic inequality and invested in the most impoverished communities, food baskets, educational tools, and rapid attention to COVID19 health and vaccines has increased its popularity. None-the-less, some sectors from the political parties that lost and civil society are protesting what they see as setbacks in democratic reforms in the Peace Accords such as when the government removed many judges and the attorney general without due process, made attacks on the press and those critical of the government, and the continued lack of transparency. *The government is counting on the idea that the majority of people care more about putting food on the table than democratic processes, which is probably true for the foreseeable future.*

CIS's work to empower youth and develop critical thinking on issues of non-violence, history, gender equality, and the environment and to provide access to education is more important than ever as well as our ongoing transformational community solidarity work for social and economic justice.

Below are highlights of CIS solidarity, empowerment, and transformation work in 2021:

- CIS Scholarship and Leadership development program included **528 students this year!** The number of students dipped slightly (from 534) for the first time in our history due to dropouts mostly due to COVID, and due to migration from Ellacuria Community to the U.S. We plan to recuperate and continue to build based on quality. **87 high school and 18 University CIS Scholarship Students Graduated this year!**
- **CIS expanded its university student dormitories** – This together with CIS scholarships allows for the students who live too far away or can't afford the commute to be able to continue their higher education.
- CIS together with **Pesas y Poder built a weightlifting gym** in Romero Community which is getting kids off the streets, empowering women, and bringing together 5 communities where there is historically distrust due to gang activity. The gym will be inaugurated in January, thanks to the leadership of **Noelle Brigden** and the legacy of **Bob Chaney** from St. Patrick's Church who remembered the visit building homes in the Romero Community as one of the best memories in his life. **Bob Chaney Presente!**
- CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation restarted in June of this year with an **8-month course on gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights with 38 participants.** The school is being led by two former scholarship students who work with NGOs on these issues. We saw the necessity after many students became pregnant during the pandemic and an increased level of interfamily violence, also related to people being confined to small spaces and losing income during COVID.



- CIS and Romero Community organized a **9-month course on Renewable Energy** starting this October. Twenty-eight students are participating. Thanks to Engineer Jose Luis Regalado and Elisa Katan for volunteering their time and knowledge every Sunday.
- **CIS completed 19 dignified homes** and started another 17 in October in Paso Puente, totaling 85 completed and 17 in process with **The Ministry of Housing and Homes from the Heart!**

- **CIS carried out its 14th International Election Observer Mission.**



- We also want to inform you that CIS and El Salvador lost one of our best this year – Wilfredo Medrano – President of CIS Board of Directors. Wilfredo is well known for his work on human rights with Tutela Legal and was the legal representative of the victims of the El Mozote Massacre, where more than 1,000 mostly women and children were assassinated in December 1981, and the U.S. Government was active in its coverup. Justice in the case is still pending. **Wilfredo Medrano Presente!**

We ask for your continued support and solidarity:.

- **\$4,300 will complete a dignified home** after government subsidy and Homes from the Heart contribution. (Any amount welcome).
- **\$600 will cover one session (40 participants) of CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation** (food, transport, coordination, honorarium)
- **\$ Any Amount to CIS General Fund** will contribute to CIS conference room with technology, pay for CIS development work to travel to do outreach to new associates, and organize zoom exchanges.
- **\$75 will provide a family with clean water for 10 years.**
- **We invite you to join the CIS delegation honoring Rutilio Grande** and two catechists who gave their lives working for social justice for the poor in 1977, and the beatification ceremony (official step toward Sainthood) Jan 17 – 24, 2022 (arrival and departure dates). Write us for more information at delegaciones@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: Leslie Schuld, Cathy Howell, Transito Diaz, Hector Diaz, Eliseo Melendez, Evelyn Ramirez, Miriam Merino

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, Leonor Huezco, Esmeralda Reyes, Evelyn Portillo, and Silvia Guzmán.

CIS 2021 Year End Report * Solidarity during the Pandemic!

PROGRAM: LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

AREA: MELIDA ANAYA MONTES SP ANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS had 22 students in person and 53 students online, for a total of 75 students, from 11 countries: The United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Poland, Austria, Netherlands, South Korea, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. We employed six active teachers and have two on standby when needed. We thank the institutions who continue to send their volunteers and members to study at the CIS: *Maryknoll Missionaries, Cristosal, Share Foundation, York University, the Episcopal Church, the German School, Claretians, and the Mennonite Central Committee.*

AREA: MELIDA ANAYA MONTES ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS English School trained 16 volunteer teachers in person and online from the U.S., Canada, El Salvador, the United Kingdom, who covered four cycles (some volunteered multiple cycles) to teach English as a Second Language using popular education methodology. Classes were given in person, online, and a separate Saturday course. The teachers taught classes to **148 students**. Thanks to agreements with **York University in Canada, the Brethren Volunteer Service, and past volunteers** we could count on core of skilled volunteers. A special thanks to **Traci Tarquinio**, founder of the CIS English School (1994) and currently directing an English Institute in Guadalajara for volunteering online.

We are grateful to the team of long-term volunteers who made this possible: *Evelia Sierra, Cameron Clark, Transito Diaz, Edwin Guevera, Eduardo Tobar, Vithusha Kangatharan, Sofia Guzman, Traci Tarquinio, Diana Torres, Pat McNamara, Allison Janus, Katie Crouse, Lesley Valentine, Tamar Vasquez, and Elisabet Eppes.* **Now you can volunteer for CIS English School from anywhere in the world! ¡Mil gracias!**

DIGNIFIED HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT: Paso Puente Community



CIS Completed the construction of 83 dignified homes in Paso Puente Community in since 2019, together with the Salvadoran Ministry of Housing and Homes from the Heart. We are in the process of building 17 more homes due to be completed at the beginning of next year. We also have a goal of building an additional 34 homes in 2022 which will mean every family in Paso Puente will have a dignified home!!! In the process of building homes, we have an integral approach of organizing art and mental health programs, scholarships and leadership development, women's empowerment and enterprise, and building community, so that the families will be able to get out of poverty and transform their reality.

Construction materials, labor costs, and gasoline have all risen drastically mainly due to changes in the supply chain due to COVID, as well as an increase in minimum wage in El Salvador. Our costs to build a home have gone from \$7,500 in 2019, to \$9,800 at the end of 2021. **We ask you to dig deep in your pockets to be able to complete the last 51 homes in this project. The Salvadoran Government and Homes from the Heart are continuing their commitments to the project as well.**

AREA: YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SCHOLARSHIPS



CIS works with 20 local Salvadoran scholarship committees, 20 sister organizations and individual donors to fund **528 scholarships in 2021: 196 university, 236 high school, and 96 K-9.** Universities have remained online during the year and public primary and high schools opened partially in May. The quality of education has suffered, and especially where teachers had no computer or online experience. In the second half of 2020, the CIS dedicated to getting computers and some type of internet connection to all of our programs which facilitated the student's learning process immensely for 2021. **Thank you to all who donated to COVID19 relief technology!!!**

Sandra, CIS first scholarship student in San Pablo Tacachico, single mother, graduated and now teaches at the local school and coordinates CIS program in Ita Maura. Her daughter is studying architecture.

The New Normal: Social Programs and scholarship volunteering during the pandemic

Due to COVID19 measures, students re-oriented their volunteer work in the communities.

- Students continued to oversee CIS Clean Water Program in the communities, organizing workshops, logistics, training, and distribution of filters with CIS Clean Water Promoter.
- With the newly donated computers, students who had computer knowledge organized workshops on computer and internet use for students who did not have experience or access.
- Students tutored students who had fallen behind due to inadequate teaching during COVID19.
- Students in Estanzuelas and Los Tehuistes organized organic gardening projects.

Student Housing

CIS together with Sister Communities and Donors have provided an important service of student housing. Many students cannot travel back and forth from their community to university each day because of distance, expense, and security. **Thank you to those who contributed to acquire a 3rd CIS apartment to open in 2022, and for those who contribute to rented spaces on an ongoing basis!!!**

The CIS scholarship does not cover housing costs for students, and many have been on their own to find relatives or friends to provide housing if they live too far away. As a result, in 2017, CIS purchased its first apartment, and in 2018, another, and *in 2021 we have purchased a third apartment to be ready for 2022 studies as university prepare to re-open their classroom doors.* Even though universities have been online, we had students living in the apartments where they did not have access to reliable internet – which is the case for many since most of our students come from outlying rural villages where internet companies don't go because they cannot make a profit. In addition to these three apartments CIS owns in San Salvador, CIS provides rent for apartments in San Salvador (2), San Miguel, and San Rafael Cedros. San Rafael Cedros started as an office for the scholarship program, but as many students did not have access to internet, they moved in and made it an apartment. **Pre-pandemic, 64 of 200 CIS university scholarship students relied on CIS housing** from San Pedro Perulapán, Suchitoto Palo Grande, Isla Tasajera, Isla El Espíritu Santo, Estanzuelas, Llano Largo, Ita Maura, San Pablo Tacachico, Comasagua, Tamanique, Distrito Italia, Comunidad Ellacuria, Cinquera, and San Rafael Cedros.

Student housing is a learning experience for our scholarship students. They learn to live in community with shared space, rules, and respect. Many Salvadoran males learn to cook and clean for the first time. Students learn to manage expenses and make their scarce resources go farther as they collectively take responsibility for paying water, electricity, and internet bills. They also chip in to buy food and/or bring it from their village to prepare shared meals.

This year 107 students will graduate: 18 from university and 87 from high school. Special congratulations



to university graduates: **Comasagua** – Jessica Romero in Marketing and Abisai Cortez in Public Accounting; **San Pablo Tacachico** Mario Navarrete in Education; **Mejicanos** – Glendi Valiente in Communications; **Comunidad Ellacuria** – Yessica Martinez, Agro Industrial Engineering; **San Pedro Perulapán** – Yenifer Sanchez and David Guzman, both in Industrial Engineering, Saul Prez as Notary and Lawyer; **San Jose Palo Grande, Suchitoto** – Katherine Martinez in Nursing; **Isla Tasajera** – Tania Lisseth Cruz Gomez in Judicial Science; **Cinquera** - Heydi Espinoza in Physical Education and Khaterine Miranda in Nursing; **Tamanique** – Glenda Argueta in English and Vladimir Hernandez in Computer Science; **Romero Community:** Kassandra Carpio in Computer Engineering; **San Rafael Cedros:** Selena Munoz in Education and Harold Aguillón Communications; **PeaceHealth/San Juan Opico:** Iris Hernandez in Business Administration.

CIS Scholarship beneficiaries during 2021 and their sponsors:

	Scholarship programs 2021	Thank you solidarity partners!!!	University	High school /k-9*
1996	Cinquera	St. Sabina, KC	9	
1998	Comunidad Ellacuría, Chalatenango	Notre Dame Prep School, MD The Servants' Entrance Community	15	14
2001	Estanzuelas	St. Patrick's Church, KC, MO	17	26
2007	Tamanique	Assumption Church, Granger, IA	9	19
2008	San Rafael Cedros	Our Lady of Presentation, KC, MO	13	21
2008	Comasagua	Building Solidarity with Salvadorans for a Just Society, CA; Society of Helpers	9	22
2009	San Pedro Perulapán	Foundation for Cultural Exchange, CO	20	8
2010	San Pablo Tacachico	Building Solidarity with Salvadorans for a Just Society, CA	10	13

2010	Romero Community, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	5	14 / 40 *
2017	Paso Puente, Tonacatepeque	Holy Spirit Church, KC and St Elizabeth	2	6/ 50 *
2017	Distrito Italia, Tonacatepeque	Holy Spirit, CIS, PazSalud	6	8 /1*
2013	Residencial Libertad, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth and CIS scholarship fund	2	2 / 5*
2021	Guayacan	Holy Spirit Church, KC, MO		2
2011	Isla El Espíritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo	Rainbow of Hope for Children, Canada	11	14
2011	San Francisco de Asís Parish, Mejicanos	St. Peter's Church, KC, MO	6	9
2011	San José Palo Grande and Suchitoto	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	12	12
2011	Artisans–Jaraagua, Las Tinecas, Jesus Obrero	REVV Fair Trade, Cleveland, OH	3	
2013	Isla Tasajera, San Luis la Herradura	First Congregational Church, UCC, Eugene	9	12
2014	Tehuiste, San Pedro Nonualco	Caminos de Accion	7	4
2015	Llano Largo, Jutiapa	CIS Scholarship Fund	4	7
2016	San Isidro, Cabanas	St. Sabina & CIS Scholarship Fund	11	7
2017	Gender	CIS scholarship fund	7	6
2018	Ita Maura Community San Pablo Tacachico	St. Regis Church, KC, Building Solidarity with Salvadorans for a Just Society, CA	4	10
	Misc. 2 El Congo; 1 Cuscatancingo; 1 Los Hoyos, Ilobasco; 1 San Salvador	CIS scholarship fund	5	
	Total: 528		196	236/96*

AREA: SCHOOL FOR SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: ERNEST REMER JENKINS



CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation named after LOS OLIVOS CIS founder, retired schoolteacher, trade union leader, and Veteran for Peace, Ernest Remer Jenkins, was restarted in July after a one-year rest during the pandemic.

Thirty – eight students from Scholarship programs with studies specializing in health, nursing, social work, psychology, and related areas were chosen for the course on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. CIS saw the need to focus on these difficult but necessary themes after many young women became pregnant during the pandemic including several CIS scholarship students, and there were reported increase in feminicides and interfamily violence

during the pandemic, also including some cases in families of CIS scholarship students.

CIS scholarship graduates from Ellacuria Community with expertise in the area are coordinating the program together with CIS staff, and other experts have been brought in! Themes include family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, Pregnancy in teenagers and infants, Gender and sexuality, Masculinities, Gender and diversity, Human Rights, the right to a life free of violence, and integral sexual education. On segment shared testimony of sexual abuse by religious and other authorities and shared practical information on which institutions can provide support in such cases.



AREA: SALVADORAN ENTERPRISES FOR WOMEN

Women's businesses continue to be hard hit due to the pandemic. They continue to operate, albeit at a much lower level. Some of their means of sales continue to be shut down, such as community and national fairs, church gatherings, schools, soccer games, tourism, sales at CIS, and other venues where they traditionally sold their goods. CIS did development work with **7 businesses this year with 34 women** involved and started training with **two women's groups in formation with a total of 14 women.**

Achievements in 2021 in a continued difficult context include:

- Publicity and marketing workshops and implementation with the Colorado Seamstresses and Sausages to Go. In addition to

designing logos, calling cards, and banners, CIS provided the Colorado Seamstresses with a computer and antenna to link to the internet.

- CIS promoters worked with women in San Pedro Perulapán to organize with the goal of forming a Sausage Business.

- CIS promoters organized basic formation workshops with women from Paso Puente, Distrito Italia, and Romero Community with the goal of forming a sewing and indigo dye textile workshop to complement the indigo cultivation and dye making in Romero Community (Jiquilete Women).
- Legalizing businesses is a rigorous process, that was further delayed with the pandemic. Both the Jiquilete Women and the Colorado Seamstresses continue with these processes.
- Cecibel from Sausages to Go received a scholarship for computer processing and data and has applied to study handling dairy and meat products in 2022, which will enable the business to grow and develop.
- Maritza from the Indigo and Sewing Business, Vivaz, in San Luis Los Ranchos Comasagua, was provided materials to build a house as she and her family who live in extreme poverty were thrown off their land. Martiza has a special child who demands 100% of her attention, so she was not able to work for the past 9 years, and her husband's income barely puts food on the table. The women she worked with from 2005 – 2011 asked for this emergency aid on her behalf.

AREA: ENVIRONMENT & CLEAN WATER



CIS Clean Water Program worked with eight local water committees: Tehuiste Abajo, San Juan Nonualco; El Espino, San Pedro Perulapán; San Rafael Cedros; La Colorada, Isla Tasajera, San Luis La Herradura; Llano Largo, Jutiapa; San Luis Los Ranchos, Comasagua; Isla El Espíritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo; Llano La Hacienda, San Isidro. Thirty-eight trainings were organized on health, hygiene, environment, and filter care and distribution.

CIS trained and distributed water filters to 324 families, benefitting 1,300 individuals. CIS installed one Clean Water for the World Purifier

this year in Llano la Hacienda in San Isidro, Cabañas, benefitting 90 individuals with clean water. Due to schools continuing to be closed and supply chain issues, related to COVID, we were not able to install more this year. CIS had preliminary meetings with the women's cooperative in Comasagua and the School in Comasagua to set up conditions for purifier installation next year and maintained 40 purifiers. CIS thanks ***PeaceHealth, Clean Water for the World, University of Toledo Engineering students, Give Safe Water, The Servants' Entrance Community, and Caminos de Accion, and individual donors***, for their partnership with CIS Clean Water Program in 2021.

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 **153 families in Paso Puente, 65 families Romero, and hundreds of others in surrounding communities.**

A special thanks to Columbian intern, Luna Irene Leon, for accompanying CIS clean water program for three months helping with logistics, workshops, motivational talks, maintenance of purifiers, follow up and reparation of systems. She also adapted sawyer filter instructions in Spanish for local families. Luna became very interested in learning about the program so she can adapt it in her home country of Columbia. She reflected, "the program is very important in the number of families that are reached and the benefit to public health."

Distribution of Sawyer home water filters:

Distribution by Department and Municipality	Community	# Filters 2021	# Beneficiaries 2021
LA LIBERTAD			
San Pablo Tacachico		25	90
CABAÑAS			
Tehutepeque (ADIT Development Assoc.)		50	200
CUSCATLAN			
San Pedro Perulapán		22	102
Suchitoto (Women's Coalition)		64	256
LA PAZ			
San Luis La Herradura	Isla Tasajera	16	64
SAN MIGUEL			

Nuevo Eden de San Juan	RACDES Environmental Ass.	51	204
CHALATENANGO			
Chalatenango	Comunidad Ellacuria	60	240
SAN SALVADOR			
San Salvador	CIS collaborators and staff	36	144
TOTAL		324	1,300

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, jewelry, 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 Salvadoran Post Office suspended international packages and there were few visitors to CIS who could carry packages.* We did pick up on local sales of high quality of organic coffee and started to get some orders to export.

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. 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 you visit El Salvador 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 family’s ability to stay in El Salvador, eliminating one of the root causes of immigration.

AREA: CIS SOLIDARITY DELEGATIONS



CIS delegations remained suspended in 2021 due to COVID. We appreciate the visits from Chicago Religious Leadership Network board member, Margot Worfolk and the Peace Center at Marquette University, volunteers who made the trek to observe El Salvador’s municipal and legislative elections in February, and other individual visits. We are happy to report the first four scheduled delegations in January – April 2022: Rutilio Grande Beatification Delegation (including Our Lady of Presentation and Building Solidarity with Salvadoran for Just Society members), St. Elizabeth’s Church and Holy Spirit Church, University of Toledo and Western Michigan University Engineering Students, and Somos Hermanos!!!

CIS delegation coordinator facilitated several Zoom interchanges throughout the year:

	Activity	Date	# Participants
1.	Exchange with high school Scholarship students San Rafael Cedros and Our Lady of Presentation. (OLP)	Jan	20
2.	Exchange with University Scholarship students San Rafael Cedros and OLP	Jan	20
3.	International Election Observer Mission (in person)	Feb/Mar	40
4.	Exchange with Scholarship students Estanzuelas and St. Patrick’s Church	Mar	25
5.	Meeting with ECHO, Program of Reproductive Health and Sexual Education, University of New Mexico	Mar	4
6.	Celebration of Romero Community Anniversary with Fr. Jerry Warris	Mar	30
7.	Celebration and 4 th Sunday Tithing Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Glen Allen, Va. With CIS director – clean water and housing programs	May	40
8.	Exchange with Scholarship Student San Rafael Cedros and OLP	Jun	20
9.	Presentation of CIS building community and building dignified homes with Living Beatitudes Community, Dayton and CIS Director	Oct	40
10.	Zoom celebration with First Congregational Church UCC, Eugene, OR testimonies from Isla Tasajera Scholarship students	Oct	40
11.	Exchange with Scholarship Students from Suchitoto, San Jose Palo Grande, Romero Community, Paso Puente and St. Elizabeth’s	Oct	40

Please consider joining us for the Rutilio Grande Social Justice delegation January 17 -24, 2022 or schedule a delegation visit in person or online!! All COVID restrictions have been removed to enter El Salvador and currently to enter the U.S. a negative antigen test is required, which is easily available in El Salvador. We encourage sister relationships and CIS supporters to consider a donation to CIS delegation program this year, as we have had no income, and our delegation coordinator has spent the year translating over 500 student profiles, facilitating zoom exchanges, and coordinating the School for Solidarity and Social Transformation for the leadership development of scholarship students.! **Cost for Rutilio Grande delegation \$800 double room; \$900 single. Write us at delegaciones@cis-elsalvador.org for more information.**

AREA: CIS 14TH INTERNATIONAL MISSION OF ELECTION OBSERVERS 2021

CIS organized its 14th international Mission of Election Observers. We recruited foreigners living in El Salvador and bi-lingual CIS scholarship students and collaborators not affiliated with a political party. **Forty observers** covered four municipalities in four departments: San Salvador, San Salvador; San Miguel, San Miguel, Ilobasco, Cabañas, and Santa Tecla, La Libertad. CIS produced a final report with the in-depth observations facilitated by CIS experience and training. The observer mission also met with analysts and experts in themes of elections, migration, political science, women's rights and visited CIS community empowerment projects on the Tasajera Island and Romero Community.

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 5,500 likes on Facebook, 343 Twitter, 20 LinkedIn and 19 Instagram followers.

Check out our new website and online craft store 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 third and final 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.

Thanks to CIS accompaniment, our organization, solidarity relations, empathy and teamwork have strengthened. Our

youth have real opportunities to develop their academic abilities, skills, values of solidarity, and leadership. We are breaking the patterns of violence, stigmatization, and discrimination. Thank you for believing in us! -Evelyn Ramirez, CIS scholarship coordinator Distrito Italia

Please check one:

Enclosed find my donation of _____ for CIS Clean Water.

Enclosed is my donation of _____ for CIS Dignified Housing Fund (Paso Puente)

Enclosed find my donation of _____ School for Solidarity and Social Transformation

Enclosed is my donation of _____ CIS General Fund/Greatest Need

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

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.