

## THE SISTER CITY PROJECT

The Bangor - Carasque sistering relationship is one of 29 Sister Cities formed during El Salvador's civil war. Sister Cities are linked through a national network, US - El Salvador Sister Cities.

Locally, we are a project of PICA, (Peace through Interamerican Community Action), a local organization which works to reclaim democracy and help create global economic justice.

Our purpose is to ally communities across borders in order to promote human rights, economic justice, and community life.

Solidarity travels both ways, from the US to El Salvador and from our Salvadoran brothers and sisters north to us, building trust, communication, dignity, hope, and strength in the struggle for justice.

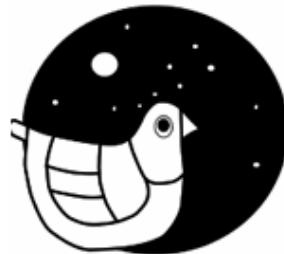
## WE INVITE YOU TO INVITE US...

We're glad to speak with you or your group about the scholarship program. We offer a short slide presentation to give an evocative glimpse of our sister city project.

We're also ready to help with fundraising ideas and techniques for groups that wish to support the scholarship project.

Of course, we're happy to accept individual contributions, as well.

Please be in touch.



**SISTER CITIES  
CIUDADES HERMANAS**

**PEACE THROUGH INTERAMERICAN  
COMMUNITY ACTION (PICA)**

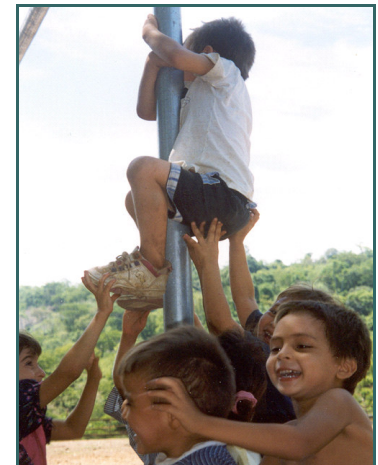
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## THE BANGOR — CARASQUE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**BUILDING YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP**

**PRESERVING ACCESS TO  
EDUCATION**

**SUSTAINING  
COMMUNITY**



**peace through  
interamerican  
community action**

## STRUGGLING FOR EDUCATION: THEN & NOW

During the war against the civilian population in the 1980's, El Salvador's rulers shut down public schools in the countryside.

Abandoned by their government, communities like Carasque developed their own system of "people's education."

If a school were destroyed or the community militarily dispersed, school would go on, even if just under a mango tree.

Now, more than a decade later, children of a community that educated itself up by its bootstraps are ready to attend high school and beyond.

But despite the peace Carasqueños and their neighbors remain targets of malign neglect: the cost of basic services like a high school education is priced out of reach of most poor communities.

## YOUTH AND EDUCATION IN CARASQUE

Carasque nurtures its young people and devotes a generous slice of its meager pie to their development. The village gives its youth great responsibility, and the respect that goes with it. Ten year olds have essential family roles. Fourteen year olds do community construction, fencing, tree planting. Eighteen year olds serve on the town council.

Carasque subsists in a global economy haunted by sweatshop employment, imperiled agriculture and emigrations that bleed their communities. In this world, sending young people to high school means more than individuals obtaining job skills.



For Carasque it means cultivating a corps of energized youth leaders with commitment and capacity to grapple with the problems that face their communities.

## THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Bangor joins its sister city Carasque in preserving and extending Carasque's extraordinary commitment to education and to their youth. Our support for their vision can translate to energized, sustainable communities. Even modest contributions will make critical differences.

Scholarship funds from the Bangor area are distributed jointly, through the civil organization and the parish to which Carasque belongs, to youth from Carasque and its neighboring communities.

The full cost of tuition, living costs and transportation (the high school is two hours by bus in the neighboring city of Chalate) is roughly one hundred dollars for one student for one year.

Scholarship assistance makes possible students' attendance but does not fully cover costs. Students must find ways to contribute part of their expenses. A commitment to continue to live in and work on behalf of their communities is a primary condition of scholarship aid.