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Annual PICA Auction Update-

A BIG Thank You to all who followed the Silent Auction on FB and tuned in to the LIVE event via Zoom on October 30. There were many wonderful items to bid on and bid you did!! The Auction was a wonderful success. We thank all of our local businesses, artists and crafters who again this year donated to our event. We are crossing our fingers that next year we will be able to celebrate once again in person!



PICA's First on-line Holiday Sale-

It is time to turn our attention to our FIRST on line Holiday Sale. The members of the two co-ops in our Sister City of Carasque have been working hard on some items that will make great gifts for family, friends or maybe a little something for yourself! So many choices!! I will be posting pictures on our FB page tomorrow to celebrate Plaid Saturday. I will post the link.

The News from Carasque-

Our latest WhatsApp call on November 13 was lively and informative as always. Life in Carasque is on the move. Their patron saint day occurred at the beginning of October and was joyously celebrated with masses, soccer tournaments, and fiestas including a masquerade.

The rainy season is now ending marking the beginning of dry season (their summer) and the students will be on vacation until the end of January. Due to the availability of testing now, Covid has been diagnosed in the region, but the cases have been mild probably due to the vaccination program recently initiated. Mobile government health units have been visiting Nueva Trinidad for testing and vaccinations.

The news on the national front has not been positive. The social movement has been targeted by the government with bad press and there is fear that they will deny credentials to organizations in the social

movement such CCR(CRIPDES branch in Chalatenango). People attending anti-government demonstrations have been harassed by police, who have been stopping cars, taking ID's and license plate numbers. In response to an increase in the murder rate, police and the military have been deployed. Rumors of a curfew are circulating. And if that is not enough, the local funding of municipalities has been reduced from 6% to 1.5% which will have a very negative impact on community projects. Their fate now lies in the hands of the central government.

We grieve for the state of this country right now with an autocratic president and the rapid eroding of democracy. Our sisters and brothers in Carasque have worked so hard for peace and justice in their lives. They will not take this situation laying down and we will continue to stand with them.

On a recent WhatsApp call the fact that we are entering our 30th year of monthly calls to Carasque was celebrated.