



# Global Village

“Gifts for a better world”

December 2006

## Global Village volunteers visit a coffee farm in Nicaragua

by Tonya Sneed

Coffee is the number two commodity in the world and yet coffee farmers can be counted among the poorest on our planet.

The cruel irony of that fact struck me this summer when I was staying in the home of Segundo Garcia, a coffee farmer from La Corona, Nicaragua.

I was touching poverty in a way that I never had before: Dirt floors, no electricity, Segundo and Sonya's young child, Tony, coughing all night.

Think of that: only oil is more heavily traded than coffee, and the Garcias can't afford prescription medicine.

What was even more alarming is that Segundo is among the lucky ones. When coffee prices plummeted between 2000 and 2004, Segundo was able to hold onto his land. He sells about 25 percent of his organic coffee beans to fair traders through the cooperative Cecocafen, and this enabled him to keep afloat, though barely.

So many others didn't fare as well. We met dozens of the thousands of agricultural workers and their families who were driven off the only land they had ever known when the banks repossessed coffee plantations from hacienda owners.

To make their plight visible, thousands in Nicaragua marched and squatted on land next to major highways. Indeed, millions from around the globe lost their livelihoods, as coffee prices sunk below the cost of production.

Where were the front-page articles in our newspapers about this crisis? Strangely, it seems that it was mostly ignored in this

coffee-obsessed land. Maybe it would have garnered more attention if the price of coffee beans had lowered the price of Folgers for the consumer, but it didn't.



Consequently, the coffee corporations enjoyed record profits during this time of desperation, hunger and intense suffering.

Fair trade isn't perfect – Segundo is still poor – but fair trade provides a living wage and ensures that farmers can keep their land when the market takes a dive. Fair trade operates outside the market because it guarantees a minimum of \$1.26 for a pound of non-organic beans and \$1.41 for organic beans – no matter what the New York Board of Trade says the price should be.

Because of fair trade, Segundo can feed his family and isn't completely dependent on the whims of the market. Things would be much better if Segundo could sell 100 percent of his coffee at a fair trade price but, unfortunately, there isn't a great enough demand.

That's where we, the consumers, can come in, and that's my plea to anyone reading this article: if you aren't already doing so, drink fair trade coffee and encourage your friends and family members to join you. It can make all the difference in the world.

Tonya and Jim Sneed, Global Village volunteers, traveled to Nicaragua in July with Global Exchange and learned about the coffee trade firsthand. You can check out Global Exchange's Reality Tours to a variety of countries at [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org).

## President's Letter...

Dear Friends,

Fair Trade—both the concept and the language—is really catching on!

This year Macy's is selling handwoven baskets from a group of African widows, offering their customers a responsible shopping experience. Even the Big three U.S. automakers, when their leaders met with President Bush recently, asked him to adopt “fair trade” policies to improve their edge when exporting U.S.-made automobiles.

Unlike Ford, GM, Chrysler, and Macy's, we at Global Village are members of the Fair Trade Federation. To us, Fair Trade means a commitment to these principles:

- Cooperative and healthy workplaces
- A fair and living wage
- Environmental sustainability
- Consumer education and public disclosure
- Respect for cultural identity.

We also attempt to use some of our shop's income for direct assistance to self-help projects, such as the reforestation projects in Haiti. Some 55 volunteers and many more members and loyal customers like you have kept us alive and growing this past year.

We appreciate you! Please continue to spread the word, and to look for Fair Trade products in grocery stores and online.

The 2007 National Green Pages Directory has arrived, and is available to peruse in the shop or online at [www.coopamerica.org](http://www.coopamerica.org). We hope to see you in the next months!

Peace and justice,  
Nancy Long

# Global Village announces its “Trees for Haiti” campaign

## Global Village Seeks to Raise \$50,000!

Join us Thursday, Nov. 30, for our slide presentation in the downstairs auditorium at the Peoria Public Library!

Global Village is pleased to announce the launch of Trees for Haiti, a new campaign



to fund reforestation efforts in the Caribbean island nation. Through the gift of an anonymous friend of Haiti, Global Village will be able to match donations up to \$25,000. The campaign extends until December 31, 2007.

## Global Village Board Of Directors

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Haiti is struggling with an epic environmental crisis: extreme deforestation has resulted in catastrophic levels of soil depletion and water shortages. Without immediate intervention, the situation can only worsen.

In fact, ecologists predict that the bitter downward spiral of poverty and environmental degradation will eventually reach the point of no return. Unless this trend is stopped and reversed, the land will no longer be able to support the population.

Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, is ill-equipped to resolve the crisis on its own. The Haitians know what to do, but lack the resources to do it. Depending on how much money is raised, Global Village intends to support the tree planting efforts of the nonprofit organizations Konpay, the Quixote Center and the Lambi Fund.

Our first project will focus on Konpay's partner organization MEPE, “The

Children's Movement for the Protection of the Environment”, based in Cyvadier, Haiti.

In addition to accepting tax-deductible donations, Global Village is also stocking hard-to-find Haitian coffees and authentic

Haitian arts and crafts. All profits from the sale of these items will go to benefit environmental projects in Haiti.

The Trees for Haiti campaign originated with three Global Village board members who traveled

to Haiti last summer. They have prepared a slideshow depicting their meetings with Haitian community leaders, and are available to speak to interested local groups.

The next “Trees for Haiti” slideshow presentations are scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, November 30, Time: 7 p.m. Place: Downstairs in the auditorium of the Peoria Public Library

Date: Thursday, January 18 Time:

7:00 p.m. Place: Forest Park Nature Center

We hope that you'll join us!



## OUR BEST SNEAKER SALE EVER!

Red high-top NoSweat Sneakers are half price (That's only \$21.00) now through December 31. Made in a union factory in Jakarta, Indonesia, these great shoes look at first like Converse (now NIKE). But you'll walk a little lighter knowing the workers who made them had good working conditions.

# World Report on Violence Against Children published

GENEVA (ILO News) - Millions of child labourers and legally employed adolescents face “systemic” violence at their places of work, ranging from physical or verbal abuse to sexual harassment, rape and even murder, according to a new “World Report on Violence Against Children” published on Universal Children’s Day.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), which contributed to the study, called for zero tolerance of violence against the estimated 218 million child labourers and some 100 million adolescents who are legally employed worldwide.

The UN study is the most comprehensive examination of violence against children ever undertaken and is expected to launch a new movement to try and control or halt the practice. Although global figures are unobtainable due to the “hidden” nature of the problem and the difficulties for children to report incidences of violence against them, the ILO found that in some areas, most working children faced some form of violence in the workplace - either verbal, physical or sexual.

“For many child labourers, violence is a terrifying fact of daily life and must be stopped together with child labour”, said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia, in commenting on the UN report. “Worldwide, violence at work is generally on the increase and violence against children and adolescents who work is endemic, and in some cases just ‘part of the job’. This must stop.”

ILO researchers found that violence against working children is often “part of a collective workplace culture of physical brutality, shouting, bad language, and casual violence including sexual harassment, and in extreme cases, even rape or murder”. In addition, the ILO said these children represent the most vulnerable group amid a generalized global increase in violence at the workplace.

The report called for “a policy of zero tolerance of violence against children who are working.”

“Violence against a single child is one instance of violence too many”, said Frans Roselaers, Director of the ILO’s Department of Partnerships and Development Cooperation and member of the editorial board of the UN report. “If we acknowl-

edge this, we can accelerate the present rate of reduction in child labour that has been achieved over the last four years, and make this a world without child labour.”

According to the report, some categories of child and adolescent workers are particularly at risk of violence: domestic workers, youth in the informal economy, children in debt bondage and modern forms of slavery, and those doing hazardous work. The world’s 5.7 million children in forced and bonded labour, including a significant proportion of victims of trafficking, are also at constant risk of violence.

According to the report, children in unsafe working environments are also at constant risk of violence. In 2004, more than 60 percent of the world’s 218 million working children were deemed to be in ‘hazardous’ workplaces such as glass factories, mines, and plantations and other agriculture where health and safety regulations are often lax or non-existent. What’s more, some situations of working children are tantamount to violence by their very nature, including sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings, says the report.

A blatant example of violence against children is the exploitation of children under 18 in prostitution, pornography or sex shops. According to the ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child

Labour (IPEC), a strong political consensus on the elimination of child labour exists worldwide. More than 80 percent of the world’s children now live in countries that have ratified the two key ILO Conventions on child labour. The ILO said enforcement requires workplace regulations, inspectorates, stiff legal sanctions against the employment of under-age workers, and elimination of illegal activities involving children.

The report recommends comprehensive approaches addressing the economic and cultural causes of child labour, the promotion of education and alternative livelihoods, and social mobilization to change attitudes about child labour and violence against children in workplaces. An example for such an approach are the ILO’s ‘Time-Bound Programmes’ (TBPs) to eliminate child labour comprising a package of interventions covering prevention, withdrawal, rehabilitation and future protection. Over 20 countries have adopted such programmes.

IPEC is the most comprehensive global programme dedicated to the elimination of child labour and the largest single operational programme of the ILO. By December 2005, it was operational in 86 countries, with an annual expenditure on technical cooperation projects that reached over \$70 million in 2005.

## GLOBAL VILLAGE Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements September 1, 2005 - August 31, 2006

Cash in Bank, September 1, 2005		\$ 6,789
Sales	\$ 46,510	
Less Cost of Goods Sold	33,741	
Net Sales	\$ 12,769	
Contributions	1,087	
Donated Goods and Services	41,874	
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 55,730	
Donated Goods and Services	\$ 41,874	
Occupancy Expenses	6,150	
Operating Expenses	4,339	
Gifts and Grants	2,669	
Total Cash Disbursements	\$ 55,032	
Net Profit (Loss)		\$ 698
Cash in Bank, August 31, 2006		\$ 7,487

# BE A GIFT!

Donate new personal items for the often-forgotten mentally ill in Peoria group homes. See information in the shop about the wishes of Adams Street Living Center (Human Service Center) residents.

## *Tired of shopping already?*

Give the gift of sharing—a donation in someone's name for Haitian Reforestation. Or the gift of shopping—a gift certificate for use at Global Village! Just ask the volunteer on duty.

## **LIVING/DRIVING WEST OF PEORIA?**

Stop and shop at South Eden Village. Ask for help finding the Global Village booth at South Eden Village, just west of Hanna City in the old school building. A great place to pick up your coffee, chocolate and other gifts!

### **HOLIDAY HOURS**

December 1 - 24 Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday 12-4

## **Calendar of Events...**

**Nov. 30** - Thurs. - Haiti Reforestation talk, Downtown Peoria Public Library, 7 p.m.

**Dec. 1** - Friday - Peoria Heights Christmas Walk, 5-9 p.m. Enjoy Fair Trade treats, music, Santa, trolley ride!

**Dec. 3** - Sunday-sale at UU Church. W. Richwoods. after 10 a.m. service -sale at Westminster Presbyterian Church coffee hour 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via e-mail? contact Sharon at [skrjlar64@yahoo.com](mailto:skrjlar64@yahoo.com) This is a new e-mail address.

Check out our web-site at: [www.globalvillagepeoria.org](http://www.globalvillagepeoria.org)

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