

IFCLA works for justice at home and in Latin America, focusing on immigration policy reform, fair trade, human rights, environment, and non-violence. Always trying to put a human face on the issues, we aim to accompany our sisters and brothers in mutuality and respect. Weekly Headlines and an active webpage (www.ifcla.net) keep our subscribers up to date on news, upcoming events, and action alerts.

IMMIGRATION

- ❖ Partnered with the MICAH program at SLU for *Intercambio* at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish; CAMP (Community Arts and Media Project) is the second site for language and culture exchange.
- ❖ Is represented on the Board of MIRA (Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates).
 - Briefings in Jefferson City
 - Support for National Legislation to reform Immigration Laws
 - Lobbying for state legislation which welcomes immigrants
- ❖ Participates in the Rapid Response Team project for Missouri to respond to workplace raids by ICE.
- ❖ Co-sponsored viewings of the documentary, "Made in L.A." with the producers at SLU, UMSL and Bethel Lutheran Church.
- ❖ Supports the goals of the statement made by the major religious groups endorsing principles for comprehensive immigration reform:
 - a process for the undocumented to legalize their status,
 - family reunification,
 - a legal avenue for workers to enter the U.S. ,
 - just and humane policies for border protection.

ACCOMPANIMENT/IMMERSION

- ❖ The Ana Manganaro Clinic received the support of \$7000.00 due to contributions of family and friends and a grant from the Loretto Community.
- ❖ Three Nerinx Hall students spend a week in Guarjila and San Salvador. They brought scholarships for young women students.

- ❖ Hosted 8 dinners at Latino Restaurants, raising awareness about realities in Cuba, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Brazil, Honduras, and Venezuela and gathering people from the various countries to share experiences.
- ❖ Witness of Peace delegations: Dan Mosby and Kathy Peterson to Cuba on a teachers delegation; Marilyn Lorenz to Colombia to learn about the effects of the FTAs and Virginia Druhe to accompany the resistance in Honduras.

INVESTMENT

- ❖ Co-sponsored a speaking engagement for Charles Shapiro (US Dept of State for Trade) bringing together Hispanic and Anglo business leaders and activists at the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery.
- ❖ Received a grant for a Trade Justice Task Force to promote Fair Trade. This has led to support for the TRADE Act (HR 3021).
- ❖ Had a video-conference with Representative Clay about Free Trade and the TRADE Act.
- ❖ Monitors the murders of leaders of the anti-mining movement in El Salvador. These struggles continue throughout Latin America.
- ❖ Works with Friends of La Oroya, part of the Helping Hands project of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, to draw attention to the lead contamination of the population by the Doe Run Peru mine.
- ❖ Supports FAIR TRADE by marketing products from our sister communities. We sell weaving, twisted spoons, and embroidery at craft fairs and sponsor a night at Plowsharing Crafts each December.

INTERVENTION

- ❖ Planned speaking engagements for Louis Vitale, OMI about terrorism and nonviolence.
- ❖ Responded to the coup d'état in Honduras on June 28 (first in Latin America in 31 years) by keeping our Congressional Reps updated and urging action to return the country to democracy

and to condemn the many human rights abuses by the coup regime.

- ❖ Secured the signing by Rep. Russ Carnahan of a Dear Colleague letter for a new policy in Colombia. Reps. Lacy Clay and Russ Carnahan signed the Dear Colleague to support truly free elections in El Salvador in March. Lobbied for and gained co-sponsorship of bills to end the travel ban to Cuba and to renegotiate NAFTA/CAFTA (TRADE Act).
- ❖ Raised awareness about the seven new U.S. military bases in Colombia and a revived military presence in the region.

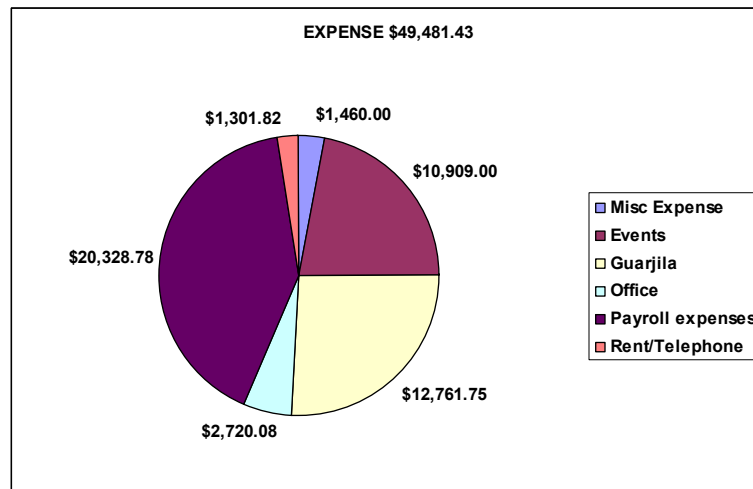
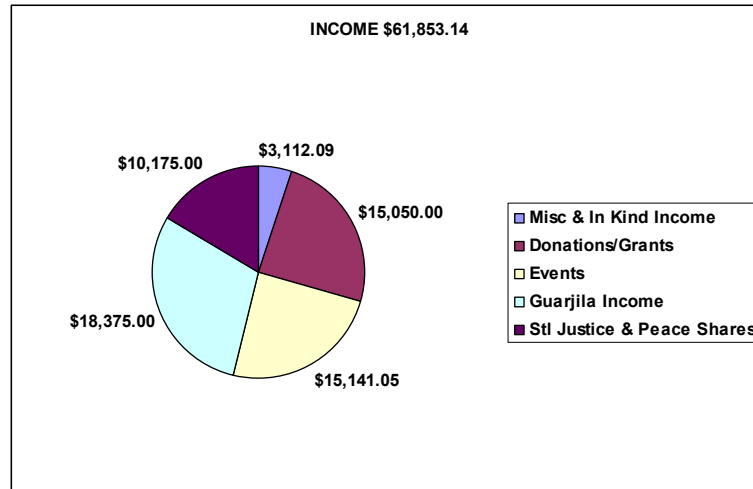
School of the Americas/WHINSEC

- ❖ IFCLA is active in the national campaign to close the School of the Americas (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Since 1946, graduates have been implicated in and convicted of crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity in many countries of Latin America. A bill to demand the names of graduates became law in the summer.
- ❖ This year IFCLA
 - Made presentations at various locations.
 - Secured co-sponsorship by local US Representatives for the new bill (HR 2567) to close the school.
 - Sponsored a bus and arranged housing for students and activists (Nerinx Hall, Villa Duchesne, St. Louis U High, Chaminade, Metro HS, DuBourg, Priory, and Marianist Volunteers) to the vigil in Fr. Benning, GA. DeSmet, Incarnate Word Academy and Catholic Workers also went.
 - Tina Busch-Nema coordinated the puppetistas at the rally and vigil.

SPEAKING IN THE COMMUNITY

- ❖ IFCLA participated in forty-two panels, workshops, and talks at churches, schools, clubs, and community organizations.

FINANCIAL REPORT January-December 2009



THANK YOU

With your help we are in a stronger financial position than the last two years. We need to grow so we can pay a just wage with benefits. We are grateful for those who serve on the Core Committee, help plan events, advocate for justice in their communities. Volunteers prepare mailings, sell crafts, balance the books, solve computer problems, master the webpage, captain the SOA buses, translate, join JPS, facilitate our visioning, and so many little things. ¡Mil Gracias!

IFCLA WORK

- ❖ Maintains news, events, alerts and country updates on the webpage: www.ifcla.net and sends weekly Headlines to keep constituents informed.
- ❖ Mentors interns and volunteers.
- ❖ Provides opportunities for young adults to meet to learn and share experiences in Latin America.
- ❖ Serves as a resource for groups planning immersion experiences in Latin America.
- ❖ Endorses campaigns for environmental justice, workers rights and protection of farmworkers.
- ❖ Meets monthly with Staff Members of JPS groups.
- ❖ Communicates regularly with Senate and Representative offices regarding legislation affecting Latin America.
- ❖ Networks with PLAN (Professional Latino Action Network), IPM (International Partners in Mission) Advisory Council, Friends of La Oroya, and other local peace and justice groups.

VOLUNTEER/GET INVOLVED/SHARE YOUR GIFTS

- ❖ **Join an Intercambio group.**
- ❖ **Join the Detention Watch Network.**
- ❖ **Translate/transcribe dvds for the Ann Manganaro documentary.**
- ❖ **Find funding sources for JPS and IFCLA.**
- ❖ **Monitor Legislation related to the issues we work with at National/State and Local Level.**
- ❖ **Invite a speaker to speak at your school, congregation, or organization.**
- ❖ **Join delegations to our sister communities and other countries in Latin America.**
- ❖ **Prepare articles for the web page and the newsletter.**
- ❖ **Organize fair trade campaigns in schools, congregations, and neighborhoods.**
- ❖ **Represent IFCLA in local organizations.**



ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT 2009

Building relationships between St. Louis and the people of Latin America



St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America
438 N. Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-721-2977
ifcla@ifcla.net
www.ifcla.net