



Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad

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Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays from the CIS! **The CIS is entering into its 30th year of solidarity with the people of El Salvador.** Salvadorans and our international partners have told me that CIS solidarity work has transformed them – by giving meaning to their lives or their mission. Many Salvadorans who are volunteers on CIS scholarship and leadership development committees have told me it is the most important thing they have done in their lives. Salvadorans and internationals have told me the CIS engagement in communities and relationships of mutual respect transformed their arrogance into humility, their prejudices into tolerance and empathy, their individualism into community organization, their low self-esteem into believing in themselves, and their cynicism into faith and hope. A young scholarship student in an at-risk community told me their responsibility is to teach the youth that there is an alternative to violence. Women too timid to speak are now community leaders. One CIS community organizer and scholarship recipient is now an immigrants' rights leader in Washington, DC. **We invite you to be a part of CIS programs and to contribute so we can continue to transform individuals, communities, countries, and the world!**

We are writing to inform you of CIS achievements and challenges this year and to ask for your support. Two areas where we need to do additional fundraising this year-end are to accompany those unjustly arrested under the “**State of Exception,**” which includes the suspension of constitutional rights such as due process, right to defense, and the right to meet. At the same time, we need your support for the “cost of doing business.” Stricter anti-money laundering laws in both the United States and El Salvador are causing increased expenses in audits in the U.S., as well as the hiring of a compliance official to send CIS’s daily economic transactions to the Treasury Ministry of El Salvador.



CIS highlights in 2022 include:

- **23 University Graduates and 80 High School Graduates** in CIS Scholarship and Leadership Development Program. CIS purchased additional housing in San Salvador for University Students.
- **A new Scholarship Program was started in Los Hoyos, Ilobasco.** (We need a solidarity partner.)
- **Built a Community Center in Paso Puente** – being used for scholarship meetings, art and mental health workshops, medical brigades, formation of women’s enterprise, and other community building projects.
- **Completion of 17 dignified homes** and four retainer walls in Paso Puente Community.
- **Strengthened Sister Relationships and Scholarship Programs** with delegations and student visits to Our Lady of Presentation, Holy Spirit, St. Elizabeth, St. Patrick’s, and St. Regis Parishes.
- **51 participants in CIS Schools for Solidarity and Social Transformation** – focused on Human Rights in the Context of the State of Exception. These 51 student leaders are from 17 communities.
- **Accompaniment of 30 families affected by the “State of Exception”.**

The current situation: CIS needs your help to continue solidarity work during this new human-rights crisis. Constitutional rights have been suspended since March 27, 2022 – we are going into our 9th month of the government’s “war on gangs.” While people applaud the arrest of gang members, many innocents have been caught in these dragnet operations. *Dragnet* was a popular tv show in the 1960s about apprehending criminals, but a dragnet is also used for fishing to drag and pick up fish, also snagging anything in the way. Government officials have referred to casting this dragnet knowing many innocents are caught up in it; they say they will let them go if they have no criminal background. Nonetheless, only 800 of over 54,000 arrested to date have been set free, when government sources state that at least 20% have no criminal ties.

The persons set free include those with health conditions, so the government wouldn’t be held responsible for their deaths. A few prisoners have been freed in the middle of the night with no known process or criteria for being let out. And news reports of gang leaders with ties to government officials have also been released.



The CIS continues to focus its efforts to free **22 fishermen from the Holy Spirit Island** who have been unjustly arrested, an island with no gangs and no delinquency, and where the CIS has worked since Hurricane Mitch in 1998. This is not a story from the Bible – even though of the 22 fishermen, five are named Joseph, two are named Jesus, one is Christian, and another Savior, among other biblical names.

The CIS was conceded a special hearing on October 10th for the first five fishermen who were arrested from the Island. The judge in San Miguel stated that she had no proof of criminal

activity, but we had not proven their innocence or ties to the island. We had stacks of sworn statements from community leaders, clients, and family members – for the men who had lived on the island for 40 years or were born there. On top of that, over 30 family members traveled from the Island to the hearing on October 10th, the very day Hurricane Julia hit El Salvador. They braved the dangerously rough ocean in small motorboats. They took back roads to the Judicial Center as the river had washed out the main route. CIS members and lawyer drove hours from San Salvador and had to wait 30 minutes on two occasions as boulders were cleared out of the road. Everything was suspended that day except the judicial system. Only the lawyer was allowed to be present in the hearing with his stacks of written testimonies, while we waited outside. Four of the five fishermen were present only via a virtual screen. The judge needed only to look out the window at humble family members to know the men had family ties. Their children were left at home because of the danger that day. The judge focused on one of many false accusations – we had not proven that they were not providing food to a gang encampment in the mangroves around the island. CIS has asked: If this encampment exists in the mangroves, why has nobody been arrested there? How big is this encampment, that 22 men must provide food? Since the men work all day fishing, as boat taxis or other labor, who is preparing the food?

The CIS is also offering counseling, food baskets, and organizational and legal support to others. Unjust arrests are not the only human-rights violation – though the gravest, since those arrested are automatically given a 6-month provisional sentence and an added six months after that. Those arrested have not had a visit from a lawyer or family member since the time of their arrest. We share with you just two examples of other human-rights violations faced by the CIS community: Authorities visited and ransacked one scholarship student’s home four times. CIS provided refuge for fear of her arrest. Afterward, in a fifth visit to her home, the police handcuffed her mother and put her on her knees. She was given three days to turn in a gang member or face her own arrest and the arrest of her daughter (the CIS scholarship student), which they threatened would ruin her career. Another CIS scholarship home was visited by police at 3 a.m. The father who suffers from cancer was beaten

up. The police took pictures of all the family members and their identity documents. A few days later the gangs came to the same home and threatened to kill the daughter (the CIS scholarship student) if the family did not find a house and a title for gang members. CIS counseling and support helped to protect these families.

So, while there is an illusion of safety, projected by millions of dollars spent on publicity saying how safe El Salvador is now, many Salvadorans with scarce economic resources are living in fear. **While homicide rates are down**, the security, income, and well-being of thousands of poor families – who are not involved in criminal activity! – are being compromised.

How you can help. Visit El Salvador so Salvadorans know they are not alone and to get both sides of the story. Contribute to CIS Emergency fund to help pay legal fees of the unjustly accused during the implementation of these so-called “security” measures. Help us get the human costs of the policy publicized and educate community leaders on Human Rights through CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation. Help spread CIS social media publications.

We ask for a special year-end contribution in the areas listed below and/or for the ongoing solidarity and transformational work you support in El Salvador:

- **Contribute to CIS General Fund/Greatest Need** – to help cover costs of doing business. Additional costs required by law include a \$14,000 audit in the U.S. and \$9,600 to hire a compliance official in El Salvador. **Any amount welcome.**
- **Donate to CIS Emergency fund: \$1,000** will cover legal fees to defend the innocent. **\$100 will cover one participant in CIS School** for Solidarity and Social Transformation focused on Human Rights.
- **\$75 will provide a family with clean water for 8 years.**
- **We invite you to join the CIS delegation honoring St. Romero March 20-27, 2023** (arrival and departure dates) to continue building Romero’s legacy of social and economic justice. 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 staff: Bellini Castro, Víctor Andaluz, Vicenta Martínez, Wilmer Erroa, Maribel Guzman, Arturo Severo, Delmy Linarez, Yessenia Flores, Luis Aguillón, Yeny Girón, Josué Duran, Noemi Torres, Leonor Huezo, Magali Velasco, Evelyn Portillo, and Silvia Guzmán.

CIS 2022 Year End Report * Solidarity during the suspension of constitutional rights! **PROGRAM: LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL-CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**



AREA: SPANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS taught 45 students in person and 45 students online, for a total of 90 students, from 8 countries: the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, South Korea, Denmark, Hungary, and Turkey. We employed eight active teachers and have two on standby when needed. CIS trained two scholarship students to teach Spanish as a second language. 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, the Mennonite Central Committee, and Korean Cooperation (KOICA).**

AREA: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CIS English School trained **17 volunteer English teachers** in person and online from the United States, Canada, El Salvador, United Kingdom, and India, who covered four cycles (some volunteered multiple cycles) to teach English as a Second Language, using popular education methodology to **98 students**. The CIS gave

complete Scholarships to study English to three CIS employees and three women who were released from prison and 18 half-scholarships to persons with economic hardships.

We are grateful to the team of long-term volunteers who made this possible: *Evelia Sierra, Tamar Vasquez, Liam Cummins, Jocelyn Mercado, Jeremy Garcia, Calvin Cullitan, Cathy Howell, Fatima Salguero, Sofia Guzman, Jeremiah Coey, Peter Baum, Carlos Iraheta, Elina Rodriguez, Steven Boyer, Justin Weidman, and Abhijit Gopal.* Now you can volunteer for CIS English School from anywhere in the world! ¡Mil gracias!

AREA: COMMUNITY BUILDING AND DIGNIFIED HOUSING: Paso Puente and Romero Community
CIS Completed 100 dignified homes in Paso Puente Community since 2019, together with the Salvadoran Ministry of Housing and Homes from the Heart. We completed 17 homes and four retainer walls in 2022. There are three additional retainer walls and 34 homes to be built pending approval of the subsidy from the Ministry of Housing. 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. Our costs to build a home is now \$10,000 and the government subsidy remains at \$3,500. **We ask you to continue to contribute to building homes and community as we prepare to continue building in 2023.**

The Elba Celina Gymnasium was inaugurated in January in Romero Community. We had to temporarily close the gym due to the state of exception. Currently, only women are participating who can provide a police and criminal clearance to prevent repression or arrests in the community. Additionally, the security perimeter around Romero Community was rebuilt due to damage from excess rains and flooding.

AREA: YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SCHOLARSHIPS

CIS works with 20 local Salvadoran scholarship committees, 20 sister organizations, and individual donors to fund **554 scholarships in 2022: 208 university, 232 high school, and 114 K-9.** Universities and high school remain partially online and in person. The quality of education has suffered, and fewer are passing the university entrance exam. CIS has continued to add on to technological investments made during COVID with printers and additional computers, where needed.

CIS Scholarship beneficiaries during 2022 and their sponsors:

**includes K- high school ** Post graduate program*

	Scholarship programs 2022	Thank you solidarity partners!!!	<i>University</i>	<i>High school /k-9</i>
1996	Cinquera	St. Sabina, KC, MO	10	
1998	Comunidad Ellacuría, Chalatenango	The Servants' Entrance Community, Notre Dame Prep School, MD, Tom Dueppen Memorial Fund	12	9
2001	Estanzuelas	St. Patrick's Church, KC, MO	17	27
2007	Tamanique	Assumption Church, Granger, IA	13	24
2008	San Rafael Cedros	Our Lady of Presentation, KC, MO	14	20
2008	Comasagua	Resurrection Church, Solon, OH, University of Toledo, OH, PazSalud	7	27
2009	San Pedro Perulapán	Foundation for Cultural Exchange, CO	19	8
2010	San Pablo Tacachico	Building Solidarity with Salvadorans for a Just Society, California; Society of Helpers	12	14/6*
2010	Romero Community, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	4	11/ 41 *
2017	Paso Puente, Tonacatepeque	Holy Spirit and St Elizabeth, KC, MO	1	6/ 63 *
2017	Distrito Italia, Tonacatepeque	Holy Spirit, CIS, PazSalud	8	9
2013	Residencial Libertad, Tonacatepeque	St. Elizabeth and CIS scholarship fund	1	3 / 4*
2021	Guayacan	Holy Spirit Parish, KC, MO	1	1
2011	Isla El Espíritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo	Rainbow of Hope for Children, Canada	11	5
2011	San Francisco de Asís Parish, Mejicanos	St. Peter's Church, KC, MO	7	8
2011	San José Palo Grande and Suchitoto	St. Elizabeth's Parish, KC, MO	11	11
2011	Artisans– Jaragua, Las Tinecas	REVVY Fair Trade, Cleveland, OH	2	
2013	Isla Tasajera, San Luis la Herradura	First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eugene, OR	9	8
2014	Tehuiste, San Pedro Nonualco	Caminos de Accion	6	7
2015	Llano Largo, Jutiapa	Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; CIS Scholarship Fund	4	12
2016	San Isidro, Cabanas	St. Sabina & Don Clausen Memorial Fund	14	6

2017	Gender	CIS scholarship fund	11	2
2018	Ita Maura, San Pablo Tacachico	St. Regis Church	6	9
2022	Los Hoyos Ilobasco	CIS Scholarship Fund	1	5
2022	Masters Program	CIS Scholarship Fund	4 **	
	At Large; -El Congo,, Santa Tomas	CIS scholarship Fund; Society of Helpers	3	
	554 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS		208	232/114*

A State of Exceptions becomes the New Normal: Scholarship Volunteer Programs

The State of Exception must be renewed every 30 days according to the constitution. After six months of renewal, the Legislative Assembly removed the prohibition of meetings. Still, in at-risk communities CIS has suspended many activities so as not to put youth at risk of arrest, and we continue volunteer programs:

- **Environmental Project:** Youth coordinated actions and workshops about waste treatment, recycling, planting trees, and Clean-up Campaigns. The youth also coordinate with CIS Clean Water promoter to organize workshops and the distribution of water filters and purifiers and do follow-up.
- **Educational and Tutoring Project:** Scholarship recipients support children and youth with learning difficulties due to low levels of formal education in the household and other reasons. They organize dynamics and role plays to build confidence and mutual support. The area also helps students with difficulties in abilities or access to technology.
- **Art and Mental Health Therapy** support was done on an individual basis, leaving supplies and instructions during the 6-month suspension of meetings.

Student Housing

CIS together with Sister Communities and Donors have provided housing in addition to scholarships. Many students cannot travel back and forth from their community to university because of distance, expense, and security. **Thank you to those who contributed to acquire a 4th CIS apartment to open in 2023, and for those who contribute to rented space!!!**

The CIS scholarship does not cover housing costs for students, and many try to find relatives or friends to provide housing if they live too far away. As a result, in 2017 CIS purchased its first apartment, then two more in 2018 and 2021, and *in 2022 we purchased a fourth apartment to be ready for 2023 studies*. In addition to the four apartments CIS owns in San Salvador, CIS provides rent for apartments in San Salvador, San Miguel, and San Rafael Cedros. **Scholarship students** 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 **rely on CIS housing**.

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.



This year 103 students will graduate: 23 from university and 80 from high school. Special congratulations to university graduates! **Comasagua:** Karla Cines and Merelyn Interiano, Nursing; Brenda Valladares, Technical degree in Health; **San Pablo Tacachico:** Magali Alas, Nursing; **Mejicanos:** Bryan Funes, Law; **Comunidad Ellacuria:** Denis Hernandez, Education and English; Yamileth Guardado, Marketing; Estela del Carmen Membreno, Nutrition; **San Pedro Perulapán:** Diana Gonzales, Nursing; **San Jose Palo Grande and Suchitoto:** Ernesto Henriquez, International Relations; Arnulfo Melendez, Public Accounting; **Isla Tasajera:** Noemi Cruz, Nursing; **Tonacatepeque:** Soreida Gutierrez, Psychology (Res. Libertad), and Aracely Sandoval, Gastronomy (Distrito Italia); **San Rafael Cedros:** Geovanny Flores, Architecture and Urbanization Engineer; Sandy Sifontes, Social Work; Jose Luis Herrera, Tourism Management; **Isla El Espíritu Santo:** Saul Ignacio (Nacho) Guzman, Doctor of Medicine; Leslie Reinoza, Psychology; **Estanzuelas:** Daniela Garcia and Lucia Rivas, Nursing; **Llano Largo, Jutiapa:** Danela Orellana, Tourism Management; **El Congo:** Manuel Antonio Castillo, Technical Marketing.

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

CIS School for Solidarity and Social Transformation focused on a six-month course on Human Rights in the context of the state of exception. Fifty-one students participated with many who are majoring in law, social work,

and psychology. Student leaders are learning to orient their communities with the tools to defend human rights, prevent unjust arrests, support people impacted, and continue community building during the suspension of constitutional rights. Also, the School examines the root causes and patterns of violence and machismo repeated by the gangs, authorities, and throughout the culture.

AREA: SALVADORAN ENTERPRISES FOR WOMEN

CIS accompanied seven women's businesses with 23 women actively employed in 2022: Las Delicias Bakery in Llano Largo, Sausage to Go in Los Hoyos, Divine Child Bakery in Los Hoyos, Holy Spirit Sweets in the Isla El Espiritu Santo, Colorada Seamstresses on the Isla Tasajera, Pacific Ice Cream in Tamanique, and Indigo Women in Romero Community.

Additionally, CIS is working with 16 women in starting two new businesses: El Espino Sausages, and women in Paso Puente in sewing and indigo dying. The Sausage business has received training, purchased initial equipment, and are currently developing a business plan. The group of women in Paso Puente is still in its developmental stages.

AREA: ENVIRONMENT & CLEAN WATER

CIS Clean Water Program worked with nine 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 Espiritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo; Los Hoyos, Ilobasco, and Llano La Hacienda, San Isidro. Forty meetings and trainings were organized on health, hygiene, environment, and filter care and distribution.

CIS trained and distributed water filters to 271 families, benefitting 1,088 individuals. CIS installed one Clean Water for the World Purifier this year in Centro Escolar Cerro Colorado, San Rafael Ceros, Cuscatlán, benefitting 213 individuals with clean water. Due to import-export issues, we have not been able to receive more purifiers this year. CIS thanks *PeaceHealth, Clean Water for the World, University of Toledo Engineering students, The Servants' Entrance Community, Caminos de Accion, and individual donors*, for their partnership with CIS Clean Water Program in 2022.

In May, **Bello Horizontes Community in Comasagua** organized to put potable water in community homes where CIS and Rainbow of Hope for Children previously had purchased and legalized land where the water source is. CIS purchased the materials, and the Community put in the volunteer labor. Later some of the piping was damaged by Hurricane Julia in October, but CIS and the Community worked together to repair things quickly.

Distribution of Sawyer home water filters:

Distribution by Department and Municipality	Community	# Filters 2022	# Beneficiaries 2022
LA LIBERTAD			
San Pablo Tacachico	Ita Maura	42	168
Comasagua	Zacatales	15	61
	San Luis Los Ranchos	15	59
	San Antonio	16	60
	Casique	23	92
Tamanique	Sunzal	16	64
CABAÑAS			
Jutiapa	Llano Largo	34	136
Ilobasco	Los Hoyos	8	33
CUSCATLAN			
San Pedro Perulapán	El Espino	8	35
Suchitoto (Women's Coalition)		10	41
San Rafael Cedros		36	146
LA PAZ			
San Juan Nonualco	Tehuiste	11	45
CHALATENANGO			
Chalatenango	Comunidad Ellacuria	21	84
USULTUAN			
Estanzuelas		16	64
TOTAL	11	271	1,088

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.

CIS gives artisans the benefit of fair-trade practices – paying higher prices than they receive from the local markets, with payment upfront. 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 families' ability to stay in El Salvador, eliminating one of the root causes of immigration.

AREA: DELEGATIONS



CIS delegation program was reopened slowly but surely in 2022, and we received invitations to visit Sister Communities in the United States! “We are delighted to receive delegations on our Island. It is an opportunity to share our history and our current reality. Sometimes we carry out a social project during the visit and work as a team. For instance, we installed water pipes so the school children could have access to potable water. Other times, we visit homes to see the conditions and progress of scholarship recipients – and build relationships.

I see our work as ants – we organize and work quietly together to achieve a common goal and, in this process, build lifelong friendships and transform our communities.” – Rene Sosa, Isla Tasajera

2022 Delegations and exchanges (to El Salvador, to the U.S. and virtual):

	Delegation	#	Mission and Visits	Date
1.	Building Solidarity with Salvadorans for a Just Society, CA; Our Lady of Presentation; Miami Univ. students	5	Beatification of Rutilio Grande; Visit to Scholarship Students in San Pablo Tacachico & San Rafael Cedros	Jan
2.	St. Elizabeth and Holy Spirit Parishes	13	Scholarships and Leadership Development in Romero Community, Paso Puente, Distrito Italia, San Jose Palo Grande, and Suchitoto	Feb
3.	Somos Hermanos	6	Education & health for future medical students; Environmental Project on Isla Tasajera for Earth Day.	Apr
4.	Visit to U.S. Building Solidarity with Salvadorans for a Just Society, CA	1	Promotion of San Pablo Tacachico Scholarship and Leadership Development (30 people present)	Apr
5.	St Patrick's Church	4	Scholarship students in Estanzuelas. Holy Spirit Island in solidarity with those impacted by State of Exception	Jun
6.	Latin American Reality, UNIFESP, Brazil	3	Exchange with youth in Romero community on the State of Exception and CIS programs to overcome violence	Jul
7.	Virtual Exchange: St. Elizabeth School and Poma Catholic School	7	Strategize to strengthen communication and school-to-school relationship	Jul
8.	Visit to U.S. Cleveland Interreligious Task Force on Central America	1	CIS Director gave an update on the State of Exception and its impact (60 people present)	Aug
9.	Visit to Living Beatitudes Community, Dayton, OH	1	CIS Director gave an update on contributions to Dignified Homes Project (40 people present)	Aug

10	Visit to Dayton Solidarity Community	1	Update and fundraising for Victims of Human Rights Violations (30 people present)	Aug
11	Virtual Exchange: St. Patrick's Church & students from Estanzuelas	10	Impact of the Scholarship and Leadership Development Program in Estanzuelas.	Aug
12	Visit to Our Lady of Presentation – San Rafael Cedros students	3	Promote Scholarship and Leadership Development Program. Building solidarity	Sept.
13	Andrea Barron, Human Rights and Women's Rights Activist	1	Women imprisoned for obstetric emergencies and the impact of absolute prohibition of abortion.	Oct.
14	Visit to Holy Spirit and St. Elizabeth - Tonacatepeque & Suchitoto students	7	Promotion of Scholarship and Leadership Development Program and building sister relations	Oct. Nov.
15	North Carolina Methodist Church Delegation	5	Spanish & Cultural Immersion Program; Volunteer projects in Romero Community and Isla Espiritu Santo	Nov.
16	Virtual Exchange: IRTF Annual Event in Commemoration of U.S. Church women in El Salvador	90	CIS director, along with Abraham Abrego de CRISTOSAL and Marta Perez de La Isla El Espiritu Santo, presented on the State of Exception	Nov.
	TOTALS: 7 delegations El Salvador 5 delegations to the U.S. 3 virtual exchanges		37 people 14 people 107 people	

"I have a profound appreciation and love for the people who visit us. Each visit brings lifelong lessons. The visit itself brings giant opportunities to learn and to be humble, whether we are rich or poor or speak different languages." – Gregoria Acevedo, Romero Community

Please consider joining us for the St. Romero Social Justice delegation March 20 -27, 2023, or schedule a delegation visit in person or online!! **Cost for St. Romero delegation - \$800 double room; \$900 single. Write us at delegaciones@cis-elsalvador.org for more information.**

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 5,900 followers on Facebook, and 374 Twitter, 43 LinkedIn, and 84 Instagram followers. Thanks to all CIS volunteers, including: Cendy Vasquez for helping elaborate a new online artisan catalog and other great promotional materials, Calvin Cullitan and Zara Holden for contributing to strengthening the Clean Water Program, and Rip McManus, Jeremy Garcia, Angela Smith, Kathy Bougher, Tina Courtright, Leah Solheim, Cathy Howell, and Nora Canales for helping translate student profiles.

Check out our website and online craft store: www.cis-elsalvador.org

The CIS and Los Olivos CIS employ 17 persons on a permanent basis, including 12 women and 5 men; 14 are Salvadoran, one from the U.S., and one from Mexico.

¡Gracias!

Please donate generously to CIS solidarity work for transformation and human rights.

Please check one:

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

___ Enclosed find my donation of _____ for Clean Water. \$75 provides a family clean water for 8 years.

___ Enclosed find my donation of _____ for CIS Emergency Human Rights Fund.

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. Check the box below ONLY if you are restricting your gift:

___ My donation is restricted to be used for the program I have indicated above.

Tax deductible donations (in U.S. dollars) can be made payable to and mailed to:

Los Olivos CIS /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.