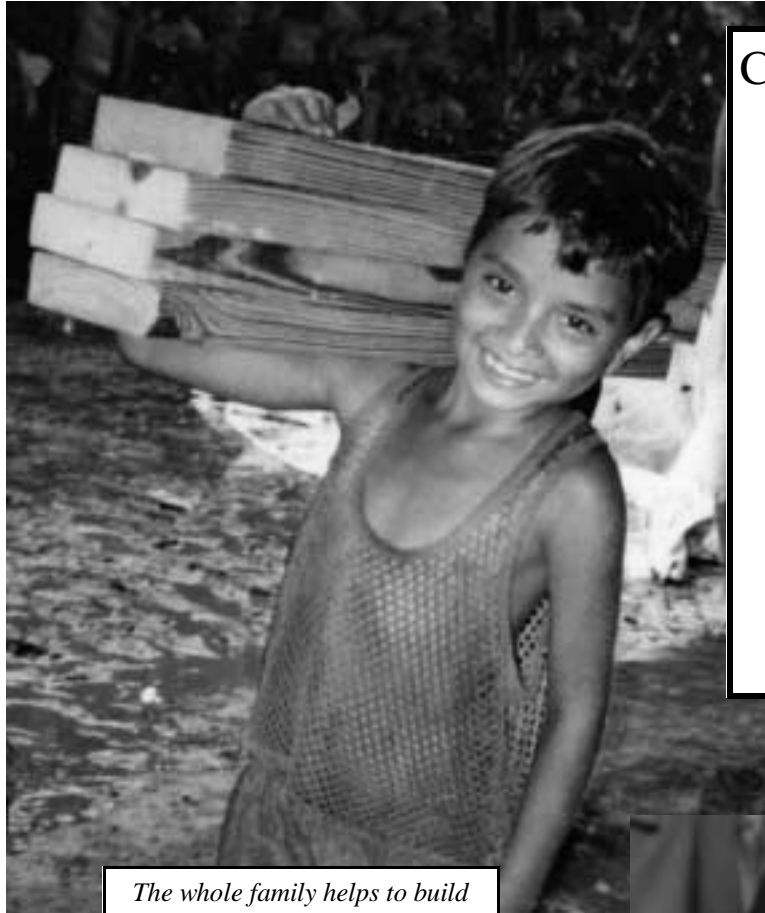




ANNUAL REPORT 2001

# FOUNDATION FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN CENTRAL AMERICA ANNUAL REPORT 2001



*The whole family helps to build  
their new home.*

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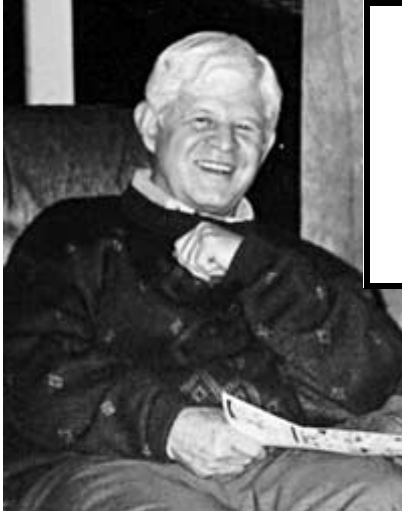
## MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America (FSSCA) works in partnership and solidarity with poor communities in Central America to achieve environmental sustainability, economic self-sufficiency, social justice, and peace. We assist in providing the financial, technical, and moral support needed for these communities to carry out their plans. The vision, organization, and implementation of the projects we support come directly from the communities with whom we work.



## STATEMENT OF VALUES

- We respect the dignity of each person.
- We are committed to social justice, non-violence, and peace.
- We are committed to environmentally sensitive ways to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- We place the highest priority on projects that can be sustained over the long-term.
- We encourage diversity and inclusiveness in our partners, our leaders, our board members, and all with whom we work.
- We require accountability and responsibility from ourselves and the communities with whom we work.



## REBUILDING THE VALLEY OF THE HAMMOCKS

The original indigenous Pipil people of El Salvador, descendants of Mayas, called their land *Cuscatlán*, “the valley of the hammocks.” The name fits: the land is always moving. Once every 15 years or so, a big earthquake, then thousands of tremors, shake the country. The year 2001 reminded us of this in a big way with two major quakes and more than 12,500 tremors.

Thanks to the speed of modern communications, the world learned almost immediately of the loss of 1,100 human lives and the loss of \$4 billion in homes, buildings, and infrastructure. Every Salvadoran has felt the emotional and economic impact. Some people have very few possibilities to recover, particularly if they are isolated due to their lack of organization.

Solidarity is one of the most important values in the 86 organized communities that make up the Coordinadora. This solidarity manifests itself on two levels: the internal, with communities supporting one another, and the external, with international support. The generous and rapid response of many individuals and organizations allowed the Coordinadora’s communities to immediately attend to emergency needs. Ongoing support for the FSSCA allowed us to attract and coordinate donations from major institutions to address long-term recovery like home building for families left homeless by the quakes. By the end of the year, more than 200 families were living in new earthquake resistant homes, with many more under construction by the Coordinadora’s new permanent Housing Program.

Although earthquake recovery kept the Coordinadora very busy last year, progress continues in its regular programs.

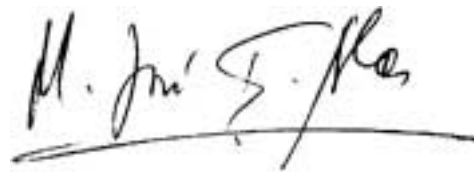
*(Continued on next page)*

Gregorio Ventura, a father of four from Babilonia, has more than proved the value of diversified organic farming. With his six acres of plantain, coconut, and vegetables he now earns as much as \$500 per week, a small fortune in El Salvador! A low-tech irrigation system he purchased with a loan from the Coordinadora allows him to grow year-round. The training he received in the Sustainable Agriculture School has given him the skills and confidence to use this new agricultural model and train his neighbors to do the same.

Carmen Argueta, a mother from Amando Lopez, is helping to bring peace, organization, and constructive problem solving to several communities in her area. As an active member of the Culture of Peace Team, she engages youths and community leaders to openly discuss then face community problems. The conflict transformation skills she has learned during the last two years have served her well; her soft voice and way of phrasing questions build trust and encourage people to participate fully.

International support, combined with the commitment and skills of people like Carmen Argueta and Gregorio Ventura, are rebuilding the Valley of the Hammocks. Thanks to you, the Coordinadora's communities are not just rebuilding, but they are building a better tomorrow for their children.

In their name, as we say in El Salvador, *Que Dios se lo pague* (May God repay you). And remember, the struggle continues!



Jose I. Alas  
President & Executive Director



## PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

### *The Coordinadora del Bajo Lempa y Bahía de Jiquilisco*

The Coordinadora is a grassroots movement in El Salvador representing approximately 35,000 low-income rural farmers and fishers. This democratic, representative organization works to provide long-term solutions to the problems that its members face. It includes, for example, former FMLN guerrillas, former members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, women, Catholics, and evangelicals. Beneficiaries directly participate in project design and implementation.

The Coordinadora matured significantly, becoming a stronger, and more efficient institution in 2001. It took the first steps towards economic self-sufficiency as an institution through the sale of sesame and beans. The plant nursery also began producing income which will eventually allow the institution to eliminate its dependency on international assistance for survival.

### *Culture of Peace*

The Culture of Peace Team has made great strides. Dialog and Reflection Circles empower community leaders and organizations to recognize and confront conflicts. Ongoing work with women's and youth groups has increased their participation in community life and builds their leadership. Support from the US Institute of Peace and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation have provided crucial support to this program.

### *Disaster Relief Shelter & Dormitory*

Adjacent to their office in Ciudad Romero, the Coordinadora has completed the construction of its Disaster Relief Shelter & Dormitory. This structure will provide refuge for families in times of emergency, particularly floods down river.

During calmer times, the 48 beds make it an ideal facility to host a variety of activities, including the Coordinadora's General Assembly and other multi-day meetings, international delegations, and volunteers.



*Above* Luis Ramos addresses the Coordinadora's General Assembly.

*Left* Yanira Leiva and Salvador Rodriguez, two key members of the Culture of Peace Team.

*Below* The Coordinadora's Disaster Relief Shelter & Dormitory.



# THE EARTHQUAKES

On Saturday, January 13, a 7.69 earthquake hit just south off the coast of the Costa del Sol (La Paz and Usulután departments) in the Pacific Ocean. More than 800 died, and hundreds of thousands have been left homeless. The shocks were felt as far away as Mexico City, 600 miles away.

A second earthquake, on February 13, raised the total death toll above 1,100, and the cost of rebuilding the country surpassed \$3 billion (equal to the whole national budget).

Ciudad Romero and the rest of the region where the Coordinadora works was devastated by the first earthquake. 2,500 families there were left homeless or living in unsafe housing.



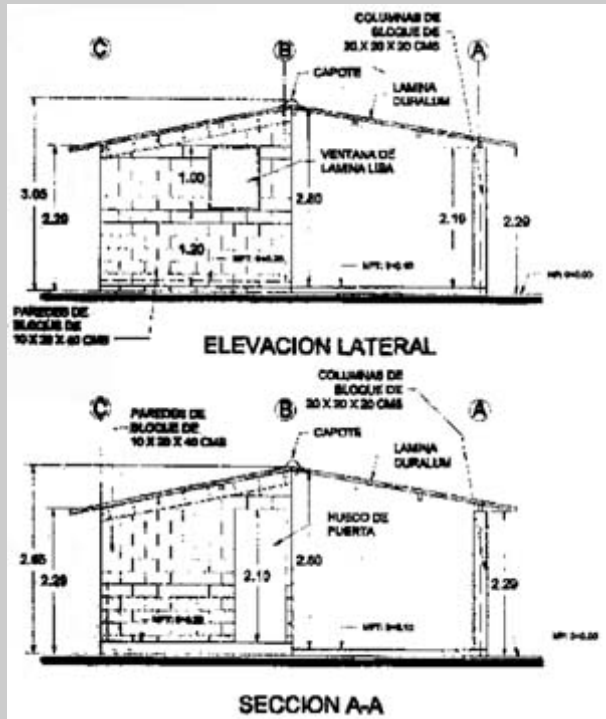
*Above* The adobe home where she used to live in Buena Vista was destroyed by the earthquakes.

*Left* Aristides Valencia, Executive Director in El Salvador, presents the keys and title of a new earthquake resistant home.

## Housing

Immediately following the first earthquake, work began to provide permanent housing to the hundreds of families left homeless in the Bajo Lempa.

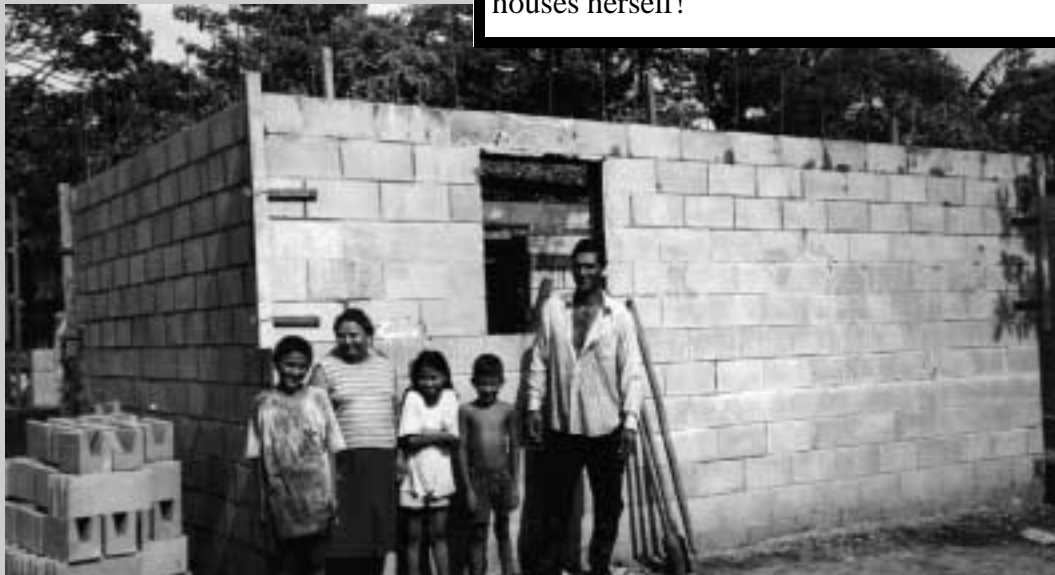
The Coordinadora built new, earthquake resistant concrete block homes for more than 125 families.



## Roundhouses

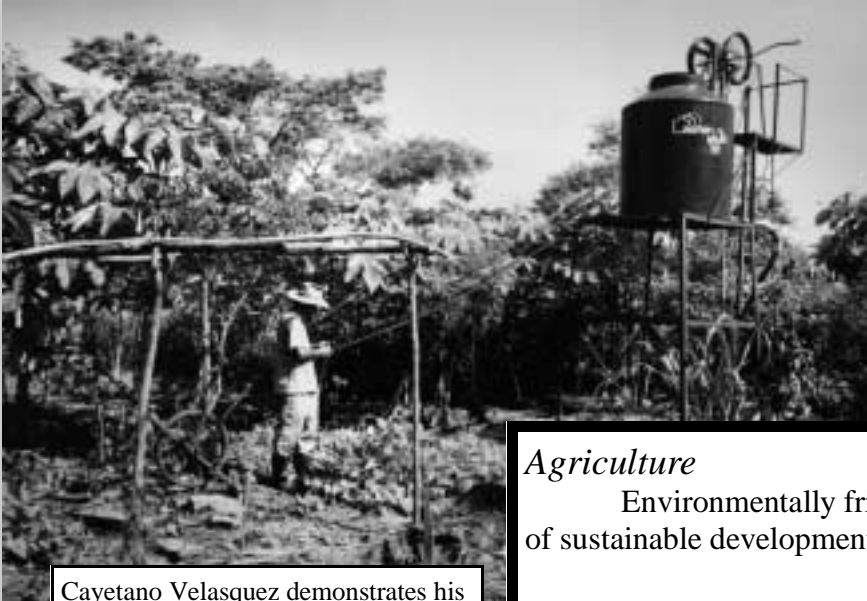
Donors from Minnesota and Wisconsin collaborated to introduce Roundhouses to 50 families in the Bajo Lempa left homeless by the earthquakes. Each home comfortably sleeps 6-12 family members in hammocks.

This pilot project even caught the eye of Elizabeth Dole, who visited the region and donated 25 Roundhouses herself!



### *Market & Tourism Center*

More than 100 families are now using diversified agricultural techniques to grow organic fruits and vegetables. Anticipating a saturation of the local market, the Coordinadora purchased and is now renovating a Market & Tourism Center along El Salvador's busiest highway. Scheduled for full operations by fall 2002, it will provide hotel services, a restaurant, and sell fresh produce. This project is expected to generate permanent income for the Coordinadora.



Cayetano Velasquez demonstrates his new bicycle pump irrigation system.

### *Agriculture*

Environmentally friendly agriculture is a key component of sustainable development in the Bajo Lempa region.

The first fifteen Sustainable Agriculture Promoters have graduated from the Coordinadora's Sustainable Agriculture School. They are taking an active role in their communities, teaching their neighbors how to apply organic diversified agriculture to their fields. In this way, local expertise is growing while reducing the dependence on outside experts.

More than 100 farmers and shrimp farmers benefited from the Coordinadora's Credit Fund. Many farmers used their loans to install low-tech irrigation systems, allowing them to resist the droughts that ruined many other farmers last summer.

An irrigation pilot project developed low-tech irrigation systems appropriate to local conditions. Made of inexpensive local materials, the pumps and irrigation systems allow farmers to grow crops year-round with ease.

### *Volunteers & Solidarity*

More than 80 Jewish university students spent their spring break helping the communities to rebuild from the earthquakes. Their commitment and dedication had a strong impact on the communities they visited by demonstrating that the international community does care about them and the Local Zone of Peace they are working to build.

<b>GRANTS &amp; ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR</b>
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Agriculture	\$40,000.00
Culture of Peace	\$55,855.94
Coordinadora (Operating Budget)	\$100,000.00
Health	\$15,400.00
Other	\$1,400.00
In Kind Donations	\$60,056.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$272,711.94</b>

Earthquake Recovery	
Economic Recovery	\$58,179.49
Home Construction	\$131,601.40
Home Repair	\$86,545.00
Roundhouse Installation	\$22,299.27
Roundhouses	\$150,000.00
Other	\$104,647.24
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$553,272.40</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$825,984.34</b>
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\* (These figures represent direct grants to the Coordinadora-Mangrove Association in El Salvador, in addition to expenses incurred directly by the FSSCA in program implementation.)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Assets

(as of Dec 31)

	2001	2000
Cash & Equivalent	\$33,689	\$61,066
Furniture & Equipment	\$3,068	\$4,223
Total	\$36,757	\$65,289

## Income

	2001	2000
Public Support	\$764,196	\$361,609
Investment Income & Interest	\$2,226	\$407
In Kind	\$209,071	\$4,223
	\$975,493	\$368,239

## Expenses

	2001	2000
Management & General	\$46,315 (4.8%)	\$41,197 (11.1%)
Fundraising	\$34,464 (3.6%)	\$25,484 (6.8%)
Programs	\$883,070 (91.6%)	\$306,340 (82.1%)
Total	\$963,848	\$373,021

This Financial Statement was derived from the 2001 financial statements audited by our independent accountants, Bowman, Dunagan & Jack LLP. A copy of the audited financial statements and Form 990 for 2001 are available upon request.

# 2001 DONORS

*Our work, and that of the Coordinadora, is made possible by the generosity of dozens of people and organizations. While space allows us to list only donors of \$100 or more, we extend our deep gratitude to all those who support the FSSCA.*

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*(Continued on page 14)*

*A new earthquake and flood resistant home under construction for Marcela, Antonio, Yanet, and Isidro Ayala.*



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(Continued from page 13)

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