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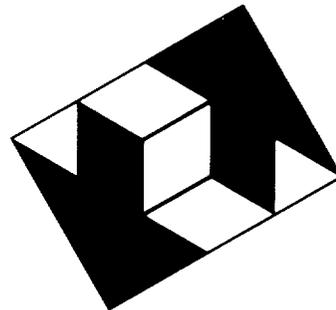
National Association of Partners of the Americas

9676

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**AMHERST, MA**  
**AUGUST 21, 1989 - JANUARY 26, 1990**

**1988/89 EL SALVADOR CAPS PROGRAM**

**PARTNERS**  
**OF THE AMERICAS**



Prepared for USAID El Salvador

Contract Number: 519-0337-C-00-8491-00

Submitted by Peter Aron, Project Director

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**Institute For Training And Development - Amherst, Massachusetts (ITD-MA)**  
**Small Scale Rural Enterprise Development**  
**August 21, 1989 - January 26, 1990**

**I. In-Country ELT and Pre-Departure Orientation**

The ITD-MA El Salvador CAPS scholars began an intensive 5-week English language training program in San Salvador, on August 21, 1989. The program was developed and carried out by NAPA's sub-contractor, C.H.P. International, Inc. The English language training (ELT) consisted of 6 hours a day of study of grammar, syntax, reading, and conversation. As usual in short-term programs, teachers complemented textbooks materials with situational dialogues, emphasizing the Functional Approach during the five weeks. They also applied principles derived from or compatible with the Natural Approach, along with a repertoire of ELT resources such as total physical response, role playing, games, songs, dialogues, tapes, mimicry-memorization, and one-to-one tutoring, among others.

Classes were held at Doctor Francisco Gavidia University. Final selection of trainees was made by the third week of the program. Weekly evaluation forms were submitted to AID/OET. Evaluation included academic work, language skills and personal qualifications. Final screening was based on scholars' average grades and personal qualifications. From September 20-26, 1989 the trainees participated in a cross-cultural pre-departure orientation to enable them to obtain a greater understanding of U.S. life and culture in preparation for their training period and stay in the United States.

On September 27, 1989, these 25 CAPS scholars left El Salvador for their U.S. technical training programs. Upon arrival, they began an intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) training at the Institute for Training and Development in Amherst, Massachusetts (ITD-MA).

**II. Stateside English as a Second Language Instruction**

The four-month program of intensive ESL classes at ITD-MA have provided both grammatical instruction, comprehension, reading and writing, and speaking, with opportunities for learning survival or functional skills for the local area, including: exercises using bus schedules, a scavenger hunt in Amherst, interaction with college classes, practicing dialogues, etc. Formal classes met five mornings a week, with additional informal exchanges with a Spanish class at a local college (trading English conversation with Spanish conversation). Much of the classroom work was conducted in small groups of seven or eight where each scholar had the maximum opportunity to practice her English and receive assistance from an instructor.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment A contains a sample of an ESL essay written by a scholar, entitled "My First Winter in the USA."

### III. Experience America

Each scholar was paired with a host "sister" or "brother," and a host family. Most of the scholars have spent various holidays and weekends with their host families and/or with the family of their host sibling. Also, the scholars have been very successful at making friends in the apartment complex where they live. Each scholar has had a volunteer work placement since the first month of the program of three to four hours per week. Examples of placements are: The Family Center - caring for toddlers and Capacidad After School Program - caring for children of grades K-6 and teaching Spanish. The volunteer work time has helped them considerably in learning English. During these four months of the program the group had a number of field trips as well.<sup>2</sup>

### IV. Plans for Small Enterprise Development Training

During ESL, the technical trainer performed a survey of the scholars to identify scholar needs and interests, personal skills and resources, and perceived community needs and resources. This information has been used to focus the training curriculum to the needs of the group. The classroom instruction will consist of simulation exercises, role plays, workbook exercises, and scholars presentations (both group and individual). The group will be making weekly visits to local small businesses. The preparation for and debriefing of the visits will be structured so that the scholars will learn how to make business profile assessments of the businesses visited. Starting in May the scholars will begin seven-week internships at local businesses. Each week the technical trainer will conduct a round-table session to allow the scholars to share their respective experiences and consider possible applications for El Salvador. The group will finish the technical component by completing a detailed plan for a small enterprise venture in El Salvador.

### V. TCA

A TCA report reflecting program activities for the period of August 21, 1989 through March 31, 1990, is attached.

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<sup>2</sup> Attachment B contains an issue of the EL Salvador CAPS newsletter published by the scholars at ITD-MA, and Attachment C contains a description of the group's Experience America activities for the period of September 27 - December 22, 1989.

CLASB TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (TIF) BUDGET  
Training Cost Analysis (TCA)

----- Academic  
-----x----- Technical

School Name: Institute for Training and Development - MA

Technical Field: Small Scale Rural Enterprise Development

Project Number: 519-0337

PIO/P Number: 519-0337-1-86170

No. Trainees in Group: 25 3/31/90

Training Dates for this PIO/P: From: 8/21/89 To: 8/21/90

Reporting Period: From: 8/21/89 To: 3/31/90

Program Categories/ Training Activities:	BUDGETED 2/24/89	BUDGET AMENDMENT 5/9/89	EXPENDED 8/21/89 - 9/30/89	EXPENDED 10/1/89 - 12/31/89	EXPENDED 1/1/90 - 3/31/90	EXPENDED TO DATE	REMAINDER
<b>A. Education/Training Costs.....</b>	\$126,651	\$152,155	\$34,071	\$0	\$48,393	\$82,464	\$69,691
1. Tuition/Fees.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2.a. Training Costs (US).....	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$17,500	\$0	\$48,393	\$65,893	\$59,107
b. Trng Cost (ES) (CHF)	\$26,651	\$27,155	\$16,571	\$0	\$0	\$16,571	\$10,584
3. Package Program Costs.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Other (Mission Option)....		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>B. Allowances.....</b>	\$133,750	\$150,325	\$42,194	\$0	\$35,044	\$77,238	\$73,087
1. Maintenance Advance.....	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$0
2. Living/Maintenance.....	\$125,000	\$137,825	\$34,694	\$0	\$35,044	\$69,738	\$68,087
3. Per Diem.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Books & Equipment.....	\$3,125	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
5. Book Shipment.....	\$625	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Typing.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7. Thesis.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. Doctoral Dissert.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9. Professional Membership...	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10. Other (Mission Option)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>C. Travel.....</b>	\$17,250	\$18,664	\$11,640	\$0	\$0	\$11,640	\$7,024
1. International (CHF)	\$16,500	\$16,000	\$11,640	\$0	\$0	\$11,640	\$6,360
2. Local (CHF)	\$750	\$664	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$664
<b>D. Insurances.....</b>	\$10,200	\$11,466	\$4,132	\$2,550	\$2,346	\$9,028	\$2,438
1. HAC for US.....	\$10,200	\$9,350	\$2,550	\$2,550	\$2,346	\$7,446	\$1,904
2. Required by Institution..	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. In-Entry. Insur (CHF)	\$0	\$2,116	\$1,582	\$0	\$0	\$1,582	\$534
<b>E. Supplemental Activities.....</b>	\$1,425	\$19,316	\$57,687	\$634	\$0	\$58,521	(\$39,205)
1. EIT, In-country (CHF)	\$1,825	\$16,694	\$8,816	\$0	\$0	\$8,816	\$9,878
2. EIT, US.....	\$0	\$0	\$47,910	\$634	\$0	\$48,744	(\$48,744)
3. Academic up-grade.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Reception Services.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Arrival Orientation	\$350	\$350	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350
6. Intprts/Escorts (CHF)....	\$250	\$272	\$961	\$0	\$0	\$961	(\$685)
7. Internship/cooperative...	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. Enrichment Programs.....	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9. Mid-winter commun. semina	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10. Follow-up career devel...	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11. Other (Mission Option) ..	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS:</b>	\$290,276	\$351,927	\$149,724	\$3,384	\$85,783	\$238,891	\$113,056
Total U.S. Costs:	\$244,300	\$285,025	\$110,154	\$3,384	\$85,783	\$193,321	\$65,704
Total E.S. Costs:	\$45,976	\$66,902	\$39,570	\$0	\$0	\$45,570	\$47,352

Virginia

My first winter in the U.S.A

Thursday the 23 in the morning when I got up I walked to the window and looked at the mountain and I was afraid, because all the mountain was white and covered with snow.

But the same time I was happy, because was

Sunday the 3 in the morning I got up at ten o'clock and I went to the mountain to play with my friends, we slid in the snow and made the famous snow men and took many pictures and we were very happy.

I always wear many clothes, because here where I live is very cold. I wear a hat, gloves, scarf, boots and other clothes.

In my country, I never had to wear many clothes. Because in El Salvador is very hot or warm always.

I like the winter, the landscape is very beautiful and is very special for me.

My first winter is amusing.



**Boletin**

**Informatico**

**UNIENDOFRONTERAS**



# Boletín Informático



## UNIENDO FRONTERAS

1a. EDICION

AMHERST, MA.

DICIEMBRE 1989.

### EDITORIAL

Primeramente queremos felicitar a cada una de las personas que integran el programa, y agradecerles de antemano el poder llegar hasta sus hogares. El presente boletín y todas nuestras futuras ediciones estarán dirigidas a comentar algunas actividades en las cuales muchas personas participan. También optaremos por hacer críticas constructivas, aceptaremos sugerencias por correo etc, etc. Esperamos que la presente edición les informe sobre nuestras actividades y esperamos crecer mediante su apoyo

Los Editores.

### NUESTRA LLEGADA A E. E. U. U.

Septiembre 27 de 1989.

Salimos del aeropuerto de El Salvador a las 12:00 m. y arribamos en Miami a las 4:00 p.m. hora local. Todo fue muy emocionante, pero a la vez nos sentíamos tristes, pues habíamos dejado a nuestras familias, y al mismo tiempo nos sentíamos emocionadas de conocer un nuevo país. Aterrizamos y tuvimos que tomar una especie de tren junto con los compañeros de Alabama, y nos llevo a la zona de migración en el aeropuerto. Ahí estuvimos más de una hora, pues todo el papeleo fue muy lento y luego teníamos que revizar maletas, y el tiempo casi se nos acababa, pues teníamos que tomar otro avión hacia Raleigh - Durha. Unos maleteros tomaron nuestras maletas, pero tuvimos que pagar \$ 1.00 por el servicio. Nos registramos y tuvieron que detener el avión

porque casi despegaba, y muchas de nosotras todavia no llegabamos y tuvimos que correr para no perderlo, y Marck ( el director del programa de Alabama nos ayudo muchisimo por lo que le estamos altamente agradecidas. A una de nuestras companeras no la dejaban pasar de la maquina registradora ( Dalila) porque cada vez que pasaba le sonaba el bip- bip y la volvian a regresar a comenzar la fila. A pesar de tantos tropiezos tomamos el avion y volamos por dos horas mas, hasta llegar al otro aeropuerto que fue el mas grande y tuvimos que caminar como un kilometro para llegar a la otra puerta de abordaje en donde tomamos el tercer y ultimo avion que nos llevo a un aeropuerto en Connecticut . Y este fue el vuelo mas meneado ( la comida de los aviones es horrible) Aterrizamos a eso de las 11:45 p.m. y fuimos recibidas por la directora del programa con un fuerte abrazo y por las demas personas del Staff, lo que nos animo mucho. Luego viajamos por mas de una hora hasta Massachusetts en direccion hacia nuestro nuevo hogar, muchas estabamos cansadas y nos sentiamos nostalgicas en un nuevo mundo, pero gracias a Dios podemos contarlo.

#### LOS AUTOBUSES.

Cinco colegios o Universidades que rodean el centro de Amherst, son los encargados de pagar los autobuses, que utilizan todos los estudiantes de la zona; por lo que todos son gratis, para todo el publico incluyendo nosotras.

Los primeros dias viajabamos en las " van de ITD", luego tuvimos que usar los buses. Todos los dias tenemos que caminar hasta la parada, al principio los gringuitos, hombres y mujeres nos veian raramente, como si fueramos algo raro o de otro planeta porque casi siempre no vamos una, dos o tres, sino que vamos quince o mas. y esto talvez les sorprende, y ellos saben que somos salvadorenas Pero la onda esta cuando vamos a clases, y hay mucha gente en la parada y lo que hacemos para no irnos paradas es ponernos "buzas" y los gringuitos solo dicen "goHead", y si se quedan parados pues mala suerte. Es emocionante agarrar asientos y los drivers algunas veces son mujeres y otras hombres y son guapisimos estudiantes de la UMASS pero no paran en curvas.

Una de las principales actividades es un curso de Ingles de cuatro meses , ademas diferentes actividades que complementan el programa entre las cuales tenemos: Visitas a negocios, Fabricas y recibimos informacion sobre la fabricacion de diversos articulos como es la visita que realizamos a YANKEE CANDLE CO.

Ademas hemos asistido a ferias en diferentes pueblos, exposiciones de pintura moderna , etc,

Las visitas a fabricas y negocios tienen por objetivo, familiarizar nos con el tipo de manufactura y produccion de diferentes empresas.

Ademas de las visitas realizadas se nos imparten charlas con diferentes temas para facilitar nuestra adaptacion a esta cultura y asi poder observar las diferencias culturales entre nuestro pais y E.E. U.U.



Foto. Profesoras Jordine y Jossette impartiendo clase de Ingles en la casa internacional de I T D .

TRABAJO VOLUNTARIO EN LA COMUNIDAD DE AMHERST.

Ademas de las actividades antes mencionadas, participamos tambien prestamos servicio de trabajo voluntario en diferentes entidades. Generalmente asistimos a escuelas para ninos de diferentes edades como son INFANTS que son los recién nacidos hasta una edad maxima de 15 meses, Los TODDLER que son los ninos desde 15 meses hasta dos años 9 meses , y los PRE-SCHOLAR hasta los 5. Nos encargamos de cuidarlos y jugar con ellos. Algunas companeras trabajan con ninos de mas edad, que van a esta clase de lugares despues de su escuela, mientras sus padres los recogen si ellos trabajan. Tambien participamos en un lugar que se llama SOUP KITCHEN, que es un lugar a donde se reparte comidas por los sabados a la gente que lo necesita. Tambien en estos centros trabajan estudiantes de otros centros educativos en diferentes horas del dia. Algunas companeras imparten clases de espanol. Cada trabajo que realizamos es para dar a conocer parte de nuestra cultura.

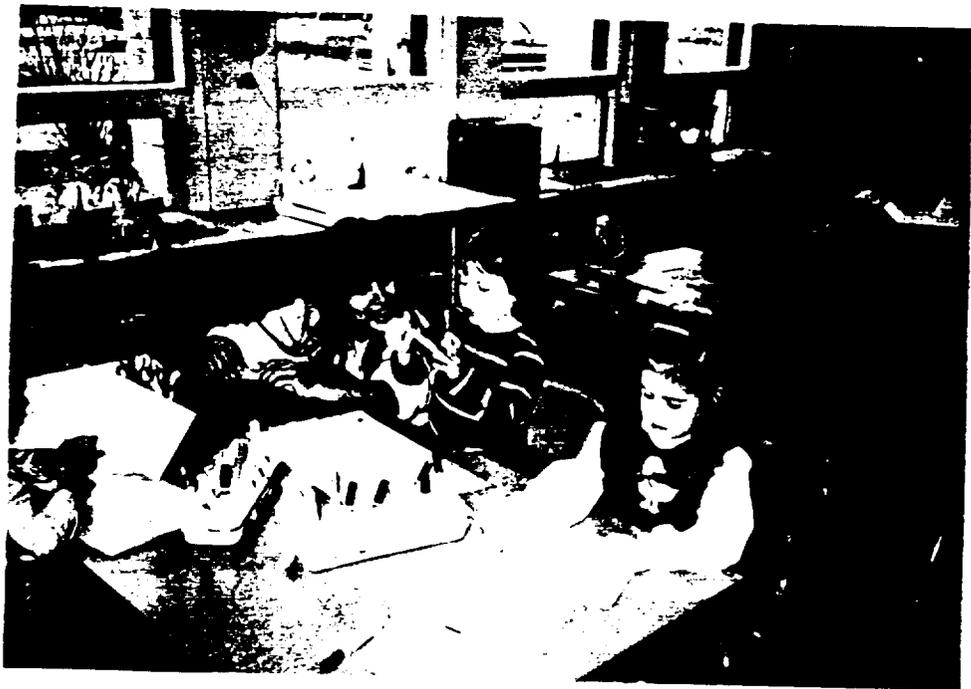


Foto. Centro First Congregational Church PreSchool  
Yolanda en su trabajo voluntario con ninos de  
edad preescolar.

## VIDA HOGAREÑA

Nosotros vivimos en unos apartamentos llamados Cliffside, estos quedan enfrente de una montana en un Pueblo llamado Sunderland, a pocos minutos de la Universidad de Massachussetts, disfrutamos de un ambiente juvenil y nuestra vida ahí es pasiva y lo mejor que del lugar es que es muy sano y limpio.

Tenemos todo a nuestro alcance, ademas de lo que los apartamentos poseen en su interior, podemos encontrar a nuestro alrededor muchos lugares como para divertirnos tales como: Piscina, Cancha de Tennis, de Basket-ball, ademas de volleybal.

Todas las mananas tenemos que levantarnos muy temprano, preparar nuestro desayuno y almuerzo para luego tomar el Bus, ya que la mayor parte del día permanecemos en el Instituto Tecnico de Desarrollo (ITD), que es nuestro lugar de estudio.

Nuestros deberes para con nuestros apartamentos consiste en limpieza, cocinar y convivencia grupal.

## MOMENTOS INOLVIDABLES

Cierto día nos dirigimos a una granja cosechadora de manzanas para comprar unas cuantas bolsas, nos dirigimos a los lugares especificos de la cosecha de manzanas y al ver la cantidad de arboles repletos corrimos a cortales sin perder tiempo, como gatos siguiendo a un raton.

Eran miles de manzanas por el suelo, de toda clase y de todo tamaño.

Pero cual fue nuestra sorpresa cuando ya habiamos aprovechado y habiamos comido todas las manzanas que pudimos, vimos que la dueña de la granja nos andaba siguiendo para ver si nos comiamos alguna, pero ni se daba cuenta cuando las acababamos. Por donde quiera que nosotros íbamos ahí estaba ella para echarnos el ojo.

Esta fue una tarde muy divertida para nosotras, cada vez que lo recordamos es como si lo volvieramos a vivir.

Sera difícil olvidar a una señora tan tacaña y regañona como la dueña.

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Editores: Virginia Villalta, Maria Julia Molina

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EL SALVADOR SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM - AMHERST MA USA

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Quarterly Group Experience America Report  
El Salvador Small Scale Enterprise Development  
Institute for Training and Development  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
September 27,1989-December 22, 1989

Belchertown Parade and Agricultural Fair

Saturday, September 30, 1989

Belchertown, Massachusetts

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: entrance-free, tickets were bought for rides for participants

The participants had a good time watching and walking the parade route to arrive at the fair. They enjoyed seeing the 4-H exhibits with crafts and farm animals and the animal shows. Most of the participants went on the mechanical rides and they had an exciting time. It was a nice activity to share during their first days here, to do something fun together and to get to know another town in the area.

Autumn Festival

Saturday, September 30, 1989

Williamsburg, Massachusetts

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: price of 12 pumpkins and some refreshments to share

We joined two other I.T.D. groups from Guatemala and Peru and many community friends for an Autumn Festival in Williamsburg. The participants met other scholarship students and community members and together we carved jack-o-lanterns, played apple-on-a-string, ate typical New England fall dishes, and danced the night away. The participants really enjoyed this evening, making friends with the other groups and with the community. They laughed and joked for days about their pumpkin carving and apple bobbing adventure and learned about some traditions of autumn and Halloween.

Vermont Foliage Trip, Craft Fair and Flea Market

Monday, October 9, 1989

Dover, Vermont and Wilmington, Vermont

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: donation at craft fair

We took advantage of Columbus Day holiday to take a foliage trip up to Vermont. The autumn leaves were at their peak at this time of year. Mount Snow, a large ski resort had it's annual craft fair and the participants enjoyed visiting and seeing the different kinds of crafts available. Although they were quite shocked at the prices they were asking. They enjoyed a wonderful and funny clown show at the fair. On the way home they stopped at a flea market. They decided that the prices were much more to their liking and loaded down with fifty cent stuffed animals. It was a nice trip.

Luis Enrique Meija Godoy Concert (optional)

Thursday, October 12, 1989

Amherst College

transportation: P.V.T.A. busses

costs: \$7.00 per participant

This was an optional activity, although only one participant chose not to attend. The participants took the bus to Amherst College, a first for them to ride the bus at night. The concert was attended by many students from the area colleges and also community residents. The concert and the announcements were in both English and Spanish so the participants were able to understand what was happening. The music and the atmosphere at the concert was quite political and they were a little confused as to what was being presented. They enjoyed the music and the poetry. The next day we discussed the different political views that they will encounter here in Amherst and the interest that people have in El Salvador. We discussed that we have the right to freedom of speech, which also entitles us not to speak if we chose not to. The concert provided us with a good spring board to discuss with them the different political views they may encounter.

Juan de la Sierra Concert (optional)

Friday, October 13, 1989

Amherst Regional Junior High School

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: donation to A.R.H.S. Spanish Club

The classical guitar concert was also an optional activity, although all of the participants attended. We were invited by the Spanish Club at the High School and the participants were excited about meeting the students. They helped in passing out programs and serving refreshments during break. However, some of the participants were quite tired and were lulled to sleep by the guitar music. Later, they decided that the music was beautiful, but not in that particular setting. Better on a cassette.

Fine Arts MultiBand Pops Event (optional)

Saturday, October 14, 1989

University of Massachusetts

transportation: P.V.T.A bus

costs: \$2.00 paid by participant (discounted)

About seventeen of the participants attended the multiband concert. They loved the large hall at the University and being with all the students. The events was very invigorating and they asked to return for more.

Play "PROJECTS" (optional)

Monday, October 16, 1989

University of Massachusetts

transportation: P.V.T.A. bus

costs: the group received free passes

About twenty of the participants attended this play. They were happy to return to the Fine Arts Center so soon. The play was very visual and musical so they were able to follow the story. They got

a glimpse of life in the inner city through the play and this opened up discussions about the difference in life style, culture, language, climate etc. in the different parts of the United States.

#### Apple Picking

Wednesday, October 25, 1989

Hatfield, Massachusetts

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: \$3.00 per bag of apples

The group was very happy about finally getting to go apple picking, since the activity had been rained out earlier. They had a great adventure with the woman who owned of the apple farm that they wrote about in their newsletter. Afterwards they divided up the apples and had some classes in cooking applesauce, apple pie and baked apples.

#### Yankee Candle Factory

Wednesday, November 8, 1989

Deerfield, Massachusetts

transportation: I.T.D. vans

The group visited the Yankee Candle factory and had a very interesting tour and history of the factory. The business was started a few short years ago by one person and has grown and expanded and mechanized. The participants learned about the process involved in making candles and also how the business works. They discussed afterwards the potential for candle making businesses in El Salvador.

#### Historical Sturbridge Village

Thursday, November 16, 1989

Sturbridge, Massachusetts

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: \$125.00

We spent a very interesting day at a living historical village. The participants learned about how villages were set up and the occupations and life styles of people in the 1700's in New England. They enjoyed the trip and afterwards discussed the things they learned in English class. It was interesting to note that some of the things that were demonstrated as historical machines and methods are still being used in some parts of El Salvador.

#### Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 21, 1989

I.T.D. International House

costs: food bought at supermarket

Because all of the participants had plans to spend Thanksgiving with their friends or families, we had a pre-Thanksgiving feast together. The cooking class prepared all of the wonderful food: turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pies, stuffed sweet potatoes and more. The table was set with candles and the theatre group presented a inspiring group prayer. In addition to a fantastic meal, it was important for us to be together as a group and celebrate the

meaning of Thanksgiving and offer support and love to the group during these difficult times in their country.

#### Day After Thanksgiving Day Parade

Friday, November 24, 1989

Springfield, Massachusetts

transportation: I.T.D. van

For the participants who were around on the day after Thanksgiving, we all went to the 'big balloon parade'. They bring the balloons from the New York City parade to Springfield. It was fun to see, but it was also cold. Later we went to the Holyoke Mall to see the Christmas sales.

#### Art Gallery Visits

Wednesday, December 6, 1989

University of Massachusetts

transportation: walking

The group went around the University of Massachusetts to visit a variety of galleries and art showings throughout the University. This also gave them the opportunity to see more of the University on a guided tour. It was however a very cold day and some of the participants did not enjoy the outing.

#### Play "Ariano"

Friday, December 8, 1989

University of Massachusetts

transportation: P.V.T.A. bus

cost: complimentary tickets

The play was presented by the Puerto Rican Theatre Company and was presented using both English and Spanish. Five of the participants went early to offer their services as volunteers to help the company set up for the show. They enjoyed the show and learned about some of the cultural struggles of many Puerto Ricans in this area.

#### Trip to BOSTON

Tour of Boston, Natural Science Museum, Omni Theatre, El Salvadoran restaurant

Wednesday, December 13, 1989

transportation: I.T.D. vans

costs: \$145.00 entrance museum & Omni Theatre

The group was very anxious to see Boston. Some of the participants had already been to Boston with their families, friends or relatives. After a driving tour of Boston, they attended a three-dimension spectacular show at the Omni Theatre. The subject was the Australian Coral Reefs. Later they spent time in the exhibit hall of the museum. For dinner they had previously decided that they wanted to eat at a Salvadoran restaurant, so reservation had been made at El Rancho. They arrived home at 11:00 in the evening, happy, tired and ready to go back again.

Christmas Dance with CASP students

Friday, December 15, 1989

Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
transportation: I.T.D. vans

Our group was invited to join a group of students from Central America for a Christmas dance. Our participants were very excited about the dance, especially because the group at BCC was mostly young men. They got all dressed up for the event. As could be expected, they were a little nervous when we got there. Some of the girls made friends quickly, we all danced and had a nice time. We have made arrangements for future get togethers.

Nutcracker Ballet

Sunday, December 17, 1989

Northampton, Massachusetts  
transportation: I.T.D. vans  
cost: \$175.00

The Pioneer Valley Ballet Company presented the annual Nutcracker Ballet for the holiday. The performance is very professional and wonderful to watch. The Ballet was performed in the Academy of Music which is a historical building in Northampton. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Nutcracker.

Peace Pagoda

Wednesday, December 20, 1989

Leverett, Massachusetts  
transportation: I.T.D. vans

The group visited the Peace Pagoda, a temple built by Buddhists and others promoting peace in the world. They shared a tea with the Buddhist nuns who live at the Peace Pagoda. It was a warm, spiritual activity for the holidays.

Christmas Caroling at Nursing Homes

Thursday, December 21, 1989

Amherst, Massachusetts  
transportation: I.T.D. vans

The participants prepared several songs to sing in both English and Spanish to share with two local nursing homes and an After School program, where some of the participants do their volunteer work. In cooking class, they had prepared some delicious Christmas cookies to share with the folks at the nursing homes. The event was delightful and there were several teary eyes in the group and the audience after the encounter. They mingled and shared with the residents after they performed and discovered that the communication was not a barrier to sharing.

Christmas Caroling in Neighborhood

Friday, December 22, 1989

Amherst

The participants who had not already left for the holidays joined to together with a staff member and went Christmas caroling at an apartment complex. Since it was very cold, they dressed in many layers and carried candles with them. Afterwards they gathered at

a friends house for hot chocolate, gingerbread cookies and candy canes. It was a fun, traditional activity for them to experience and they enjoyed it.