



Chacocente Update *FOR OUR FRIENDS!*

A Look at What's Happening at Project Chacocente, Masaya, Nicaragua

November 2008



Photo: Lexington Minuteman

International Office of Project Chacocente Damaged by Water and Smoke from 4-Alarm Fire

A rapidly moving fire destroyed the roof and fourth floor of the building where Project Chacocente has its office on Friday, Oct. 31.

No one was injured but the ceiling of our third-floor office collapsed, and everything was drenched by the firefighters' hoses. Treasurer Don Walker was in the Lexington, MA building when the fire began, apparently started by workmen who were welding a copper gutter.

"I was allowed into the building Sunday," explained Don, "and retrieved some very soggy files and my computer.

"We're still not sure if the building will be condemned or if we can rebuild it." Chacocente's U.S. operation is located in an office at Don's condominium.

Chacocente is in the process of transferring its records, database and treasurer's duties to Board member Melody Joy, who lives in Ohio. As God would have it, Melody visited the Lexington office earlier in the week to discuss the transfer and to obtain copies of Chacocente's important records.

"We are all praying for Don and waiting to hear if there's any way we can help him," said Jim Nathan, president of Chacocente USA.

"Our donors should know that the building is insured, and that no funds will be diverted to assist with the building's rehabilitation."

"Our first concern is for Don and the people who live at the Lexington location," said Cheryl Avery, executive director. "We will keep them all in our prayers."

A Letter to Donors From Our Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

It is with concern and sadness that we inform you that on Friday, October 31st, the building which houses the Lexington, Massachusetts headquarters of Project Chacocente was engulfed by a devastating fire. This facility was also the home of our Treasurer.

Much of our office has been destroyed or severely damaged from smoke, soot, charred timbers and water. Although painstaking efforts have been made to recover information related to recent gifts, it is possible that some checks made between Oct. 15 and 30 could lie under the debris.

If you sent a donation between those dates, please examine your next bank statement to determine if your check has cleared your account. If it appears that the check was not processed by us, we must assume it was lost in the fire. If you choose to write a replacement check, please send it to the same address:

Project Chacocente
33 Forest Street, #310
Lexington, MA 02421-4991

The U.S. Postal Service will forward all mail to our new address. We ask for your prayers and patience as we put our lives back together.

Yours truly,
Nancy Allenby
Chacocente Board of Directors