



United Students for Fair Trade

empowering alternatives

1301 Clifton St NW
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2007 Nicaragua Transitions Summit

We didn't start the fire, no we didn't light it, but we're trying to fight it...

Introduction

Since USFT's inception, our relationships with Nicaraguan cooperatives have been central to our understanding of Fair Trade and movement building. This year we once again traveled to Nicaragua to center ourselves in the experience of these cooperatives, transition our incoming leadership, develop our organizing and anti-oppression skills, and deepen our relationships with cooperative youth.

Major Outcomes

Renewed Commitment to Anti-Oppression and Popular Education

Perhaps more than anything else, anti-oppression and popular education were prioritized during the transitions summit.

Strengthened Organizing Capacity

Throughout the two weeks, we prioritized grassroots organizing. Significant time was spent building our organizing capacity in organizing trainings, planning sessions, and forum theater. Additionally, we were able to learn from the organizing styles of the cooperatives and collectives we visited.

New Relationships

Part of the charm of the Transitions Summit is that it creates a space for incoming coordinators to build relationships with each other that will enable them to work together and hold each other accountable throughout the upcoming year. The relationships are not only between coordinators, but also with the staff, the cooperative leadership, key allies, and the youth cooperative members. These relationships will be what sustains these students throughout their tenure on the Coordinating Committee.

Institutionalized Memory

2007-2008 Goals Set

One of the most exciting things the incoming Coordinating Committee accomplished was setting their goals for the 2007-1008 School Year. Their priorities for the year reflect a continued commitment to grassroots development, organizational sustainability, and Our major commitments for this year are

¹ Chicken love!

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1. Hosting 4 Regional Conferences to Build Grassroots Capacity
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Next Steps

Organizing Plans
Fair Trade Month
Cooperative Youth Relationships
Hiring New Staff

Conclusions