

Fair Trade: Better Roads, Better Health, Better Lives



A farmer in Nicaragua inspects his coffee bean crop. Paul Jeffrey/ACT International

In Nicaragua, UMCOR fair trade partner Equal Exchange, helped small farmers to earn a fair wage and improve their surrounding communities. Through this program small farmers organized their own co-op, called PRODECOOP. By participating in the Coffee Project, United Methodists can help the co-op invest in farm improvements, reduce debt, improve nutrition, and provide administrative training for members. “It is very important for you to know that fair trade leads to better roads, better health, and better lives for farmers, not just in Nicaragua, but around the world,” says Rosario Castellon, former director of PRODECOOP.*

Why Fair Trade is Important

Fair trade addresses one of the root causes of hunger and poverty: inequality in the market place. Simply put, fair trade enables small farmers to sell their crops for a fair price. The fair trade system allows farmers to earn a stable and fair price for their crops, affordable credit, a direct relationship with buyers, and sustainable agriculture support.

*from the Equal Exchange website: www.equalexchange.com

How You Can Support Fair Trade

- **Serve fairly traded coffee, tea and hot chocolate** at church events and during fellowship hour, and make it available to members for home use. You can order a variety of fairly traded products through the UMCOR Coffee Project.
- **Discuss fair trade issues** in church school classes and study groups. Provide local businesses with information about offering fairly traded products.
- **Order and share resources** such as this insert and by calling UMCOR’s fair trade partner, Equal Exchange at 774-776-7366. Pamphlets, table tents, posters and other educational materials are also available from Equal Exchange and can be included with your order.

UMCOR Coffee Project

The UMCOR Coffee Project links congregations with small farmers and their families through fair trade. It helps people in need while enjoying fellowship and an excellent cup of coffee. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying goods that are fairly traded. United Methodist congregations that participate are supporting practices which help farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia earn a fairer share of income, obtain access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange. Call Equal Exchange at 774-776-7366 to order your fairly traded coffee, tea, and hot chocolate today.



How to Give

Help UMCOR combine immediate food crisis relief with long-term solutions by giving to UMCOR Advance #982920 Hunger/Poverty Program. Write the Advance # and name on your offering envelope and in the memo line of your check.

By Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check Make your check to **UMCOR** and mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

By Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583



Date: April 2006

The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects.

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