



Sister City Tour 2014
Tour de Ciudad Hermana
Milwaukee - Carora
Peace Action Wisconsin

Sister City Tour January, 2014



Who are We?



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Who are You?

- Traveled or lived in Latin America?
- From Latin America?
- From Venezuela?
- Traveled in or from other third world countries?
- Yet to travel outside the US?



Background on Latin America

- Spanish Colonies (free 1800 – 1829)
- Venezuela Declared Independence in 1810
- A System of wealthy landowners dominated economy & politics
- Repression of indigenous populations the norm.
- Poverty, land reform, human rights and democracy are historical and current issues.
- History of US backed repression and coups



Background on Venezuela

- 1929, oil discovered – developed middle & upper classes
- 1989 -1993, Perez regime, corruption and repression
Chavez joined 1992 coup to protest shooting of citizens.
- 1994 further economic collapse & repression
- 1998 Chavez runs and wins on campaign for new constitution
- 2000 New constitution providing for “participatory democracy”
- 2002 “strike” and coup attempt.
- Reorganization of PDVSA and growth of social development programs.





Casa de los Pajaros





Coro Sand Dunes



Long Bus Ride to Carora









Official Sister Cities!

- First agreement in 2009, renewed March, 2014 by Milwaukee Common Council.





Welcoming Committee From
Mayor's Office

A photograph of a man, Hector Murillo, sitting on a wooden chair and playing an acoustic guitar. He is wearing an orange short-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. He has dark hair and a mustache. In the background, another man, Alirio Diaz, is sitting on a wooden bench, watching him play. The room has light-colored walls and a wooden floor. A small table with a lamp is visible in the background.

Hector Murillo
Student of Alirio Diaz.

Our Visit with Misión Sucre

- Social program for advancing adult education
 - (one of over 20 missions or social development programs)
- Targeted toward most poor and marginalized





We mingle with Journalism class



MISIÓN **SUCRE**







A Warm Farewell
To Students in Mision Sucre

Support for Small Business and Artisanry

- Palo de Olor – Artisan Community
 - Makes Traditional Musical Instruments
- Cooperative Agave Cocui farm and distillery
 - Artisanal traditional beverage
- Bendri Cooperative Winery
 - Traditional artisanal wines and innovator of efficient cooking methods





Community of Palo de Olor

Artisans of Musical Instruments





The Venezuelan Cuatro



Visit to Artisan Cocui Farm





Tasting at Artisan Winery



Golperos de Don Pio

El Sistema

- In operation for over 37 years
- Fights poverty using classical music training
- Now a worldwide organization in 31 countries
- Oversees 125 youth orchestras in Venezuela





Performance by
Corora El Sistema Group

Agua De Obispo

- Rural community outside Caracas
- They use Venezuela's "Communal Council" Law
- 40,000 Communal Councils in Venezuela, part of Constitutional "Participatory Democracy"
- Promotes local control of public resources
- Sharing resources is an Indigenous tradition
- Strong participation from women and youth



Road to Agua de Obispo



BANCO DE LA COMUNA YY
S.B.S COMUNA
AGUA DE OBISPO



CHÁEZ
CORAZÓN DE MI PATRIA



Agua de Obispo

Welcome from Community Leader





Mision Vivienda
New Housing to Replace the Old





Brick Factory















We Express Gratitude



...and get invited to dance



A Difficult Goodbye...

...So we bring them
home with us





The Mayor's Office

- A lesson in Venezuelan Civics
- Mayor, Edgar Carrasco, Re-elected in Dec. 2013
- State of Lara has 9 municipalities.
- Carora is seat of Torres municipality, 27,000 sq. miles
- Communal councils are very active and supported in the municipality.



At the Carora Mayor's Office





Danny Explains our Mission

In the Mayor's Office





Casa de Diversidad



Traditional Dancers.





Press Conference and Radio Venceremos

- About 40 community activists met with us
- Shared their individual stories
- They also wanted to hear from us!
- Community Media outlets were over 450 in 2007
- Cannot have party officials or military on their boards



Y SOSTENIBLE

TODOS LOS P... de la vida, las políticas, planes e iniciativas deb...
con estos pr... criterios. Necesitamos una nue... de prog...

CON LA... SLACIÓN, se busca
integrarnos

F... un proc...
contin...


PRESIDENTE
HÁVEZ

MUNI...
ura y

le co







RADIO 

VENCEREMOS

96.5 FM



Ruta de Café



Ruta De Café

- Visit to Madison's sister city of Senare
- Visit to Coffee factory "Café de Guapa"
- Governed by Comunal Council







Explaining Comunal law and
The economics of Coffee



Raw Coffee

Shelling the Coffee



Ready to Roast





Passing Inspection?

Finished Product!





Café Venezuela
Del agricultor a su mesa

F350
QUATRE CAMIONES
RUTA ANTERA
achette A30SP
ACDelco







Investing in the Future...
Community Info Center



Home Grown operating system

Headed back through town



Leaving Coffee Country



Quick stop at Govt Agricultural Project





Built with Brazilian and Cuban assistance



On to Caracas

Monument to Simon Bolivar







Monument to the heroes
of the (1810) Revolution







Entering the Simon Bolivar Tomb



Visit to the Tribunal Supremo de Justicia (TSJ – Supreme Court)



- Six chambers for different bodies of law
- 5 Judges in each, 7 in Constitutional Chamber
- 32 judges total
- Chambers include Electoral and Administrative Law
- Appeals courts for Criminal, Social and Civil Law

Famous Stained Glass







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