

Local Effort In Nicaragua

BY JESSICA DINAPOLI

Many of the people of Monteverde, Nicaragua, spend more than two hours a day just getting fresh water, according to Sag Harbor resident James Dwoskin.

One woman, known as Doña Francisca, hikes 2 kilometers per day, for approximately two hours, to fill her 5-gallon pails with water, he said, and the load she must trudge back to her small home weighs about 40 pounds.

Such hardship is what Mr. Dwoskin is hoping to eliminate with his group, Sag Harbor in Nicaragua Enterprise, or SHINE. He wants to raise enough money to build a well in Monteverde. The well will cost between \$8,000 and \$12,000, he said.

In February, Mr. Dwoskin went to Nicaragua, the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, after Haiti, with a charity based in the third-world country called El Porvenir. He has been involved with the charity for a few years.

On July 25, Mr. Dwoskin will host a fund-raiser for Monteverde, a night of music called "When Latin Meets Local," at B. Smith's Restaurant on Long Wharf in Sag Harbor. The event—a throwback to the "When Salsa Meets Jazz" events formerly held

at a Greenwich Village nightclub—will feature musical artists of both local East End and Hispanic backgrounds. Some of the performers include Mambo Loco, Bryan Campbell, Wayne Burgess and Alfredo Gonzalez.

"It's a cross-pollination of musical heritage in support of SHINE," Mr. Dwoskin said.

Mr. Dwoskin has raised about \$5,000 for the well in Monteverde with his fund-raising events so far. He held a salsa instruction night at Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor in June and also had a T-shirt design contest earlier in the spring.

Ultimately, he plans to organize an army of volunteers in Sag Harbor who will help him on his mission. "I don't want to be the only one chasing the goal," he said.

Once \$12,000 for the well is raised, Mr. Dwoskin hopes to collect more money to further improve the lives of Monteverde residents. For example, he'd like to have a new latrine built at the school, which has only one for 120 students. Monteverde residents also use outdated stoves, no better than campfires, to cook their food, Mr. Dwoskin said. They also do not have chimneys, so the walls of their shacks are covered in thick, black soot.

"I hope to go down with others

from the community. By bringing them down, there will be an army of supporters," he said. "They've never seen poverty like this. It's only a two-and-a-half hour flight from Miami, and they're living in conditions you can't imagine."



Doña Francisca, in front of her home in Nicaragua, hikes two kilometers a day to fill her five gallon pails with water. Five gallons of water weigh approximately 40 pounds.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MR. DWOSKIN