Ideas for Organizing the Sister City Program:

Establishing A Sister City:

* Identify and establish contact with resource people who have either done this already (Cambridge and Lexington groups), or who can serve as liasons to our sister city and provide direction and support (NEST, CASA, Oscar Chacon, etc.)

* Decide the criteria we want to use for choosing a sister city, and choose one.

* Determine our goals for assisting our sister city--financial goals, political goals (lobbying locally and at the state and federal level), moral support, material aid, organizing for a delegation

Determine how we can involve the entire community in Arlington in supporting our sister city; ideas may include:

* approaching community groups such as the Arlington Committee, League of Women Voters, etc. (Robbins Library maintains a list of every organization in Arlington, which we may want to get)

* approaching churches

* approaching stores/businesses in town that are likely to be supportive (maybe ask them to sell crafts from El Salvador and donate part of proceeds to project or someting like that)

* approach schools through the school committees and PTA organizations; determine if a school adoption of a school would be possible; maybe create a presentation that could be given to junior high or high school social studies classes

* identify progressive people in Arlington that may be willing to lend support--cull our list and also see about getting access to lists from the Arlington Concerned Citizens, Amnesty International, campaign lists of those who have supported progressive candidates (Kraus, Bachrach, Dukakis, Mel King, etc.); I also think we can get a list from the town hall of registered Democrats in Arlington

* approach hospitals, clinics and physicians to help emphasize the medical needs of the refugees

* plan to have some general sort of public presentations to invite all Arlingtonians to come hear about the Sister City Project and ask questions (maybe our March event