



## ColombiaCare Progress Report - #4– April 6, 2005

ColombiaCare supporters,

The following is the fourth report of ColombiaCare to its donors and other interested parties. Again, we want to thank you all for your support. With this report and future ones, we want to assure you that your generosity is already making a difference!

We had some problems with the e-mail the last time we sent a report, so not all of you received it. If you missed it and would like to see the previous reports, you can find them in our page [www.colombiacare.org](http://www.colombiacare.org), which by the way has been re-designed.

We are starting our second year of existence. Our enthusiasm is still high, and we hope to continue to grow and to have impact on some Colombian children. We would like to ask you for your support again this year. Some of you have already done so, and we are very thankful. For those who haven't done it yet, we would like to reach out to you. Even a small contribution goes a long way when combined with others.

We want to remind you that if you need a certificate for your tax returns, please let us know by responding to this e-mail with an address where you would like the certificate to be sent. The IRS only requires a certificate for donations of more than \$250. However, if you prefer to have one for your records, let us know. You can also use, as appropriate, our Employer Identification Number (EIN): 20-0076096 for your documents.

**Projects:** As mentioned in the last report, we were starting to define two new projects. We finished one of those, and now we have a very well-defined follow-up project for the De la Cruz School.

- 1- In February of 2005, we sent \$2000 to the order Teresa Toda in Bucaramanga, Colombia. This money was to be used in the badly-needed maintenance of four houses for abandoned girls (ages 6 to 16) who are hard to adopt because of age, race or physical or mental disability. They just finished the work. You can see “before” and “after” pictures in our page as well as hand-written notes from some of the girls.
- 2- During our first project last year, improving the conditions of the De La Cruz School, we realized that the children's level of education was very poor. Their reading comprehension and writing skills appeared to be below what they should be for their age and grade. The teachers, though with very good intentions, don't appear to have solid teaching skills either. This follow-up phase aims at improving the reading and writing skills of the children, and therefore giving them a better chance to learn and improve in other areas. For this second phase, we will include a neighboring school with similar characteristics, Los Escombros, which educates 45 children. Both schools are located in the Commune of Altos de la Cruz, Cali- Colombia. We will also be working with the Department of Education of the Universidad del Valle (a local University), which will be providing some of the expertise



and qualified personnel for this project. This will be done in an intensive year-long program that will involve, in addition to the children, the teachers and the parents. As part of the project, we will also develop a plan to set up a space for a library, furnish it with appropriate materials and define its administration to ensure continuity. The budget for this project is between \$10,000 to \$15,000. We are writing a grant to complement the donations that we receive so that we can fund this project.

**Fundraising:** Active fundraising has continued. We have had several parties for groups of friends. We also have a planned brunch for on May 7, 2005 in New York and we are raffling a Colombian-emerald ring in June, 2005. For details on events and raffle, please visit our page [www.colombiacare.org](http://www.colombiacare.org).

Thank you again. It is your generosity that re-energizes us and maintains our dream to improve the chances for a better future for some Colombian children.

If you don't want to continue to receive our reports, please respond to this e-mail.

ColombiaCare Board of Directors