



ColombiaCare Progress Report - #10– February 2007

ColombiaCare supporters,

The following is the tenth ColombiaCare report 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 making a difference!

If you missed a report and/or would like to see the previous reports, you can find them on our home page <http://www.colombiacare.org/>

This report is a trip report based on Victoria Perez's visit to Colombia at the end of January 2007. As in previous visits, we feel re-energized when we see first hand the impact that the organization is having. It is real and tangible.

All of the current projects are doing very well; below is a brief summary of each one of them and a link to the appropriate place in our page so you can enjoy the pictures and more detail.

Improving Communications Skills

As a reminder, the objective of this project is to improve the reading, writing and communications skills of the children in the Communes where we are working, and it is a continuation of a project we had in 2005-2006. These communes are in the outskirts of Cali. The project is taking place in a different school than the first project. This school is located in a very poor area where the "new" displaced families are arriving. When we did our previous report the project had just started and we had already noticed the positive impact on the children. After five months into the project, the results are very positive and measurable. The academic level of the children has improved and the teachers are applying new and better teaching techniques. In addition, the children love to participate in the various activities which allow them to express their individuality and show their talents. One particularly interested outcome of this project is the change of attitude of older boys and their involvement. We invite you to visit this link for additional details: [Communication](#).

Las Palmas School - the pleasure of making a difference

The Las Palmas School, where the communications project is taking place, is located on a hill in a very poor area. The school backyard is a dirt field in the shape of two terraces, with no trees, vegetation or retention wall to support it. As a result, the backyard is eroding. This is also the recreation area for the children which contributes to accelerate the erosion. In fact, one of their favorite games is to use the hill as a roller coaster. When comparing the erosion from a visit last year, it was obvious that the erosion was borderline dangerous, putting not only the backyard at risk but the school itself. Immediately we obtained estimates for a retention wall and contracted the work. As we write this report, the retention wall is being built. The cost is \$2500. We all are making a real difference.



See the pictures of the backyard and the effects of the erosion on the school building at this link: [Las Palmas](#).

Homework Clinics:

As we mentioned in our previous report, we started this project during the summer of 2006. This is a grant-sponsored project. This project continues to be a hit with the children. As a reminder, the objective of the program is to provide a safe and stimulating after-school environment. The program helps and guides the children in doing their homework and stimulates the use of talents in areas such as music, art, dance, reading, and writing. The program is being implemented in two different community centers. This has the additional benefit of involving the community in the program and therefore, ensures its continuity. The popularity of the program is such, that the coordinators have been forced to set some additional scheduling so all the children who want to participate have the opportunity to. It is really rewarding to see the various activities and childrens' enthusiasm with the program. You can have this rewarding experience by seeing of the pictures and activities in the following link: [Homework](#)

Adolescent Mothers

As you may recall from our last report, we received a grant for this program. The project's objective is to facilitate pre- and post-natal care to teenage mothers, provide education on how to care for the babies and how to assume the responsibilities that come with having a child. In addition, the project will provide training and assistance to ensure the mothers can generate some income. After adapting and preparing the facility, the actual program started on February 19, 2007. At this point we can report that the facility is very welcoming and after the repairs, adaptation and paint it stands out in this very poor area. The young women will be receiving training in sewing and personal development. The first week of the training has gone very well, and the participants are very enthusiastic at learning a skill that will allow them to generate some income. They are also receiving very well the personal development aspect of the training. See pictures of the facility and the first day of training as well as some additional details at this link: [Teenagers](#)

Carpentry – Vocational Training

this project is also a grant-based project. It is a follow up to the Welding training we provided last year. The training program structure will be very similar to the welding training we finished in July 2006. That is, in addition to the technical training, the students receive training in work ethics, team work, job interviews, etc. At this point, the curriculum and support material for the training is ready. The recruiting of the young people also started. The facility where the workshop will take place is being adapted in terms of power supply, ventilation and bathrooms. The planned date to start the workshop is early April.



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Fundraising:

We are planning several events for this year. We will have a Brunch in NYC on April 22 and Bingo, also in NYC, on June 9. We will let you know how we did with these events.

Your donations are welcome any time. You can make a donation directly from our page. Don't forget that you can also give donations as a gift for others. See our home page for more information <http://www.colombiacare.org/>

We want to remind you that if you need a proof of donations for your tax returns, please let us know by responding to this e-mail with an address indicating 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 tax documents.

As we said in the previous report, it is your generosity that re-energizes us and maintains our dream to improve the chances for a better future for some Colombian children. We have seen concrete results and we all should share the pride of our positive impact.

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

ColombiaCare Board of Directors