



ColombiaCare Progress Report - #11– June 2007

ColombiaCare supporters,

The following is the eleventh 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/>

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. This project has been the most challenging. The situation of the children in this area is aggravated by the location, difficult access, the often change of teachers and the living conditions of their families. The importance of this project and the impact on the children is more evident because of those problems. For many of these children the attention received by the coordinators and the other people working in the project is the only constant in their lives. We invite you to visit this link for additional details: [Communication](#).

Las Palmas School - the pleasure of making a difference

As you recall from our last report, The Las Palmas School, where the communications project is taking place, that the erosion of the terrain where the school is located was border-line dangerous, putting not only the backyard at risk but the school itself. ColombiaCare reacted immediately and financed the construction of a retention wall. The construction of the wall has been complicated by the difficult access to the location and by an unusual rainy season in the last five months, however, construction is finally progressing as you can observe in the pictures in the following link: [Las Palmas](#). As an interesting note, one of the activities for the young people participating in the Carpentry Training – see below, will be planting trees in some of the “terraces” of the school.

Homework Clinics:

As we mentioned in our previous reports, 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 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. The program has also provided an environment for the community to get involved and make full use of the community centers. We are arriving to the end of the project in terms of grant money. However, we are continuing with some activities during the summer vacation. We are applying for a continuation grant and hope to have good news in a next report. You can have this rewarding experience by seeing of the pictures and activities in the following link: [Homework](#)

Adolescent Mothers

This is also a grant-sponsored project. 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 provides training and assistance to ensure the mothers can generate some income. After adapting and preparing the facility, the actual program started on February 2007. A first group of young mothers finished the program very successfully in May. The desertion rate was very low which is a good indicator of success. In addition to the personal development training, they learned some basics in sewing. The program was also able to obtain a contract with the local school to make their uniforms. This is very positive since it allows not only more practice but the opportunity to earn some income. The second group started in May and some changes to the program were made based on the feedback from the first group. So far, this second program is progressing very well. See pictures of the facility and 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 is 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. There were some difficulties in selecting the most appropriate location but finally one that met fundamental requirements of safety and easy access was chosen. The location was remodeled and adapted to house the equipment and to facilitate the training. Brand new equipment was acquired and a very thorough process of selection of the participants was conducted. The program started in early June. The expectations are high from sides, ours and the participants. We will let you know of the progress in the next report. For now, see the impressive location, the brand new equipment and the smiles of the young people that are starting the first program at this link: [Carpentry](#)

Some Special People

This time we would like to mention two special people. The first one, Mathew, an eight year old from New Jersey, who is very concerned that not all of the children in this world have as much as he does. He wanted to give part of his savings, from his daily allowance,



to some organization that helps children. He thoroughly interviewed us to understand how we help children and to ensure that his contribution would go to the children's benefit. He suggested that we buy some educational books and told us that perhaps he would contribute some more money later. We will be buying the books as per Mathew's instructions and report back to him. Thank you Mathew for the example you are giving to all of us.

The second one is Alex who was visiting Colombia in April. He wanted to do something and decided to collect school supplies. He put a box in front of his office, the response was gratifying. With some friends he went to a very poor school for abandoned or orphan children in Bogotá Colombia and distributed the supplies. See Mathew's picture and the smiles of the children with the supplies brought by Alex in the following link: [Special People](#)

Fundraising:

We had Brunch in NYC on April 22 and Bingo, also in NYC, on June 9.

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