



ColombiaCare Progress Report - #5– August 3, 2005

ColombiaCare supporters,

The following is the fifth 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!

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

Visit to Colombia:

Victoria Perez had the opportunity to go to Colombia last June-July and for the first time she was able to meet some of the people ColombiaCare has been working with and to see with her own eyes some of the impact that we all have had.

Meeting with the Jera Foundation: As you recall, ColombiaCare has been working with the Jera Foundation from Cali, Colombia in the remodeling of De la Cruz School. The Jera Foundation is a private foundation. Even though we have had constant communication with them via e-mail, we hadn't had any face to face interaction yet. Victoria met in person many of the foundation members; in particular she worked closely during her stay in Colombia with two of the sisters that manage the foundation: Cristina and Ana Maria Otoya. Victoria's impression of the Foundation and its members couldn't be better. She found them to be very serious, professional and caring people. This very positive impression gave ColombiaCare a great deal of relief and assurance that we can continue to use the Jera Foundation as ColombiaCare's eyes in Colombia. This is fundamental to ensure that our monies go where intended.

Visit to the School. This was also the first time that a member of ColombiaCare saw in person one of the projects we have sponsored. Seeing the actual school and what we have done and interacting with the children was an unforgettable experience for Victoria. Follow the link to see the pictures and to read Victoria's impressions: <http://colombiacare.org/Schoolvisit.html>



between 5 and 15 years old. The children were evaluated in terms of their memory, perception and verbal expression. In addition, they were evaluated in terms of their reading and writing skills. The results indicate a significant deficiency in all of those areas. There were variation among the children, but in average the results reflect the need to improve those areas. The study also indicated that even though the facilities improved significantly with the remodeling, there are aspects that may interfere in the children's learning capacity such as the level of noise. Given that it is a hot climate, the doors and the windows are always open. This allows for the fresh air to circulate, but at the same time, it allows for the noise to enter from the street and other classrooms. This not only distracts the children but also forces them to yell to be heard.

The children are right now in the summer break. The actual improvement program will start with the school year in early September. Based on the results of the evaluation, The Jera Foundation is also searching for a cost-effective way to reduce the noise level and therefore, to minimize the unwanted distractions. In the next report we will be describing the activities and progress of the program.

There are two other projects we are exploring. However, they are currently being defined and it is too early to try to describe them in any detail at this point in time.

Fundraising: Active fundraising has continued. We have had several successful events that had allowed us to collect money. We are planning a garage sale on August 13 and 14 and are exploring other events for later in the year. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to "crack the code" for grants but we keep trying. With the events we have had this year and other individual donations; we have collected so far a little over \$12,000.

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.

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.