



ColombiaCare Progress Report - #6– November 21, 2005

ColombiaCare supporters,

The following is the sixth 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.

Grant and Vocational Project:

For this report we have great news. We obtained our first grant. To say that we are excited about this, it is an understatement. The very generous company that gave us the grant requested anonymity. The grant is for \$78,195 to support a vocational program in “communes 18 and 20” in the outskirts of Cali, one of the poorest areas of this city. The objective of the program is to provide vocational training to 120 children between the ages of 9 to 18 that for many different reasons are not attending regular school. These are the children at the highest risk in this area of poverty and few job opportunities. We are teaming with Foundation JERA for this project. As mentioned in previous reports, we are working very well with this organization. One of the objectives of the vocational program is to work with existing vocational institutions to ensure continuity of the program. We will support conditioning of the facilities and the equipment and tools required for the workshops. In addition, we will design the workshops in areas that can ensure jobs for the trainees. We will also support the instructors for the training of the 120 trainees. The program will take one year – two months to set everything up and eight months of training. As mentioned earlier, we expect that the vocational institutions will continue with the program to train more young people. We may continue to provide support as appropriate to make sure that happens. At this point we are setting things up. The project started on October 18, 2005 and will end one year later in 2006. The place for the workshop has been selected; the process of evaluating candidates and acquiring equipment and tools has also started. The training will begin in January 2006. As we make progress, we will post updates in our page and will send details in the next report.

Other Ongoing Project:

As mentioned in the last report, we started the second phase of the De La Cruz School project. This phase aims at improving the reading, writing and communications skills of the children, and therefore giving them a better chance to learn and improve in other areas. For this project we are partnering with JERA as well, and one of the local universities, Universidad del Valle. The program was kicked off in September and now is well under way. For the kick off, the children were given school supplies that the First Presbyterian



Church in Howell – courtesy of Kelly Santangelo and Wendy Harman, had provided to ColombiaCare. Currently the instructors are working with the children in various areas. For example, the children are writing articles to start a School News Paper. Also, we started to acquire books for the library. You can see some updates and pictures in <http://colombiacare.org/Communicationsimprovementprogram.html>

In the Pipeline:

We are working on two proposals. The first one is a computer lab using Linux. The idea is to obtain 20 to 30 donated laptops (to reduce the cost of shipping) and load them with the appropriate software in the US and ship them to Colombia to set a lab that will serve several schools. There we will work with experts in the area to ensure the installation and maintenance. The second project is a “homework clinic”. The objective is to set some after school programs with participation of members of the community to ensure that the children have some supervision and direction for homework and after school activities. We will be submitting these two proposals for grants early next year. We are also evaluating some other small projects that we can support with the exiting funds.

Fundraising: Active fundraising has continued. We have had several successful events that have allowed us to collect money. We had a garage sale on August 13 and 14, we had a “Radio-thon” in NYC with the Colombian community on September 24 and Carlos Perez rode his bike for 100kms (62.3 miles – it sounds more impressive in kms) on October 15. His co-workers and friends sponsored him. So far with all of these events and the ones we had earlier in the year we have collected a little over \$22,000 during 2005. You can see some pictures of the events in <http://colombiacare.org/keep.html>

Christmas Cards and t-shirts: we are selling some beautiful Christmas cards using two designs by the children we sponsor and t-shirts with ColombiaCare logo. If you are interested in any of these items, please follow this link: <http://colombiacare.org/contribute.html#buy>

Double Gift: in this holiday season or for any other event you wonder what gift to give to the person who has it all? Well, we can help you. We have now an easy way to make donations in the name of other persons. Using [Paypal](#) through our page and following some very easy instructions, you can just do that. The person(s) in whose name you made the donation will receive an e-mail informing them that you gave a donation in their name and you will receive an e-mail confirming your transaction.

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.



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We wish you a very happy Thanksgiving. We have much to thank you for. 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 start seeing 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