



ColombiaCare Progress Report - #12– November 2007

ColombiaCare supporters,

The following is the twelfth 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/>

Below is a brief summary of the various projects we have ongoing or finished since the last report

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. As mentioned in previous reports, this project has been the most challenging due to the location and the living conditions of most families. On the other hand, because of the difficulties, the satisfaction is bigger when we see the impact that this project is having on the children. The children are very responsive to the coordinators that work with them. The coordinators work with small group of children and in some special situations with individual children. This individualized attention is what has had the most impact in the children. In addition, if the coordinators identify learning or psychological problems they do the appropriate follow up. We will be supporting this project until the end of the academic year 2007-2008. You can see more details for this project in the following link [Communication](#).

Adolescent Mothers

This is a grant-sponsored project. As mentioned in previous reports, this program was approved at the end of 2006, and its main objectives are: to facilitate pre- and post-natal care to teenage mothers; to provide education on how to care for the babies and how to assume the responsibilities that come with having a child; and to provide skill training that would allow the mothers to generate some income. For the skills training, it was decided to create a sewing workshop that will teach sewing to these young women and that will provide them with the opportunity to generate some income. They will be able to use the sewing machines after the program is completed. A first group finished in April of this year and the second group started in May and completed the program at the end of August. In total forty young women completed the training. Up to now, six of them have found permanent jobs. Four of those jobs are in the center we partnered with for the training. Out of this group, aged from 13 to 20 years old, the younger mothers, are the most difficult to motivate. They prefer to stay home and be supported by their parents (usually the mother) or boy friend. On the other hand, those aged 18 or older are very motivated. They want to take charge of their lives and their babies. We are trying to find



ways to motivate the younger group. See pictures of the facility and training as well as some additional details at this link: [Teenagers](#)

Carpentry – Vocational Training

This program is a follow up of the very successful Welding Workshop Program that we had in 2006. Two groups have finished the training and a third one will finish in three weeks. At the end of the program we would have trained 120 young people in 2007. Several of the participants have good job opportunities and there are two initiatives for the creation of small business. The program made an 18-month loan for \$1,000 to the young entrepreneurs. Part of the project is to give our trainees assistance in formulating and executing their business plan. The initiatives to create the business, though motivated through the training, came from the participants themselves. Similar initiatives started with the previous group we trained in 2006. These have been successful and all of their learning experiences are been applied to these new ones.

We continue to receive accolades from the companies that have employed trainees from the Welding training and from the first group of Carpentry training. The successful employment of these young people plus the business initiatives they are pursuing proves the great success of this program. See more details at this link: [Carpentry](#)

Fundraising:

We had a party in NYC, on November 17 that allowed us to collect some much needed funds.

We have two proposals for grant continuation for the Homework Clinics project – see previous reports, and for the Vocational project. We should be hearing in couple of weeks if we were able to obtain the grants.

Seeking for grants continues to be an up-hill battle, even for those continuation grants we are facing reduction in the amounts granted and more requirements. We need very badly to obtain other sources of funding to continue with the projects. If some of you have good contacts in companies or foundations that provide grants that would fit our objectives we would appreciate any help in opening doors and then we will take it from there.

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.



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ColombiaCare Board of Directors