

Centro Madre News Report January 2013



Helping the ones in need

During the thirteen years since Centro Madre began in Barlovento, Miranda State, Venezuela, priority has always been given to serve the children and the ones most in need. Sometimes we receive donations of used clothing, shoes, bags and other things. We strive to give these items especially to those with disabilities.

The problem of disability increases when you add not only poverty but also gender discrimination. We have seen that most of these people have striven hard to overcome these barriers. For a family which receives only a minimum income and can barely meet their basic needs, it is even more difficult to meet the special needs of a family member with a disability. Therefore, we believe these people most deserve help.



Bárbara Pérez Labrador



Lucía

Barbara is 21, and lives with her father and her husband, who do not have a steady job. She just had her second baby which was born prematurely. Barbara suffers from spina bifida,

a motor disability that makes it difficult to walk, and she has severe asthma. Their needs start from the basics. We gave her a bag of baby clothes and a towel and we buy diapers and food for the newborn.

Lucía is deaf and dumb. She has two sons and a granddaughter. She never learned sign language and has no permanent job. We gave her a bag of clothes and towel.



Sr. Valentín with Yoselín



Melqui Machado

Centro Madre received a donation of a beautiful communion dress in perfect condition. We contacted Señor Valentín, a vicar who visits the villages preparing young boys and girls for communion. He contacted a family in Huice village in our municipality, with two daughters taking their first communion in December, but no money to buy the dresses. It was a perfect fit for Yoselin, one of the two sisters. The family is very grateful.

Melqui is 13 and has lived in Centro Madre for seven years. Among the donations were some very nice clothes to suit the tastes of a teenager at Christmas.



Miguel y Leider Zambrano



Andrea Blin, voluntaria de los EEUU

We bought school shoes for Miguel and Leider Zambrano (and other children). As a trade, their mother collected 10 sacks of cacao skins for us, which are food for the California worms that produce humus for growing vegetables. Andrea Blin is a North American volunteer and is reaping humus, together with several children.



Public Library, San José de Barlovento

Sometimes we receive donations of books for our reading project for children up to twelve years old. We also receive high school textbooks which we distribute to students, and the other books we give away. This time we donated 150 books to the public library of San José de Barlovento.

For students of the village of El Tesoro, it is not easy to go to high school because there is often no transportation from their village to the asphalt road that is about 5 kilometers (3miles) away, and then they must take a bus to the town of San José. They also do not have internet access to do their homework. For this reason many of these youth do not complete high school. When some of them sought help at Centro Madre we bought several textbooks for them. They still need more.

Non-Violent Communication workshop in La Guairita.



Venezuela, and other countries, now live with a culture of violence, which in recent years has increased. In La Guairita village we started a weekly Nonviolent Communication workshop with some women. By the end of the workshops we had more teenagers than adults participating. During each workshop we did cooperative games, arts and crafts, and a lot of Nonviolent Communication work about their emotions.

Christmas celebration in 5 villages

As every year, we organize children's programs with kids of all ages. This year we arranged several projects, painting and decorating recycled paper and cardboard that developed their creative skills as they made their own gifts. We did this in five local communities: Madre Vieja, La Guairita, Manti, El Tesoro and Los Galpones.



Cutting, folding, decorating ...



...making their own gift bag



Our Farm

The Holistic Farm of Centro Madre continues to grow. We received a donation from the Bank of Venezuela to build a community store at the front of our house to sell our products and those of our neighbors. The income will be reinvested in the development of the farm and our educational and cultural projects. The construction is now underway.

On November 10th during the 30th anniversary commemorations of the municipality, the mayor granted us the "Order of Andres Bello" for our contribution to the growth and development of the municipality in the area of food security.

Thank you very much to the many people who donated items and money to make this possible.

Hendrika Renkers
Directora Centro Madre