

**INSPECTORIA SALESIANA DE CENTROAMÉRICA Y PANAMÁ**  
**Salesian Project Development Office of (OPSALCA)**  
**Ciudad de los Niños, El Salvador, C.A.**

**PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Year 2002**

**I. Background**

**Name of the Project:** Training Children and Young Victims of Social Conflict for the Workplace

**Objective of the Project:** To help 150 young people, between the ages of 13 to 19 years who are orphan and/or victims of the recent civil conflict in El Salvador to become mature responsible and productive through a program of social and educational development (prevention).

**Starting Date:** July 1, 2000

**Total Amount of Donation:** US \$39,371.75

**Received Previously:** US \$15,000.00

**Received this Period:** US \$12,500.00

**2. Activities Completed**

**2.1 Changes in the Youth Group Participating in the Project**

The group of 150 youths that participated in the program selected last year had to be reconfigured as 20 youths dropped out of the program. The reasons for leaving the program were:

- i. 15 finished their studies at Ciudad de Los Niños. These 15 youths represent 10% of the total number of students participating.
- ii. 5 deserted the institution and they did not return to continue studying in year 2002. This group of 5 youths represents 3.33% of the total number of youths in the program.

The gender make up of the group is as follows:

Youth Participating in the Program	2001		2002	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Males	138	92%	<b>120</b>	<b>80%</b>
Females	12	8%	<b>30</b>	<b>20%</b>
Total	150	100%	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Ciudad de Los Niños has been from its inception an institution for the education of male youths. All of the boarding students are male. It is for this reason that male students are the largest number appearing in the table above. Nevertheless, several years ago this institution opened all of its educational programs and accepted the enrollment of girls. In this report, as well as was indicated in the report last year, the participation by girls is at a reduced level. For the current year, female participation has increased to 30 girls because a group of 20 youths left the program and they were replaced by 20 girls. This selection approach was used to improve the participation of girls at the institution. Female participation has increased from 8% in 2001 to 20% in 2002. The participation of girls next year will probably be even higher. It should be noted that there is a group of more than 600 young women participating in programs at Ciudad de Los Niños, but they are not part of this project.

Participation of the youths by age:

<b>Age of the Participants</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
13	0	0.00
14	32	21.33
15	60	40.00
16	44	29.33
17	14	9.33
18	0	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Note: See Attachment 1 List of Participants  
 See Attachment 2 Pictures

## 2.2 Student Participation in the Project

Without exception, all the students have access to all of the educational services of the institution; nevertheless, those that are boarders receive other types of services like lodging and laundry; these services are only for use by the students living at Ciudad de Los Niños. Services such as the provision of medical attention, psychological counseling, and food are available to both the boarders and the non-boarder students. The make up of the group for this period is as follows:

<b>Participating in the Program</b>	<b>2001</b>		<b>2002</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Boarders	107	71.33	<b>105</b>	<b>70%</b>
Non-Boarders	43	28.67	<b>45</b>	<b>30%</b>
Total	150	100	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2.3 Improving Educational Quality (Installation of a Computer Center)

An important activity carried out during this period has been the installation of a Computer Center for use by all the students participating in the program. For the first time, the students including the most economically humble) have 40 machines with the latest technology at their service.

It is necessary to mention that this level of quality at Ciudad de los Niños places its students at an advantage over those from other educational institutions of public character, which have little access to computers and are often limited to one machine, which in most cases is used exclusively by the education and administrative personnel. In this case, Ciudad de Los Niños has these machines for the use of students, as an instrument for work and study.

The students have been subdivided into groups of forty students and they have access to at least 3 hours of computer classes per week. Outside class hours, the most advanced students of the upper levels have access to the machines for the preparation of their work and study.

The machines have been installed with interactive special programs that introduce computer use step-by-step to youths that have not had prior computer use for the discovery of all the advantages that they can find for their use. Also, the computers have Word, Excel, Power Point, etc. installed. A second step for the development of the Computer Center and the improvement of educational quality of Ciudad de Los Niños will be when all the students have access to the Internet. At the moment, for economic reasons, access to Internet service is limited to the education and administrative personnel.

### 2.4 Academic Level and Study Course of Participants in the Program

The students benefiting from this project who are participating in the academic education program during this period are as follows:

Academic Level of Participants	2001		2002	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
7mo. Degree	68	45.33	<b>07</b>	<b>4.67</b>
8mo. Degree	82	54.67	<b>69</b>	<b>46.00</b>
9mo. Degree	0	0.00	<b>74</b>	<b>49.33</b>
TOTAL	150	100.00	<b>150</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The students selected nine specialties as outlined in the following table:

Technical Specialty Study Course	2001		2002	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Tailoring	27	18.00	<b>25</b>	<b>16.67</b>
Industrial sewing	9	6.00	<b>17</b>	<b>11.33</b>
Welding	23	15.33	<b>16</b>	<b>10.67</b>
General mechanics	26	17.33	<b>24</b>	<b>16.00</b>

Technical Specialty Study Course	2001		2002	
	Auto mechanics	23	15.33	21
Bakery	7	4.67	17	11.33
Electricity	26	17.33	25	16.67
Electronics	2	1.33	1	0.67
Shoemaking	7	4.67	4	2.67
TOTAL	150	100.00	150	100

Most of the 20 new participants in the project enrolled in Bakery and Industrial Sewing.

It should be noted that a condition for the participation of a student in the program of technical education is that he/she has completed or is completing the academic education program. Ciudad de los Niños does not believe that it is correct to educate a boy or girl with a technical specialty only for work without an academic base. On the contrary, it is visualized that the boy and girl must be educated in an integral way, with a technical component that gives fast-access to remunerative economic activities, but that also provides him/her the academic and cultural knowledge to be developed humanly and intellectually.

## 2.5 Other activities undertaken

The youths participating in this project have had access and have participated in the following extracurricular educational programs:

### i. Educational type:

#### 1. Sports Programs

Participation in sports competition is in the following specialties: Soccer, Basket Ball, Volley Ball and Athletics. During this year, the students participated in intramural sports championships within Ciudad de Los Niños and also participated in three championships with other educational institutions.

#### 2. Artistic–Cultural Programs

Annually, Ciudad de Los Niños carries out its youth week, which consists of a cultural fair in which the students of CDN participate along with students from other educational institutions. During three months, the students develop their scientific projects to be shown for one week to visitors and their parents. During youth week, the students also have the opportunity to be expressed artistically and culturally through dance, song and theater.

#### 3. Student Government Programs

Each year, the students have the opportunity to experience and to live democratically, electing their student government. This is a fabulous experience that the students have, forming their own political parties, carrying out campaigns to promote their candidates and voting for the one that has convinced them and they believe are better than the other candidates. Whoever wins the election is considered the mayor of Ciudad de Los Niños and together with his/her advisors will

participate in reaching decisions that affect CDN, in combination with the rest of the education community, represented by the teachers, tutors and the Salesians responsible for this work.

## **ii. Strengthening educational programs**

### *1. Medical and psychological attention*

All students have had access to medical attention and nurses when it has been necessary. Preventive education activities were carried out with the students, especially the prevention of Dengue, since the whole country has been victim of a Dengue epidemic that took the lives of several children.

They also continue having the support of a group of professionals in psychology and counseling who give due attention to the problems that the students and their parents present. On some occasions visits have been made to the communities where the boys live, so much to detect problems, as to present alternative solutions.

### *2. School for Parents*

Periodically the parents are invited to visit to the institution and participate in activities of educational-formative type, with the intention of helping to improve parent-child relationships. The activities have psychological, human formation, and human relations content. Sometimes these include artistic and cultural activities.

### *3. Nutrition Programs*

To reinforce the existent feeding program, donations were received this period from Canada and the United States, consisting of: Cereals, Nutritious Pastas, Tomato Paste, Tomato, Basic Grains (rice, corn, beans), Milk, and Vegetables. The goal of the institution is to give the students a balanced diet, rich in proteins and vitamins, with three meals per day for the boarders and at least one meal per day for the non-boarder students.

## **2.6 Costs incurred**

The economic contribution received by Ciudad de Los Niños during this period was used exclusively for the purchase of computers, making it possible to establish the Computer Center.

To establish the Computer Center fulfills the institutional objective of improving the educational quality of the services the students receive. For the first time, boys and girls, youth of both sexes have access and use of computers and to information on the net.

The total investment to establish the Computer Center was US \$27,215.48.00, primarily for purchasing 40 computers. Other costs valued approximately at more than US \$30,000 dollars were made to condition a room and to transform it into the Computer Center. The US \$12,500 dollars donated through this program for the current year covered 45.93% of the cost of the purchase of the computers. The rest of the money was contributed by Salesian resources, 22%, and the balance from other donors.

Hereinafter the detail:

ACTIVITY	PAID BY THE PROGRAM	OTHER DONORS	TOTAL
Purchase of 40 computers, Intel Pentium Celeron	12,500.00	7,707.20	20,207.20
Purchase of 5 matrix printers	0.00	975.00	975.00
40 voltage regulators (UPS)	0.00	1,416.00	1,416.00
2 airs conditioning mini splits	0.00	2,915.96	2,915.96
Purchase of 1 electric transformer and accessories	0.00	953.26	953.26
Electric materials for the facilities	0.00	14.68	14.68
Materials for 40 tables	0.00	491.54	491.54
Painting	0.00	241.84	241.84
TOTAL SUB	12,500.00	14,715.48	27,215.48

Note: All the values are given in US dollars.

1. **Donation of this project:** US \$12,500.00 (45.93%)
2. Other Donors: US \$11,965.48 (43.97%)
3. Contribute own: US \$2,750.00 (10.10%)
4. TOTAL US \$27,215.48 (100.00%)

Note: See Attachment 3. Costs (Investment Computer Center) and Invoice

### 3. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

#### *i. Desertion*

5% of the students abandoned the program without a concrete reason and did not have anywhere to go, i.e., an alternative to staying in the program. The institution's personnel looked for the necessary means to support to the youths and their families and in these cases it was determined that the problems were beyond the possibilities of the institution.

#### *ii. Integration*

The first weeks continue being difficult for the newly arrived boarding students to join all the programs in which they will participate. They have come from distant areas to Ciudad de Los Niños, a move of tens of kilometers from their place of origin.

### 4. ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

- i. To continue looking for ways to improve the educational quality of the Center.
- ii. To study the possibility of adding other technical specialties of interest to the students with a promising future with local industry.
- iii. To offer new services at the institution, like a library for consultation of both professors and students and to expand Internet access for the students.
- iv. To look for higher education options for the better students leaving Ciudad de Los Niños.