



OPPORTUNITY International

Transforming LIVES

No. 4 / OCTOBER 2016

COLOMBIA



SEAL OF QUALITY

Our finance company has received the Client Protection Smart Certification awarded by The Smart Campaign. With this certification, our entity is recognized by applying the highest quality international standards of client protection in microfinance. This seal of quality have been attained by 68 micro finance institutions in the world, 5 of them in Colombia.

Seeds for my community

THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER HAS BEEN INAUGURATED

OI Colombia's commitment with the Sunflower community has become a reality in Cartagena with the building of a center that promotes and enables education to the population (about 900 families). After 15 months of working with groups of leader women, OI Colombia managed the resources through mobilization and awareness among the civil society, the local government and the community. The center was inaugurated on September 20th with the presence of the Board Members of the finance company.



AN ACHIEVEMENT BY WOMEN

In the development of The Sunflowers Project, led by Claudia Robayo, Director of Transformation of OI Colombia, our organization trained in leadership a group of 30 women. The process ended with the creation of the Education and Life Association whose mission was presented at the inauguration of the Cultural and Education center:

Educate the community performing actions directed to cognitive, moral and spiritual training of people living in the community, awakening in them a desire to overcome.



PRIDE FOR OI

John de Bruyn, president of the Board Members of Opportunity International Colombia S.A. Finance Company, made a public recognition to the empowerment achieved by women of the Association and he expressed his admiration for their success. "We are immensely honored to have had the chance to be here, right now. We are touched by all the work that you have achieved here and for the inspiration and vision that you have as an Association. The determination and the tenacity of each of the women of the Association and the desire to realize the goals that you have established, fill us with pride"



The Sunflower Cultural and Education Center welcomes more than 70 children that were lacking classrooms for basic education.

The Cultural and Education Center beautifies the landscape of The Sunflowers sector in the Albornoz neighborhood in Cartagena, Colombia.



Children, young people, professors and parents made of this event a party.

"We learned that dreams come true".



LEADERS IN MOVEMENT

ECOBICKS FOR DREAMS

With volunteer events, OI Colombia reaches out to the community of the Verbenal South neighborhood, in Bogotá, where the company works through the neighborhood there isn't a place where children could share, celebrate, learn from their fears and support each other to achieve their goals. For this reason the initiative to build a social hall called Verbenal Dreams emerged.

For the construction, we are using "eco bricks", an environmentally friendly system of construction, where the walls are built with plastic bottles filled with plastic waste or soil. On September 18, OI mobilized 50 plus volunteers in an activity called llenatón. More than 3,000 bottles were collected and filled to add bricks to the construction of this dream.