



Transforming LIVES

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COLOMBIA

Opportunity International Colombia held the fifth congress of Leaders 'Leading with values' the 21st and 22nd of November in Cartagena city. The 30th of the same month The EduFinance Summit 'Educational Quality from early childhood' took place in Barranquilla, where an exhibition of the EduFinance Program was given. These two events paid tribute to the memory of Enrique Ordóñez Noriega.

Fifth Congress of Leaders VALUES FOR PEACE

A set of values and the word peace were made tangible by means of seven testimonies of life that were shared within the panel 'Leading with Values', moderated by Abigail Condie, Investigation and Knowledge Coordinator of Opportunity International. Empathy: Omaira Oquendo, she had to live the forced displacement and donated a portion of her land to a woman that needed a place to build her house. Solidarity: Virgelina del Carmen Fonseca decided to embrace a 22 year old lady in her home where she lived with her 4 children, until she finally solved her situation. Dignity: a home turned into a joyful place by Basilia Mendoza for her family. Bonding: a house provided by Jairo Narvaez to his family in pursuit of harmony. Faith: Hilda Garcia felt it by handing her son's health and life in to God, and who up to date is still by her side.



Jorge Silva, Mexican missionary of the organization Youth with a Mission, YWAM, was invited as lecturer of the congress. Silva gave a reflection about values and ethics based on his personal life experiences and observations during his time in Colombia, where he arrived in 1998 and where he's been working with vulnerable villages up to date. He currently gives support in health services through a health care facility in Bocachica township near Cartagena city.



First Educational Encounter EduFinance

COMMITMENT AND TRUST

Approximately 300 people including students, school directives, teachers, parents and grandfathers, attended the First EduFinance summit in Colombia. The aim: to socialize the experience and learning process of education institutions enrolled in the Program. Two activities took place within the summit: an exposition of Educational material and content organized in 13 stands that were explained by each institution in a space of hour and a half, and a cultural sample of dances and theatre, both created by teachers, parents and students.



The Event allowed to identify the most significant advances of the EduFinance Program in Colombia, among them: a high level of trust built between the institutions that integrated the clusters and within the clusters itself; the active and committed participation of parents with the Program; the creative development of pedagogical strategies to promote literacy, and the awareness of healthy environmental spaces (environmental competence included in the curriculum) as a strategy to progress in the previous topics.



Yennifer Hernández

2017 LEADERS RECOGNITION

During the Congress five clients received recognition for their leadership in Trust Groups and Savings Groups. Mirna Ramos, is an advisor and guide of the community from the group 'Bendecidos de Montecarlos' (blessed of Montecarlos), Cartagena. Esperanza Mancilla, community leader and Opportunity's ambassador from the Group 'Pies Descalzados' (Barefoot), Cartagena. Yennifer Hernández, responsible and entrepreneur from the group 'Mis Ahorros' (My Savings), Carmen de Bolívar. Hilda García, generous with what she has learned and willing to train new leaders for her community from the group 'Las Guerreras' (The Warriors), Bogota. María de Jesús Torres, an example of motivation and punctuality, from the group 'Triunfadores del Mañana' (Achievers of the Future), Bogota.

LANGUAGE WITH RHYTHM

Norelis Hidrobo teaches children the language with plenty of rhythm: her didactic strategy is based on songwriting. Thanks to the support and guidance of the EduFinance specialist in education, Celia Trillos, was possible to build a music lounge for her school 'Mis Angelitos' (My Angels). Unique instruments designed and built by the children with their parents and teachers help, can be found in this new space. The main material used to create the instruments with characters from popular mythology, were native plants and tropical fruit seeds that were collected with their families. The xylophone is probably the most striking instrument, which was built collectively. Each day the child has the opportunity of playing the instrument he/she wants to play and once they all have chosen one, the band starts playing. The peace band!



"Values are what we believe and practice, they should challenge us to protect our environment, help others to be good citizens and encourage them to be salt and light to create an impact in the world with God's love and His plan of a live with dignity for all of us".

Gina Zabala, Association of Opportunity International Colombia Board of Directors' Chair.



Our leaders, accompanied by the AGAPE's team, Association managed by Brian Olarte, enjoyed an afternoon in the beach. The different activities brought them together and they planned their future thinking about helping others.



Children, parents and teachers worked with recycled materials to design their customs and build scenography's related to local culture, social environment and pedagogy.

"Commitment for each one of us, from our Organization, means to love and to serve to whom are in need and contribute to generate an improvement in their lives, families and communities. This event is an inspiration for us. For this reason, we want to live the commitment that each leader undertakes".

Camilo García Peña, CEO, Opportunity International Colombia.