

¿EN QUÉ VA EL APOYO?

Success stories of U.S.- Colombia cooperation



Bogotá D.C.

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US Embassy

CHILDREN FROM 'PATIO BONITO' REBUILD THEIR DREAMS

'Patio Bonito', in the Kennedy neighborhood, is one of the neighborhoods in Bogotá with the largest number of incoming internally displaced people in the past few years. Its inhabitants live in conditions of poverty and many of its children have no access to education.

Nevertheless, nearly 300 children from this neighborhood will see their dreams come true thanks to the opening of the comprehensive center *Centro Integral Reconstruyendo Sueños*. The U.S. Government, through the Ministry of Defense's U.S. Southern Command Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), donated \$210,000 towards the construction of the center. The 9,247 sq. ft. area includes classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen, bathrooms and an office area.

In addition to the children, young adults and senior citizens will also benefit and enjoy these new facilities. They will receive training in skills such as carpentry, arts and crafts, dressmaking, dance and theater.

The project was led by young people from the neighborhood itself who, motivated by the children's educational situation, designed the proposal and received support from public and private sectors and the community. Some of the organizations supportive of this initiative are: Patio Bonito's Zone Planning Unit (UPZ), the U.S. Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), the childrens foundation *Fundación Proniñez de Colombia*, the *Fundación Social*, the Colombian Junior Chamber, the Kennedy Mayor's Office, youth centers such as *Juvin* and *Jovifut*, and the *Corporación Grupo Enlace Social*, an umbrella for 18 social organizations in the area.



Beneficiaries of the new Patio Bonito center in Kennedy (Bogota).



U.S. Embassy MilGroup Commander talks to children on opening day of the comprehensive center *Centro Integral Reconstruyendo Sueños*.

OTHER PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA



The construction and remodeling of the *Fundación Hogar San Mauricio* in Bogotá. The work included the construction of a nursery school for 80 children, remodeling of 6989 sq. ft. of sidewalks, and the construction of a multipurpose game court. Total cost of the project: \$177,000.



The construction of a school for 300 children with special needs in La Sierra, Cauca. The facilities include dormitories, classrooms, a cafeteria, a kitchen, a nurse's station and an area for physical therapy. Total cost of the project: \$191,000.



The remodeling of *Colegio de Minca* in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range. The work included general maintenance, fixing of the multipurpose game court and inside courtyard, construction of a cafeteria and outside areas, renovation of toilet rooms, electric and sanitary systems. Total cost of the project: \$279,000.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HAP)

Every year the U.S. Southern Command Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) allots funds to help Latin American countries prepare and respond to emergencies and natural disasters. It also helps through humanitarian assistance programs. Projects involve the improvement of centers, delivery of equipment, remodeling of medical facilities, building of schools, enhancement of sanitary facilities and training of personnel in management of disasters.

Since April 2003, the U.S. Military Group's Logistic Mission in Colombia executes humanitarian assistance programs that benefit the Colombian population. All programs executed have been selected among Colombian and U.S. government representatives.