



Fundación Valle Interoceánico

# Children of the Andes Ecuador Annual Report 2012

DECEMBER 2012

## The Odd E. Hanssen Community Development Center (CDC)



In January the construction of the CDC began with the laying of the first cornerstone and in September the first section was inaugurated with the opening of the preschool (picture above). The preschool includes four buildings with a total of six classrooms, a kitchen and a canteen. 100 children are currently attending the preschool and each fall a new group of 50 students join. The entire school will have a capacity of 750 children.



The total cost of the first phase, including the preschool buildings, the medical center (middle left photo), the administration building (middle right photo), the guard's house (bottom left photo) and the WC building (bottom right photo) is estimated to 600.000 USD. The costs up until now have been approximately 450.000 USD. About 50% of the cost of the continued construction is covered for and we continue to search for sponsors for the remaining part. Focus of construction is now on the medical center, expected to be finished during the first part of 2013.



## The Odd E. Hanssen Preschool



The two second grade classes, consist of 50 students, who enrolled in our school in the fall of 2011. They finished their first school year in June 2012 with a demonstration of their knowledge for the parents and club members. The opening of the new preschool in September 2012 made it possible to receive a new group of first graders, adding another 50 students.



The classrooms are furnished with desks, chairs, whiteboard, and a shelf with different teaching materials. Each grade will in the future also have a computer and an overhead projector. Ever since the beginning of the project we have utilized a teaching system called NOUS, used by a number of renowned schools in Ecuador. The basic idea of this system is to give children a broad knowledge base at an early age, as this has proved to promote their development. The children attend school from 8 am to 4 pm and are served breakfast, lunch and a snack every day.



## The Odd E. Hanssen Preschool

Many of the children in our school come from families with domestic problems and our psychological department is working intensively with individual children and groups of parents. We have also arranged workshops for the parents about hygiene, nutrition, relation problems and sexuality. During the coming year we plan to arrange workshops for the fathers of the families on the topic of masculinity and violence, as this is a big problem in many families.

The current crew in the Odd E. Hanssen Preschool consists of four teachers, two kitchen personnel, one foreign and one local volunteer, one psychologist and the pedagogical director. Some of the parents contribute with small amounts of money or various types of food every month while others take turns with helping out in the kitchen, cleaning the facilities, or working in the kitchen garden.

## Our Partners

This project would not be possible if it was not for the steady support and strong belief of our sponsors. In November 2012 we received The Rotary Foundation Global Grant No. 25669 that grants us 95.000 USD for equipping of the first part of the CDC (preschool, medical center and administration building). Thanks to good and close cooperation with sponsors in Norway we have since the beginning of the construction of the CDC received about 96.600 USD, donated by various Rotary Clubs, Rotarians, companies and private persons. That makes out about 20% of the construction cost so far. We have furthermore received considerable donations from sponsors in the USA and Germany, as well as from Ecuadorian companies, and from the Rotary Club Quito Valle Interoceanico. We are pleased to see that so many share our vision!



## Valle Interoceanico Foundation



The foundation was set up in 1995 by the Rotary Club Quito Valle Interoceanico with the purpose of managing the projects of the club. Our aim is to offer education and health care services to people with low economic resources. This is our way of contributing to community development in the areas that need it the most.

Become part of our work through donating to our projects and spreading the word about us to your friends! There are also possibilities of volunteering in the Odd E. Hanssen Preschool and in the Rotary Medical Center. Visit our website to find out more!