

## Annual Report 2008



Throughout January, executives of the FEDES Foundation held various interviews with Claudio Orrego, the Mayor of the District of Peñalolen, and his cabinet. These meetings were held to discuss a potential joint alliance in providing training for those who live in the district.



*FEDES executives with the Claudio Orrego, the Mayor of Peñalolen, and his team, at a work group session.*



*Steven Colon and Águeda Martín with Senator Jorge Arandibia and his chief of staff.*

**F**EDES executives met with Regina Reginato, the Mayor of Viña del Mar, Congressman Edmundo Eluchans, and his advisors. They discussed the scope of the Foundation's wheelchair and orthopedic equipment program, as well as other programs associated with teaching trades, particularly hotel management and tourism.

The Foundation extended an invitation for people to visit the San Bernardo Vocational Training School buildings. The visit was made on a later date.

### Projects in the Region of Valparaíso.

An invitation to the Senate of the Republic by Senator Jorge Arandibia, one of the many members of parliament, who has become a part of the national wheelchair distribution project this year. On this occasion, it was agreed that 400 wheelchairs would be distributed within the Region, a task to be carried out as of March.



*Executives of the FEDES Foundation with Virginia Reginato, Mayor of Viña del Mar, and Congressman Edmundo Eluchans Urenda.*



## Distribution of 650 wheelchairs in the region of Los Lagos, together with Senator Andrés Allamand.

Once again this year the "Wheelchair of Your Dreams 2008" campaign was carried out in a joint effort with Senator Andrés Allamand. 650 wheelchairs, as well as walkers, and crutches were donated to low income bracket disabled persons from the region of Los Lagos. It was a privilege to be able to participate in this campaign and personally see so many lives changed thanks to the gift of mobility.

Throughout the entire trip we had the chance to appreciate the natural beauty of this lovely region, and enjoy the warmth of all the locals. As a result of all the efforts by Maria Eugenia, Senator Allamand's assistant, the Coastguard contributed by taking us by motorboat from Valdivia to the town of Corral so we could distribute wheelchairs. During the trip, the Commanding Officer went on to explain the history and customs of the place, which made the trip very pleasant.

The towns which benefited on this occasion were: Corral, Mafil, Mariquina, Lago Ranco, Rio Bueno, Malalhue, Lanco, San Juan, San Pablo, La Unión, Futrono, Paillaco, Los Lagos, and the cities of Osorno and Valdivia.

Many DREAMS came TRUE on those days, as you will see when reading some of the following testimonies.



**Photographs:** Wheelchair and orthopedic equipment donation ceremony. Some of the local authorities attended, and many volunteers cheered up the event with their song and dance.





### A DREAM COME TRUE

We met **Camila, 14**, at a wheelchair donation ceremony in the city of Osorno. She is paralyzed and cannot walk. Her parents and other members of her family accompanied her. She was so happy and exited when she received her wheelchair. She wouldn't stop excitedly saying, "NOW I HAVE MY OWN WHEELCHAIR AND I CAN GO TO SCHOOL! NOW I CAN GO TO SCHOOL!" Her mother said, "She's happy because she was told she could only go to school if she had a wheelchair. Going to school has always been her dream, and now it has come true."



**Fermín** who happily received his new set of crutches, lost his right leg years ago and he had made his own wooden crutches. He was so happy to receive a set of light comfortable crutches.



Agueda Martin with **Teresa** and her son **Omar, 34 years old**, from the town of Mariquina. Omar suffered serious neurological damage at 8 months as a result of a mistake by a doctor who operated on him. After these medical problems, Teresa's husband abandoned them, leaving them to fend for themselves, which was extremely difficult for Teresa, but she told us that with God's help they have been able to get by. She was very happy and thankful for the privilege of having a wheelchair for her son, as never before had he had his own wheelchair. Whenever she had to move him, she would borrow a wheelchair. She told us that a few days before Omar had fallen and seriously injured his eye and that now the chair would make everything easier for her as well as Omar. She said that now he would no longer have falls and that she would be able to hold him better (the wheelchair has a special harness for holding people who cannot hold themselves up). She felt that this gift was a sample of God's love to them.



About 4 years ago **Antonio** climbed a tree and had a bad fall, seriously injuring both of his legs and spine, and had to have his legs amputated as a result. He had never had the chance to have a wheelchair and was so happy that he didn't know how else to thank us. Now he feels more independent.

In Concepción, at a joint project with Congressman Sergio Bobadilla, 300 wheelchairs were distributed in the Districts of Coronel, Pengo, and Tome.



Photograph 1. Congressman Sergio Bobadilla and Steven Colon, President of the FEDES Foundation, guests at the morning TV show of the District of Coronel.  
Photograph 2 and 3. Wheelchair distribution ceremony.



Congressman Sergio Bobadilla and Steven Colon, giving a wheelchair to Mrs. Elvira. Disabled since birth, she has never had a wheelchair. Because she was abandoned as a child, no one is certain exactly how old she is. As a young child she was adopted by an evangelical couple. They made her a wooden cart so they could take her out on rides. After her adoptive parents passed away, she never left the house again and remained in the care of the eldest son of the couple (who is also elderly). In order to move around, Elvira had to drag herself along the floor, holding on to objects which she found on the way. It's been years since her parents died and she hasn't left the house since then. She felt ashamed that people might feel sorry for her. Chiru's (as they refer to her affectionately) greatest wish was to be able to see the beach. She was so happy and thankful to have received her wheelchair. Now her dream of going to the beach can come true. They are from the town of Penco and they are fishermen.

**Once again, FEDES wants to thank the members of parliament from various political groups who have allotted funds toward operational costs and transportation of these donations. We also want to give special thanks to your teams working behind the scenes who conduct the surveys and organize the distribution, as well as all those who voluntarily collaborated with their dances and music numbers, entertaining all those who attended. Thanks to your help it has been possible to reach those most in need throughout the country. We also wish to thank the Mayors and other local authorities of the various political affiliations, who have collaborated in this humanitarian mission.**

Nurses from the Barros Luco Hospital help classify an innumerable amount of medical supplies, in total 300 boxes which are being donated to the referred Hospital. This donation was sent by VIDA USA to the FEDES Foundation, its representative in Chile.



Marisol Murua, Nursing Staff Coordinator, with a team of nurses who are helping to arrange the supplies at the warehouses of the FEDES Foundation. Juan Alvarez, Chief of Medical Staff, who received the 300 boxes of supplies.

## DONATION OF 1400 DIAPERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF LO ESPEJO

On this occasion we accompanied Mrs. Edith, who voluntarily cares for the most destitute elderly adults in her district. We distributed diapers, something they desperately need for hygiene and wellbeing. Mr. Segundo and Mrs. Elena Rivero also benefited from a wheelchair.



Agueda with Daniel and Sofie, young volunteers from Italy, who spent a few days cooperating with some of the FEDES Foundation projects.



Photograph 1: Agueda with Mr. Segundo, 51 years old, who suffers from bone cancer. His wife passed away and he lives alone with his 12-year old daughter, who helps him however she can.

Photograph 2: Elena Rivero, 81 years old, who has a broken pelvis;  
Photograph 3: Maria Orellana, 87 years old, who has suffered three vascular accidents.



March 2008



## Training course for Food-Handlers from Departamental Ltda.



During this period two training courses were carried out, aimed at food-handlers of Departamental Ltda. Company.

These training courses focus on the process of introduction to new food technologies.

Departamental Ltda. is a business that offers services to the School Nutrition Program created by the National Board of Educational Assistance and Scholarships.





## Dress-making Course for Older Adults



This course comprises the Foundation's initiative to support older adults that are initiating production ventures.

Many older adults want to remain a part of the production system. Additionally, their income is not always enough to meet their needs. In view of this, FEDES conducts this type of course with its own resources.

## Donation of 9 hospital beds to Dr. Victor Ríos Ruiz Hospital Complex in the city of Los Angeles.

*9 hydraulic hospital beds with their respective mattresses were donated.*





## Wheelchair beneficiaries – the gift of mobility



We spent a wonderful time with this nice elderly couple, Juan, who is 90 years old, and Mercedes, 83. Juan told us their story and their sorrows and troubles when their house burned down and they lost everything they had. This also affected his wife's health, who had a stroke that left her with mobility and speech disabilities. They had no resources to face the situation, so they barely got by thanks to a small pension. Juan considers that despite everything, God didn't abandon them. One of their daughters stops by every day to visit them and to help her mother with her hygiene, since Juan is now handicapped. Since we saw they needed to take turns using the wheelchair, we donated them a second one. With tears in their eyes they thanked us for what they considered a sample of God's love. They were happy to be able to get some fresh air and sun together because they used to have to take turns going outside. (Photo 1-2, Juan on his porch. Photo 3: Agueda with Mercedes.)



**11 year old Kevin** came to FEDES' head office with a letter requesting a wheelchair for his grandmother.

Our wheelchair program coordinator Gladys received it. The boy excitedly began saying: "I have come to request a wheelchair for my grandmother who can't walk due because she had to have both of her legs amputated due to diabetes, and she is also losing her eyesight. I'm the only one who care's for her. I have to take her to the doctor and to her check-ups 3 times a week, and I need a chair to be able to move her around." He said that they live alone and that he cooks for his grandma, ever since she has been unable to walk and see. One of her daughters comes sometimes to give her a bath but doesn't treat her well. She speaks to her very harshly and that makes him really upset. That's why his grandmother isn't happy and he often finds her crying and feels sorry for her because he loves her very much. So he takes her out for a stroll in any cart he can find and whenever he has a few coins (which he earns by watching cars at parking lots) he buys her icecream, her favorite, and that way she cheers up and forgets about everything.

"My grandmother is waiting for me down stairs" he said, "I wasn't able to bring her up because the chair they've lent me is very rundown and I'm afraid it'll break."

When he received the wheelchair, he couldn't contain his happiness and didn't know how to show us his gratitude.

As Kevin kissed his grandmother, he said to her: "Now I'm going to be able to take you out every day as it's going to be easier for me to move you around with the chair." In spite having bruised her face due to a fall, his grandmother smiled joyfully.



April 2008



Free Wheelchair Mission delegation's visit to Chile. To date, FWM has donated more than 20,000 wheelchairs for Chile and on this visit 500 of these were donated in aid of the neediest in the Municipalities of Cerro Navia, Lo Espejo, Lampa, Batuco, Valparaíso and Viña del Mar.



*FWM delegation with Steven and Agueda, of FEDES foundation.*



*Photos 1-2-3: FWM delegation with Senator Arancibia and the Mayor of Viña del Mar, Virginia Reginato, at the wheelchair presentation ceremony for 30 beneficiaries. After delivering the wheelchairs, the members of the delegation were invited by the Senator to visit the Senate for a luncheon. At noon, there were more chairs donated in benefit of the patients of an outpatient facility in Viña del Mar.*



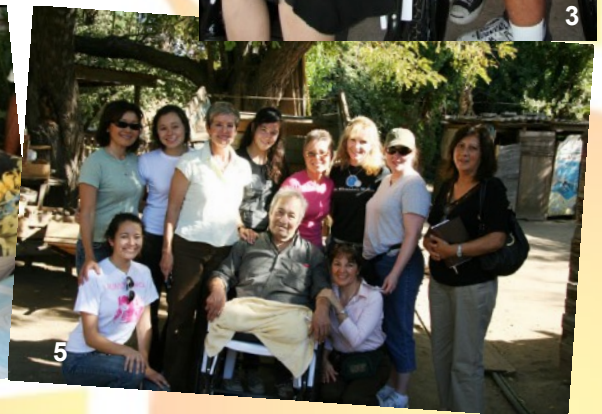
**Wheelchair distribution in Lampa and Batuco.** A 70 wheelchair donation was made in a ceremony with the Mayor of Lampa, Carlos Escobar. We then visited 8 families at their homes (many of them had been waiting from 5 to 20 years to receive a wheelchair), where we were warmly received and had a splendid time together.

**Photo 1: Eulogia Martinez**, 67 years old. She lives alone. Due to diabetes she lost her eyesight and one of her legs. When we arrived she was lying in bed. She greeted us with a warm smile and was soon ready for us to help her into her chair and take her outside. When we asked her where she would like to go first she said "I would like to go to the church that is nearby, but I haven't been able to in many years. I've needed this wheelchair for 8 years."

**Photo 2: Ana Cerda**, 82 years old. She suffers from arthritis and breathing problems. Her daughter was happy to have a wheelchair in which to take her mother out in the sun. Ana lives in a dark room with poor ventilation conditions, so the wheelchair would contribute to improving her living conditions.

**Photo 3: Beatriz**, 29 years old, with her family and Bob Longman of FWM. She has been suffering from kidney cancer for 4 years. She has three children. Her mother moved from Santiago to Lampa to take care of her. They were so grateful for the wheelchair they were given. She told us that in this stage of her disease it was impossible for her to walk. She was an incredible sample of peace and faith in midst of the storm.

**Photos 4 & 5: Gumercindo Peralta.** Lost both of his legs due to a infection during his diabetes healing treatment which resulted in amputation. His wife told us that he is very depressed and doesn't want to leave the house. "The wheelchair is going to make life easier for us, as it will enable us to take him to his check-ups and he'll be able to go out for a stroll and play with his grandchildren. It will make him happy and lively again because he will be able to move around without so much help. We can't thank you enough, God bless you all for remembering us."





**Photo 1: Dave and Janet with Hermes and Mario.** Hermes is a student of the FEDES Vocational Training School; he is taking the International Cuisine course. He asked us if we could help his friend Mario, who was left blind 4 years ago and has since been afraid to leave the slum where he lives because he doesn't know how to get around on his own. We had just received a donation of orthopedic equipment and it miraculously included a number of walking canes for blind persons, so we were able to donate one to him. We also gave Hermes information on the different institutions that there are in Santiago for learning how to use this cane and moving around on one's own. Mario was very happy to receive the cane because it was even hard for him to get around in his neighborhood due to the amount of holes there are. He was always stumbling and it was very humiliating for him to hear how people would laugh at him. Hermes also told us that Mario was very eager to learn how to manage on his own; he makes delicious bread dough which he sells to earn some money in order to apply for a better home. Mario is scared of cooking when he's alone because he fears he might have an accident, as one time the kitchen stove exploded on him. Despite his physical handicaps, he cleans his small 3m x 6m house, keeping it tidy.

**Photo 2: 52 year old Antonio** was overwhelmed when he received his crutches. He suffers from pelvic and spinal problems which make it very difficult for him to move.

**Photo 3: Roy** at camp Ochagavía where clothes were distributed for 120 children who also got a snack. We spent a fun time together.

**Photo 4 and 5: Debora, Janet and Roy** visiting a homeless shelter Amigos de Jesús and *Infocentro Discapacitados*, at the Municipality of Cerro Navia where 15 wheelchairs were donated.





Donation of 200 wheelchairs in the Municipality of Cerro Navia, teamed-up with Mayor Cristina Giraldi who helped with the buses for transportation, refreshments and snacks. The photos show the FWM delegation helping the handicapped people off the bus and getting them over to their wheelchairs. There was also a small celebration with some folklore dances and delicious *empanadas* for everyone.





## INTERNATIONAL CUISINE COURSE. Financed by SENCE, social program division.



*Patricia Turen, FEDES' executive Chef teaches the students.*



*Students presenting dishes prepared by them.*

In a joint effort with the AURORA technical training organization, created by FEDES whom we work with as partners, we are creating a training course in International Cuisine for 20 people.

The students participating appear in the photos with their coaches, Patricia Turen and Patricia Ojeda. This course will allow them to get employment as assistant chefs in a restaurant or on the production line of an institutional canteen company. The course curriculum features various kinds of training for employment and computer basics.



*Patricia Ojeda teaching the students how to conduct themselves when applying for employment through simulation of a job interview.*



*Students at computer class.*



**D**irectors of FEDES and SODECA participate in a ceremony at the Municipality of Peñalolén. In this ceremony—which was attended by various business companies, training institutions and the Regional Director of the National Service for Training and Employment (in Spanish, SENCE)—the Municipality inaugurated the Employment Program for People Over 40 Years Old.

The ceremony was presided by the Mayor, Mr. Claudio Orrego. (we have a written agreement with this Mayor and we are working training poor people in skill courses and getting them jobs with our net work with local Companies)



FEDES foundation has a new truck for wheelchair and humanitarian distribution in Chile:

We thank the McLaughlins, who made this significant donation (*in the photos on the right we can see them in their visit to Chile in Christmas 2006 with us at the wheelchair distribution among low income handicapped people.* Additionally, Kim and Smokey donate wheelchairs to thousands of people.

We also would like to thank Hyundai Gildemeister, which made a significant contribution by giving us a discount on the truck.





## Courses for the elderly.

During this fall and with our own resources, the FEDES Vocational Training School is carrying out two courses for elderly citizens who are still capable of working. Most of these people have a pension of only \$100.00 dollars a month. In the dressmaking course there are 20 women from the area of La Cisterna, and in the user-level computer course (new information technologies) there are 15 women and 20 men participating, all of them from the district of El Bosque.



*Ivan Colon teaching the students computer class.*





May - 2008

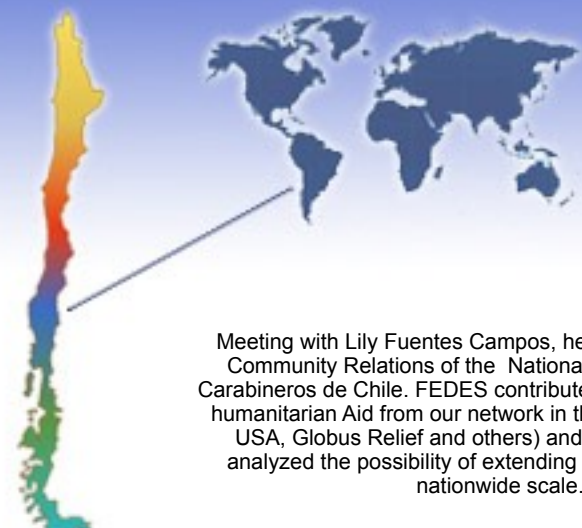


## **Donation of medical supplies and hospital beds to the Barros Luco Healthcare Complex Hospital.**



Steven Colon, with Dr. Gisela Alarcón Rojas, and Subdirector, Dr. Luis Leiva, the hospital's administrator, at the official presentation of the donated container with medical supplies and 40 electric hospital beds. This hospital has 600 beds, many of these beds are over 60 years old and are just regular beds and is one of the few public hospitals that attends all specialties. The beds were assigned for the benefit of the patients of intermediate attention in one of the rebuilt areas.

The supplies were classified in order to be sent to the respective medical services and specialties. This donation was possible thanks to our friends from VIDA USA.



Meeting with Lily Fuentes Campos, head of the Social and Community Relations of the National Police department Carabineros de Chile. FEDES contributes to this program with humanitarian Aid from our network in the states (FWM, Vida USA, Globus Relief and others) and at this meeting we analyzed the possibility of extending our assistance on a nationwide scale.



*Steven Colón, with Carabineros Undersecretary advisor, Lily Fuentes Campos.*



*Sequences of the wheelchair donation with cooperation of Carabineros and Gendarmería de Chile.*



### **An example of the affection of supportive friends**

José Luis Rivera Soto is 67 years old. Early this year he suffered a thrombosis which left him unable to walk. A group of friends and neighbors found out that Carabineros of the Municipality of Independencia, in a joint effort with FEDES Foundation, were helping to arrange the donation of wheelchairs for people with scarce financial resources. These good friends signed up for one of these for him and surprised him with the present. Mr. José wasn't aware of what his good neighbors were doing for him. Their greatest wish was to be able to cheer up their friend, pull him out of his depression and get him outside to relax and enjoy. The day he received the wheelchair he couldn't help but cry tears of joy at the affection of his good neighbors and friends. He felt overwhelmed with joy and gratitude.

*Photo: José, surrounded by his good friends and neighbors.*



June - 2008



## Training course for Food-Handlers from Distal Ltda.

Training courses in food handling for Distal Ltda. company personnel were conducted within the framework of the agreement entered into between FEDES Foundation and Capacitación Aurora Ltda. (created by the Foundation). A total of 250 food handlers were trained in the modern Cook & Chill production system. These employees serve at public educational establishments of the Metropolitan Area of Santiago.

*Photos:  
Assistants participating in all the steps of the Cook & Chill production process.*





*Engineers Mauricio Donders and Jorge Basaez. In class the participants interact and exchange points of view, experiences and interests with them.*



Participants receive their qualification Diploma.

## End of International Cooking Course financed by SENCE (National Training and Employment Service).



### **Comments by Patricia Ojeda (self- presentation trainer)**

Besides their training in the Catering course, the students are taught multiple skills, such as, self-presentation, communication, team work, etc. In other words, they are taught how to present and market themselves for employment. To me, we are not just training employees, we are also training them in issues such as getting along with others, firstly with their families and those closest to them, and then with those they come in contact with in the course of their work. This is because, above all, they are human beings and it is their duty to recognize themselves as such.

The group seeks training in the hopes of attaining a better quality of life. All of them have social and financial problems, but in time and with the different activities that are carried out they come to envision and value their skills, face their difficulties and improve their self-esteem. At the end of the course, when performing their self-evaluation, everyone comments on the change that they've had, they feel able to deal with the job market and they are thankful for the opportunity that is offered to them of acquiring training and growth. This motivates them so they request that we continue to train more people in order to provide them the same opportunity they were given.



The training course included a visit to the Vega Central (fruit market). They enjoyed the evening getting to know the places where they could get the products for the different dishes.



## The students Reactions

**Laura Arias**, mother of 4 children.

I decided to take this course to prove myself as a person and acquire training. I never had the chance to study. My sister and I lived in a very poor district, my parents were both alcoholics and very poor. Due to this, from a very young age we were forced to beg on the streets to feed ourselves. Due to malnutrition my sister suffered neurological damage. We had a very rough time; people in the neighborhood humiliated us because we were always dirty. When we were kids we never knew what it was like to celebrate Christmas, or have toys. No one ever celebrated our birthday. It was very hard! Deep down I knew that God was taking care of us and that He would help us get by. And He did! When I was older I began working as a maid, cleaning streets and collecting cardboard. I didn't mind whatever job that I had to do in order to make progress and earn a living.

I got married and have 4 sons and a happy home. God protected us even though I live in a dangerous neighborhood, ridden with vice and crime. I have come to notice that the important thing is **WANTING TO BECOME A BETTER PERSON** and endeavoring to make progress, as I've seen neighbors of mine, who were doing well and gave way to vice and ruined their lives. When I saw a brochure at the Municipality about this International Cooking course, I wanted to take the opportunity to learn something new. Since my children are grown up, I decided to prove myself.

At FEDES I've felt comfortable and important. What I have learned in cooking has helped me to discover things and try things that I wouldn't have been able to attain otherwise. I also learned to operate a computer to search for recipes and other needs on the Internet. I know that this course is going to be an asset to me in the future, as it will allow me to get a better job and has given me the faith that **I AM VALUABLE AS A PERSON!** And that **I CAN DO IT!**

(Thanks to our network with Local Companies, Laura just got a job)

**My name is Karina**, I'm 21 years old and I have a delightful little daughter who is just turning 3. She means everything to me.

I used to work at a company that produces perishable and non-perishable food products. My job was peeling, packing and labeling vegetables. I quit that job because I wasn't paid my dues; they were always owing us money and we didn't have a work schedule; we checked in at 8:00 am and checked out around 11:00 pm, which barely left me any time to see my daughter, as by the time I got home she was already asleep.

I have a lot of dreams and I'm eager to fulfill them; I want to work, so I can have my own house and be able to give my daughter everything she needs. I also wish I could help my mother with her diabetes treatment medicine. That's why I'm very eager to work and help my family out; my brothers, my nephews, my mother and my precious daughter.

I was told that they were selecting people for this course and I've always wanted to study gastronomy since I was at school, so I saw this opportunity and joined the course. I thank God that I was selected. I've had trouble finding someone to take care of my daughter, but I somehow managed to attend, because I want to finish this course so that I can get a job. I don't want to quit, I need to fight for my daughter.

FEDES has treated me very kindly and has contributed a lot to me because I have learned to be a better person and to share with many different persons, with different personalities and I've been able to manage that well. They have given me a **GREAT OPORTUNITY** to fulfill my dreams and I really appreciate it. Now I know that I can fulfill my dreams and value myself as a person. I don't care anymore whether people put me down. I don't pay them attention because I want to keep on fighting towards my goals.

In this course I can also obtain a paid practice job so that I can start bringing some income home; later, I'd like to keep the job and if they are pleased with my work, keep it on a permanent basis.

I thank you so much for having given me this fantastic opportunity to become a better person and a better employee. I also thank you for all the knowledge the teachers have given me and everything they've selflessly done for me.





## Donation of 10 wheelchairs to the San Ricardo Children's Home.



*Photo 1: San Ricardo Home.*

*Photo 2: With Eliana Burgos, social worker and manager of the Home.*

*Photos 3, 4 and 5: At the home with some of the young boys of the 150 children that live here. Some volunteered to help unload the wheelchairs from the truck as soon as we arrived. They are very sweet and stayed with us all morning.*

Eliana told us about the big help that the wheelchairs are for the boys of this home. With these chairs we have been able to take them on field trips to the countryside and were even able to take them out to a Ski resort in the mountain so that they could see the snow; they were fascinated, and it was very easy to move them around.

Eliana was telling us about how the wheelchair was like their shoes, because they use it a lot. Each year we receive more children at both of our centers and this donation is heaven-sent for us, because it is very difficult for our ancillary staff to move them around as they grow bigger.



July- 2008



## Graduation on Dress making and Tailoring

In this small but exciting ceremony, 20 elderly students graduated. They were so happy to have a time to show all their work, receive their diplomas, have a fun fellowship time with a exquisite snack prepared by the students of our Culinary Art class.



### ***Comments from Gladis Vargas, their teacher:***

This group was quite special because they all had an amazing entrepreneur spirit. They participated with a lot of enthusiasm and they had a real vision of team work, always sharing the materials and their knowledge. The majority have taken this opportunity as a way to work and make extra money since most of them are quite poor and they are also in a real state of loneliness at their old age.

In these courses we had the opportunity to share ideas of a wide variety of products and also taught them how to organize a small business so that they can make extra money since many have a real small pension. We are so happy that many are already selling products that they made in their community and to friends even before they graduated. They have been a real sample to us of being on time and no matter what not missing not even one class, coming really early in the morning even when is really cold as we are in winter and also some coming from far away places. Fresia here at the picture holding her Diploma she is 74 years old, she does not have a sewing machine but that did not stop her, she does amazing work sewing with her hands and makes beautiful pieces of work. We were able to share The Lords message with them and all of them received Jesus into their hearts and lives.





**This course, which was funded by FEDES, benefited 15 senior citizens in the community of El Bosque. Many of them also participated in the INP's "Meeting House for old folks" in La Perla.**



#### **Jaime, 67 years old,**

shared how excited he is about this course and how it opened up a whole new world for him. He really enjoyed learning about new technology. For the first time in his life he could travel the world and see Jerusalem and the Wailing Wall, which had been one of his dreams, now come true through Google Maps. He also noted how much he appreciated that their teacher was quite young, but had had so much patience in explaining over and over again to teach senior citizens who forget things easily about computers till they finally learned.

He concluded, "The most exciting part is that now we've learned to communicate through technology and we feel more included in our children's and families' lives and able to relate to them."



*Photo 1: INP Director Mrs. Salomé sharing some encouraging words with the participants.*

*Photo 2: Teacher Iván Colon giving a diploma to one of the students.*



*After the graduation they enjoyed a warm time of fellowship with snacks and folkloric dancing.*



*Students receiving their diplomas with INP and FEDES Foundation representatives.*



**Donation of medical supplies and examination table for primary care center at the neighborhood community center of Huechuraba.**



*Volunteer receives the patient and fills in the clinical forms with their information.*



*Dra. Carolina Pozo attending a patient. The doctor attends an average 20 patients free of charge a day.*



*Inauguration of the primary care center. Director of the department of health for the municipality of Huechuraba Mr. Pablo Vazquez, Dr. Carolina Pozo, president of the neighborhood committee Gladis Vargas; municipal director of the department of education Rene Muñoz Navarrete and Agueda Martin, representative of Fedes Foundation.*

The idea for this little medical center came from the president of the neighborhood committee Gladis Vargas. The plan is to attend to the needy in this area who, due to not being covered by the public health system, can't be attended at the primary care center of the sector. Thanks to the municipality's help through a community development fund, the center has been built. FEDES helped with an examination table and medical supplies and the medical center has been inaugurated. More than 2800 people will benefit from the service it provides.



**Courses in catering, nursing care, computer and internet maintenance, confectionary and tailoring were completed.**

During the month of August through the Program for Assistance of Micro Ventures (PAME 2008) training courses in the occupations of catering, sewing, computer maintenance and nursing care were held. The PAME is a program of the Solidarity in Social Investment Fund (FOSIS) which is dedicated to helping Chileans who are without basic means of inserting themselves into the labor market to overcome poverty.

The program is carried out through NGOs, consultants and other social organizations and includes: occupational training, managerial and administrative training and “seed” capital. For the occupational training programs the executors turn to organizations such as FEDES Foundation and its Vocational School.

During the course study period 150 people, 148 women and 2 men participated in the 50 hour courses. These participants were truly outstanding in their enthusiasm to learn and taken on new challenges.



Natacha Solvera, nurse and teacher with the students of her course

## Computer and Internet Maintenance Course

### Comments from the students:

**Margarita commented:** "For me this has been an incredible experience, I'm very happy. At first I came because I thought it was a course for learning how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and other programs that would help me in my job as a secretary at home. When I arrived, I was told that was not what they would be teaching and I thought it wouldn't be of any use to me and that wasn't what I wanted. But since I had to wait 3 hours until the bus left, I attended the class to see what it was about. To my surprise I loved what he was teaching and I realized how little I knew about computers and how much I could benefit from this course. The course was great, the teacher imparted the material very well, we learned a lot; we worked with top of the line equipment and I found it fascinating. From that moment on I didn't miss a single class, I finished the course and I now feel ready to face any problem that comes up when using computers or the internet. This course was very valuable to me and I thank God for using my mistake to make me take these classes. It is certainly what I needed."

**Sandra commented:** "I am very happy to have been able to participate in this course. I'd taken a different course before but when I got here I realized that I really didn't know anything about the subject. The teacher made it so fun and taught us in such a simple way that I learned more in two weeks than what I had learned in 6 months. I feel well prepared to solve problems and I would like to continue studying and learning more. With the training I received here I am ready to start my own small company; my wish is to have a cyber café. Something I'd like to add is that the counseling and advice on all the aspects to keep in mind to have a successful business were extremely helpful. All I can say is thank you so much for this opportunity, and that in spite of the fact that we're poor you've treated us so well. You've treated us with so much respect and given us the best service. You've made us feel like respectable people and shown us what we can do if we make the effort to progress."





## Confectionery and Catering Services



Course teachers Chefs, Álvaro, Patricia Turen



*Paula Iturrieta*, happily enjoying the final products of what they learned in the training course told us she was very thankful for this opportunity.

"The training was done under optimal circumstances. We learned to make exquisite things by the instruction of good chefs. My hope is to get an oven and begin a small business with my mother and daughters and eventually do even catering. Now I'm going to begin with making empanadas and cakes and selling them in the neighborhood with my family's help. Another of my dreams is to someday have my own home and with a lot of effort and this wonderful opportunity you've given me, I know I'll make it happen."



Course teacher Patricia Turen with the students at an exhibition of the final products and reception of certificates





## Sewing Household Items and Work Uniforms



**Jackelin**, an enthusiastic participant of this course, put her maximum effort, attention and dedication to learn how to make the products with the greatest care. Her greatest desire is to be able to open a micro business with her sister and grow as business women.



**Teresa** (on graduation day) gave thanks to all the institutions and teacher who were present for their faith and trust in offering the students this opportunity to receive training. "We won't let you down," she told us with tears in her eyes. "The Chilean woman is a good fighter and capable of moving forward and helping her family and children. This is a very valuable opportunity you've given us to help increase our home's income and improve our families' quality of life. Everything we've learned here is very useful. It's a very complete course and we feel capable of taking on the challenges ahead with the tools you've given us. God bless you all! With the venture capital which they'll be giving us we can buy our equipment to get started and as our business grows we'll get more and hopefully, by the grace of God, we'll be good micro businesswomen. We're willing to put in the effort; we won't let you down."



## Meeting with representatives from 42 of the 52 Main Police Central stations of the Communities of the Metropolitan Area of Santiago.



Jakeline Melillan representative of the Main office of the National Police department who came to open our meeting and share how happy the National Police Chief is with this program.



Here Steven Colon is welcoming everyone, sharing some ideas and listening to their ideas and suggestions.



Officer Jose Guzman of the 49th Police station from the city of Quilicura  
Officer Francisco Heldres of the 54th Police station of the city of Huechuraba, and officer Mario Briones of the 53rd Police station of the city of Lo Barnechea, sharing their experiences with the audience.



Some of our police friends with our students and teacher of our Culinary Art course, who received them with a delicious snack.



## Wheelchair distribution at La Islita police station



Steven Colon explaining the wheelchair features to the beneficiaries.

At this ceremony 13 wheelchairs were distributed.

4 went to a government run retirement center at Las Rosas, 1 for the primary care center of La Islita, 2 to the public school, 1 to the police station to use in medical emergencies, and 7 to underprivileged disabled individuals.



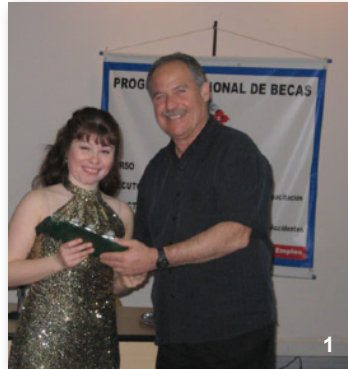
**Luis Orlando Ahumada** 37 years old, (shown here with his wife) was a recipient of one of the wheelchairs. He's suffered from stomach cancer for several years now. They were very happy to receive this "love gift from God" for them. His mother, who lives with them and is also incapacitated, will also be able to use the wheelchair. He told us that the first thing he wanted to do now that he had the wheelchair was go for a walk with his youngest daughter who is one year old. More than anything he wants to spend time with her.



## International Cuisine Course Graduation



*Steven Colon giving a motivational speech to the graduates.*



*Photo 1: Steven Colon giving a special award for dedication and perseverance to Monica Cornejo. Photo2: Chef and teacher Patrica Turen giving Cristian Hidalgo his certificate.*



**Claudio Córdoba** shared the following with those present: "I'm 30 years old. I've had different jobs but the one I was in the longest was a bovine slaughterhouse. I'd wanted to get into veterinary school because I liked working with animals but I didn't have the funds so I couldn't study. I'd like to go to university in the future to study this profession and have a better quality of life.

When I saw the ad for these courses at a grocery store, I wondered a bit if it could be true, because to have a good education here you have to have a lot of money. Now I know that isn't true. I've had very high quality instruction here. I've felt very welcome here at FEDES. I feel confident in my training and I've learned to be better organized in the kitchen. A few days after finishing the SENCE course which was given us through FEDES Foundation, they found me work with Aramark Central Restaurant from which I was transferred to the employee cafeteria at Laboratorios Chile. I need the work and I really like it. I'm very happy to be here and thankful for the opportunity that the Foundation has given me and I'm going to take maximum advantage of it. Now I'm working in the chilled section and I'll do all I can to advance quickly. Who knows, maybe I'll kitchen overseer in a little while. Thank you so much!"

*Students with their diplomas.*





## Comments and reactions from students of the International Cuisine Course

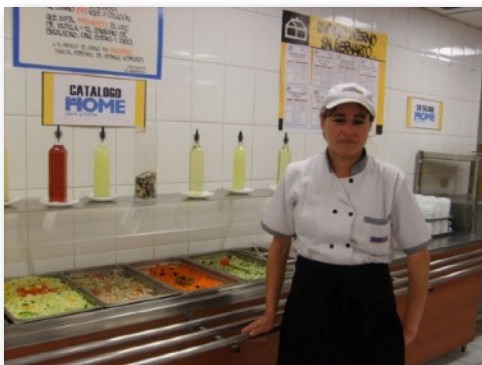
### **Mónica Cornejo Araya:**

"I was trained in the international cuisine course that SENCE sponsored through FEDES Foundation who then put us in contact with well known restaurants to start work. They sent me to the cafeteria of Clinica Tabancura. It's a bit far from my home, but I'm happy to be working here. It's giving me the opportunity to grow as a person and I won't let that opportunity go to waste. Many thanks to FEDES Foundation, keep training people like me and giving them the opportunities they need."



### **Eugenia Suarez Marchant:**

"I'm very thankful to FEDES and SENCE for allowing me this training at my age. I thought I'd never be able to find work, but I did the internship at Club Gran Avenida and when I finished they offered me a long term job. At my internship I used everything I'd learned, the international cuisine, chilled cooking, desserts, baking, and food handling. Now I'm working at the Club and I can help my family, which is a blessing because my husband's job isn't doing well. I just want to say thank you to all of you and those who make it possible for us to improve our quality of life."



**Laura Arias:** "FEDES proposed our services once we completed the SENCE course to Aramark Central Restaurant, then they sent us to work at different places. I worked at the employee cafeteria at the Plaza Oeste Sodimac. The first week I wanted to quit. The adjustment was pretty hard, but I needed the job so I told myself I'd hang on for as long as I could. Two months passed and a few days ago they transferred me and put me in charge of the chilled foods section. I'm very happy now and I wouldn't leave. My life is completely different and I have a job that is helping me get ahead."

### **Cristian Hidalgo Flores:**

"I studied the International Cuisine course at FEDES. It was a very good course. I learned a lot. I had a lot of experience cooking on ships but I needed a diploma that certified my knowledge. I found that here. I improved my gastronomy skills and now with this certificate I believe my job opportunities will be much greater with means improved quality of life for me and my children. I can't wait to start work soon, thanks to all of you who made this possible."





## Visit of SENCE Director



In honor of the Bicentennial Youth Program National Director of SENCE Fernando Rouliez and Regional Director Juan Manuel Castro and other representatives visited the FEDES-SODECA Vocational School. The director spoke with the students and enjoyed a sampling of the first products of the cooking course.





## Bicentennial Youth Scholarship Program

### International Cuisine Course

This 250 classroom hour course is dedicated to one of the most important skills for chef assistants. It includes Cook and Chill technology and the HACCP nutritional safety system.

After completing the 250 class hours the students are enrolled in 2 month internships at popular restaurants in Santiago.



*Photos: Chef s Patricia Turen and Ramiro Sepúlveda with the students during different stages of the course.*



## Nursing Care

The course was carried out through the Bicentennial Youth Program. It consists of 300 hours of job training, then a 2 month internship at a nursing center.

The young people enrolled in the Bicentennial Youth Program receive, along with job training , 70 hours of employability skills training and 65 hours of computer skills.



Students in personal development class activity.



*Photos: Students with teacher Natacha Solovera, licensed nurse from the University of Chile, in different phases of practice in the course studies.*



## Preschool Care



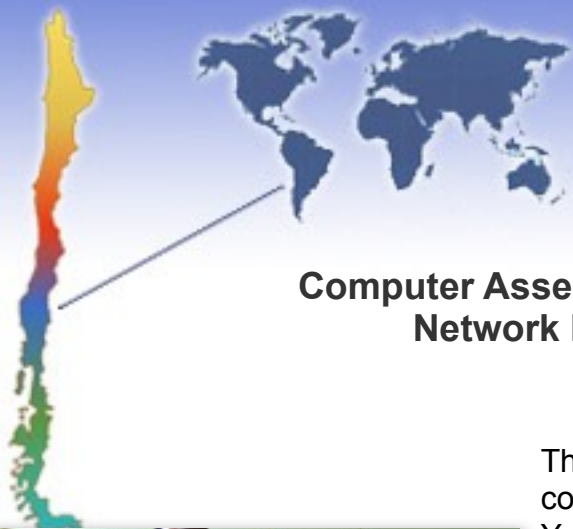
This course was carried out through the Bicentennial Youth scholarship program.

It included 250 job training hours, job competency classes and a two month internship.



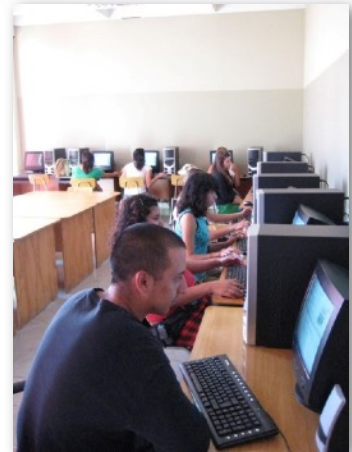
Photos 1,2,3: Students participating in the different activities of a kindergarten. This field visits were very valuable practice for them.

Photos 4,5,6: Students practicing a small play.



## Computer Assembly and Maintenance and Network Maintenance Course

This course was done in collaboration with the Bicentennial Youth Program. After the academic stage in the classroom the students completed a 2 month internships at computer and networking support at local companies.





## Nursing Care Course in Lo Espejo



Nursing Course carried out through the OTIC CORCIN Social Programs



The OTICs, private intermediary training organizations, allot unused tax resources to financing social programs for vocational training.

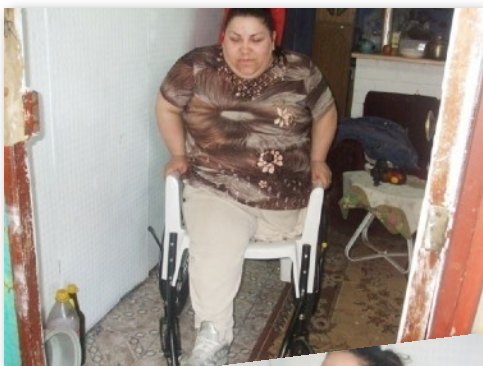
After completing the course the students received a subsidy of a all-inclusive first aid kit.

## Life Stories



**Maria Basualto Basualto:** "I'd like to thank the Foundation and all the good-hearted people who helped donate to me this wheelchair. I suffer from a hip development deformation, a club foot and mellitus diabetes type 2. I'd lost hope that I'd ever have a wheelchair as so many times I'd tried and my request had been rejected. That's why I'm so thankful you remember me and gave me this wheelchair. I'm so happy; now I can go visit my family, go to my medical checkups, go shopping without being a burden on anybody, and go out in the afternoon sunshine for a moment of peace. I thank God for each one of you who, with so much effort and dedication, invest your time to help needy people like me. God bless you always."

(Photo: Maria with her granddaughter who was very happy she could go for walks with her grandmother.)



**Flor Yanez**, 38 years old, has a tumor in her left leg. She told us, "I had a hemorrhage from the tumor that threw me into hypovolaemic shock and made it necessary to amputate 2/3 of my left leg. Since then I've barely been able to leave my home because I could not support my weight well. Someone lent me a pair of crutches for a time, thank God, but when I have to do paperwork or walk very far it exhausts me so much that I've avoided going out."

"Now with my wheelchair I can take care of myself and go to the local fair (to sell used clothes) so that I can earn my living. I love going for walks and visiting friends and neighbors. I'm a very social person who likes to laugh, so with this disability and having to remain enclosed in the house I was becoming very depressed. This wheelchair has given me my joy back! I feel like I don't have to be a burden on my family and friends now that I can care for myself and that encourages me to keep going and enjoy the life God has given me."

"Thank you so much for your help. Sometimes you just don't realize all the beautiful things people do for others till you live it. God bless you! Keep doing good for all the people who need it. We're so thankful. "





## Christmas Activity at Kindergarten “Pupeñe”



Photos: Students from FEDES performed a Nativity play for the children at the Pupene Kindergarten. Monica, Rebeca, Eugenia, and their teacher decorated the stage and made their own costumes. The children just loved the show. Afterwards the FEDES students enjoyed some fun-filled moments exchanging gifts with their teachers.



Merry Christmas!



Fedes

In the year of 2008:

5101 wheelchairs, 106 walkers, 140 pairs of crutches, 72 canes and 54 hospital beds were donated.

**At the Christmas activity in Community Lo Espejo,** 30 wheelchairs were donated to underprivileged disabled people. The gathering was livened up by Matias, 12 years old, who enthusiastically sang traditional "ranchera" songs to the delight of everyone present. Volunteers of the Network for the Disabled served delicious snacks as well. After the show we had a wonderful time conversing with each of the people present. We fell in love with these dear people. They are a powerful example of how to overcome difficulties and continue enjoying life in spite of all obstacles. Many of them can rarely participate in these kinds of events due to their disabilities so this activity meant a lot to them.



In collaboration with the Mayor of Lo Espejo, Carlos Inostroza, President of FEDES Steven Colon and other community leaders made the donation of the wheelchairs and medical supplies to support the efforts of the volunteers from the Network for the Disabled. These dedicated volunteers care for the underprivileged elderly, and were the ones who brought them to join us in the Christmas celebration.





## Christmas Activities with students of the Bicentennial Youth Program

Each class chose representatives and prepared a presentation. The computer skills class wrote some original rap songs to sing. The nursing and international cuisine students prepared a dance routine. The preschool care students practiced a few skits and dances.

We organized an event where everyone could participate and present their shows. It was so much fun and very entertaining. At the end everyone chose a king and queen of the festivities for the semester. They chose Tania from the international cuisine course and computer skills student Rick, who after a royal dance served as judges for the dance competition.

*Photos: Scenes of the Christmas festivities*



Claudio and Tania were elected king and queen of the festivities. They received accolades from their fellow students for their congeniality, respect, and inspiring teamwork. Applause was long and loud in their honor.

