

Annual Report 2009



Visit of Grant Montgomery, President of Family Care Foundation



The three photos on the left show the building which the municipality of Lo Espejo has turned over to FEDES. The submitting of this property rent free for 30 years is part of an agreement for greater collaboration between FEDES and the municipality of this community which has one of the highest indexes of social vulnerability in Santiago. With the President of Family Care Foundation's visit came the good news of a grant to begin part of the renovation of the school.



Grant Montgomery visited the facilities of FEDES Foundation and spent time conversing with the students.





Renovation of building for new Vocational School



The photographs show the first steps of progress in remodeling the building that the Vocational School will be transferred to.

The remodeling is being sponsored by contributions of Family Care Foundation, Bob and Cindy Holloway, Dick and Carol Harris, Mark Allyn and other donations.



Internships after the courses of the Bicentennial Youth Program

The Bicentennial Youth Program includes 300 hours of training in a vocation, 85 of computer skills and 70 hours of job competency or other personal development classes. The computer classes are a good compliment since it gives the students skills they'll need over the course of their careers.

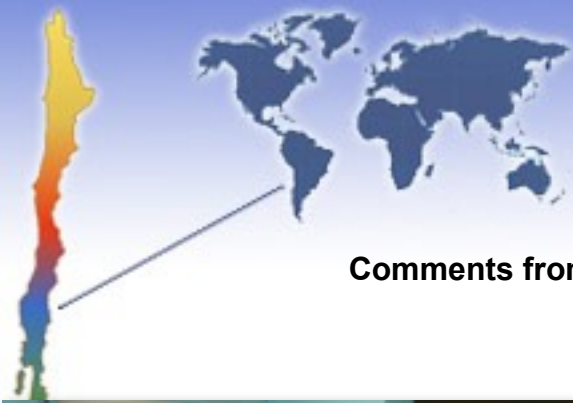


Natalia and Daniela Fuentes, students of the Preschool Care course, doing their internship at a kindergarten. They were both hired for the long term at the kindergarten after finishing their internships.



Photo 1: Claudio Galdames and Francisco Sepulveda (students of the computer skills course), completing their internships at the company SONDA SA.

Photo 2: Claudio Galdames. After finishing his practical application at the company, he applied for and won a scholarship to study in a university.



**Comments from the students of the “Care for the Elderly”
course internships.**



Valeska Salinas, Pablo Mancilla, Edith Mansilla Nicole Videla, students of the nursing course, did their practical application at the Hogar de Cristo. They were outstanding in their willingness, professionalism and cheer.

Below are a couple of their reactions to the experiences they had at work.



**MARGARITA SOLIMANO
HOGAR SAN CARLOS - FOUNDATION LAS ROSAS**

I've been caring for Mrs. Julita because she needs me. She listens to me and I feel like she appreciates the care I give her. I want to thank FEDES and SENCE for training me to do this job. It's my vocation and I'm happy that I can have a job serving my neighbor.



**PABLO MANSILLA
HOGAR DE CRISTO**

I'm very thankful to do my internship here where I work in a pretty harsh reality. I feel like I can really help these people and I try to attend to them with a lot of love and care. Thank you FEDES for training me and SENCE for giving me this chance to change my life.



Apprentice Training for Aramark Company

A group of 27 young apprentices for whom we got a job at the company Central de Restaurantes Aramark received more specialized training at our trade school. The month of a long, intensive course was taught by Chefs Alvaro Valenzuela and Patricia Ojeada, other teachers: Ana Perez, Mauricio Donders and Academic Director Hugo Avila. They were all hired after the course by the same Company.



Institutional Catering Service Course



The JUNAEB's Public schools nutritional program is one of the largest in South America. One of its requirements is ongoing training for food handlers.



Academic Director Hugo Avila and Chef Ramiro with the institutional catering class



Wheelchair Distribution: On this occasion we asked the wheelchair recipients if they'd be willing to participate in a study that Free Wheel Chair Mission was doing to find ways to better help the disabled.



Maria, 43 years old, was one of the beneficiaries who participated in this study. At 3 years old she contracted polio which left her disabled in both legs. She lives alone with her daughter and 2 year old grandson who suffers from a delicate heart condition. Maria was very thankful for the wheelchair as she has to care for her grandson so that her daughter can work. She takes him to preschool and has learned to take care of herself and get around with the wheelchair.

She told us, "I'm so happy because now I can take my grandson with me on the chair and since there's is a harness we both hold on and have a great time. Thank you so much. It's been a very valuable gift" Afterwards she went to get her grandson at the preschool and an hour later she was back again, this time carrying her grandson on her lap so he could meet us.

Donation of 840 boxes of medical supplies and 20 wheelchairs for the public hospital in the city of Curico



Photo 1: Steven Colon, Juanita and Dr. Carlos Rojas, director of the hospital

Photo 2: Grace with 2 student volunteers who helped classify and organize the medical supplies.



Graduation of Corcin Nursing Care Course



Twenty housewives with low income were trained in care for the infirm and elderly. The financing of this course was provided by the social programs of the OTIC CORCIN.



Photos 1 and 2: Nursing skills teacher Natacha Solovera giving students their certificates and congratulating them on their new careers.

Photo 3: Steven Colon giving a student her uniform.

Graduation of the care for the elderly course for volunteers of Lo Espejo



This course, also was held with funding from the OTIC CORCIN, and was given to the Network for Invalids of Lo Espejo. They are a group of volunteers who attend to more than 1,000 invalids of very poor families in their homes.

The closing celebration was attended by Mayor Carlos Inostroza and other authorities of the community.



The group of volunteers from the Network for Invalids of Lo Espejo with the Mayor and other municipal authorities.

Visit of FWM Delegation 2009



This year a delegation of 9 people from Free Wheelchair Mission and associates came to help distribute wheelchairs from one of the containers they'd sponsored. They wanted to get to know some of the people who'd be receiving the wheelchairs, and share the message that it was a gift of God's love for them.

The first place we visited was Lampa, where we delivered 10 wheelchairs at people's homes. We spent some very warm, emotional moments with each of them and their families. One of them invited us into his little farmhouse and showed us his prize vine with huge beautiful red grapes. He gave us several bunches to say thanks and they were delicious. Overall we really felt the warmth and affection of the Chilean people.



Photo 1. Juan Sandoval 72 years old, became disabled as a child due to polio. He lives with some neighbors who "adopted" him when his mother died and he's now a part of their family. He's got a great sense of humor and became very cheerful when he got his wheelchair since he likes to go out to the plaza and spend time with people.

Photo 2. Alejandrina Farias, 7 years ago she had a stroke which left her unable to walk. She fell into a deep depression. To cheer her up her husband found a tricycle which he rigged as best he could to take her for walks. They were so happy to get this wheelchair.

Juana Pinchulef suffers from cancer and has become immobilized. She says she'll go for walks with her children now.

Domitila Godoy was hit by a car which left her paralyzed from the waist down. She wept as she received her wheelchair, telling us "I can't believe people would come all the way from another country to bring me this chair. I'm so touched."

Photo 3. Maria de los Angeles, with her adopted son David and Dick from the USA. David was so happy that his mom received a wheelchair. He works as a food server in a Brazilian restaurant and he had a good time practicing his Portuguese with Dick who'd lived in Brazil for 18 years. Before we left he said he wanted to give Dick a gift that meant a lot to him and he brought a special "mate" (A kind of tea cup) with an Argentine soccer team's emblem on it. It was very touching.



Distribution of 35 wheelchairs in the Community Padre Hurtado



Working with the mayor in the Community Padre Hurtado we donated 35 wheelchairs. FWM's delegation won everyone's hearts. When the folkloric band who'd been invited to the ceremony started to play and invited the audience to dance, they got up and joined in the dancing enthusiastically. The local families loved them for it because they said it showed that not only did the "gringos" care for them physically by bringing them a wheelchair, but they also respected and enjoyed the Chilean culture. When we told the recipients "These chairs are a gift from God for you because He loves you," they replied, "We believe you because we can see Him reflected in you."



Agueda and Amy with Mauricio Astudillo, 42, his sister Dina and a friend. When we went to say hi we were impressed with how affectionate and thankful they were. Mauricio smiled at everyone, very friendly and relaxed like a big kid. Dina told us that she's the oldest of 10 siblings. All of her young brothers and sister were born with a genetic disease that developed at about the 9th month in the womb. (She was born premature at only 6 months so she never developed it.) None of the doctors ever explained to her parents that it was a genetic problem, they only realized when one after another of their children began suffering from this degenerative disorder and that left them disabled or eventually killed them. It was very traumatic to go through that with nearly all their children. Eventually their parents passed away as well leaving Dina with 5 siblings to care for.

"It was very hard to watch them suffer and die one at a time," she told us with tears in her eyes. "Now there's only Mauricio and one other brother who is a complete invalid left. It's been a lot of work, and very painful, but I won't complain because they're so loving and thankful that it's easy to care for them." Mauricio was so happy with his chair, he can't speak much and he's almost deaf but he told us with signs how thankful he was. We told Dina: "You're the angel from God for your family. You've been fulfilling such an important mission in caring for them." She nodded and answered, "Yes, I know. When my brothers pass away I want to study nursing so that I can keep taking care of people." We offered for her to come get her training at our school whenever she could, which she appreciated a lot since she doesn't have the means to pay for a school.





30 wheelchairs donated to Pedro Montt Correctional Institute



The Regional Director of the Metropolis Police Mr. Raul Castro Salgado, Steven and Agueda Martin, Bob Longman and other officials.



Bob Logman and Steven Colon explaining the free wheelchair program to the beneficiaries.



The Chief of Police held a small ceremony to host the donation of the wheelchairs to disabled inmates. Afterwards they invited us to tea at the correctional institute.



One of the inmates was very excited and asked if he could say some words of appreciation in the name of all of them. He delivered his speech in perfect English and even became so moved he wept a bit. He ended with a beautiful reflection on all he'd learned in his years in prison and the importance of being a good and true person.



Visit to Hospital Claudio Vicuña de San Antonio



We were received by the coordinating nurse Mrs. Angel Olivari, and the doctor on call with whom we visited the patients who would need a wheelchair when they were released from the hospital. We talked and prayed with them which they appreciated very much.

Photo1: A patient who we didn't know the name of because he hadn't spoken since arriving at the hospital. When we met and told him we had a gift for him, he thanked us and started talking to us. When the attending nurse saw that, she got very excited and called the doctor. It turns out that was the first time he'd spoken to anybody and answered their questions. They'd been unable to treat him fully as he didn't talk to anybody before. They all told us, "This is wonderful! Now we can finally help him." He kept talking to us and thanking us till we left the hospital.



Visit to the Senate of the Republic of Chile



Senator Juan Antonio Coloma, received the FWM delegation, gave them a tour of the Senate building and invited them to a luncheon in appreciation of their help to this country. In his region alone more that 1500 disabled poor people received mobility devices.



56 Wheelchairs in the Community of Lo Espejo

In the community of Lo Espejo we have a history of collaborative actions with the municipality. The FWM delegation also distributed clothing which they brought from the USA for the people in 2 of these shantytowns they have in the county. Special thanks to the help of the volunteers for the Network for the Disabled; they helped organize the clothing the Americans brought by family and coordinated the trip.



Photo 1: Carmen, who has 8 beautiful children, became disabled and blind due to diabetes. She wept with joy when she sat in her wheelchair, now she could go for walks with her children.

Photo 2: Julio with his mother. His leg was amputated not long ago; he's diabetic and passing through a time of deep depression. When we arrived he was lying in bed, enclosed in a tiny room with no light or ventilation. He cried when we gave him the wheelchair as it meant light and sunshine to him rather than the gloom of the tiny bedroom.



The last day of their visit was dedicated to getting to know the beautiful city of Santiago and enjoying the hospitality of the Chilean people. It was lot of fun!



Telemarketing Course



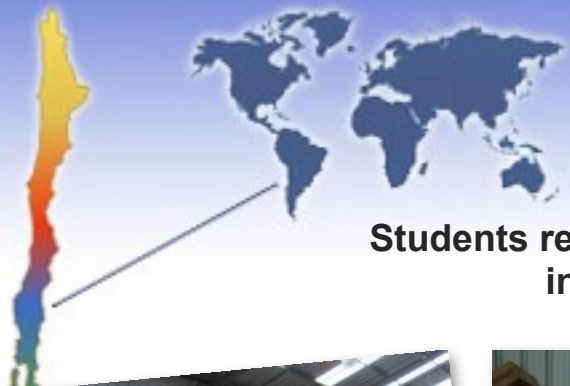
Through the SENCE's Training Program for Housewives, courses of telemarketing, international cuisine and confectionery were completed.

International Cuisine Course



Chefs Carolina Urra and Rodrigo Jofré, teaching in the international cuisine course.





Students receive the tools of the trade for international cooking.



The SENCE scholarship program includes a subsidy for tools of the trade. Patricia Ojeda gives the students their industrial ovens.

100 wheelchairs to be distributed by Rotary Club of Curico





300 Wheelchairs donated in Talca



Photo 1: Senator Antonio Coloma and his wife share a few words with those present

Photo 2: President of FEDES Foundation, Steven Colon explaining the features and functions of the wheelchairs and the vision of the Free Wheelchair Mission Program.



In this ceremony 110 wheelchairs were distributed in the Plaza of Talca.



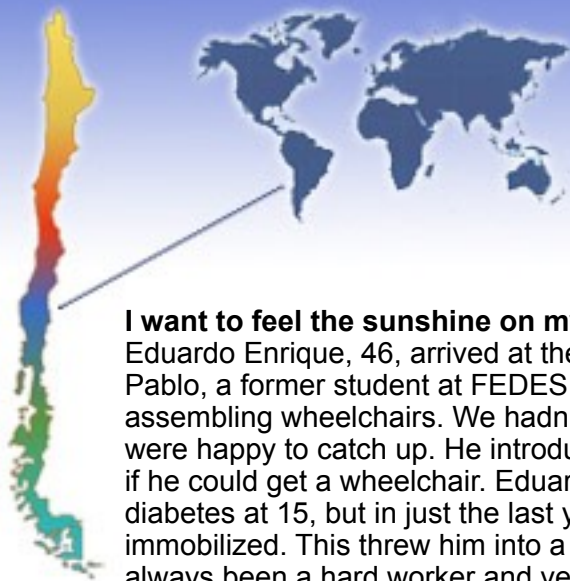
Photo 3: Agueda conversing with Sonia Oliva, 58 years old, who suffers from diabetes and had to have her right foot amputated and it looks like the left foot will soon have to be removed as well. She was so thankful to receive her wheelchair as she'd been waiting for one for 4 years.

Photo 4: TVN (national television news station) interviewed Mr. Gustavo Airas who had a stroke a few years ago. He stated that he was very happy to receive his wheelchair and be able to enjoy the rest of his days unconfined to a bed or couch.



Photo 5: **David Esteban**, 24 years old, was born with HIV. At 8 years old he was abandoned by his mother and adopted by Mrs. Blanca Rojas who took him in and treated him like one of her own children. (She is the woman in the photograph with him). She told us he's a very caring, good person. Due to secondary conditions caused by HIV, 10 years ago he lost the use of his legs. They were both very thankful for the wheelchair because every time he had a doctor appointment (which is pretty often) they had to ask around to borrow a wheelchair, and sometimes there were none available. Now he can go receive his medical treatments without that stress and get out of the house more often.

Photo 6: **Emeregildo Rivera**, 72, became disabled due to the beatings and torture he suffered during the military coup 30 years ago. For 20 years he used crutches to get around but for the last 10 it's been very painful and he urgently needed a wheelchair. He was so thankful that someone had thought of him for this wheelchair, because he'd been trying for so long to get one. We told him, "God remembers you. You're very important to Him. He hasn't forgotten you." With tears in his eyes he replied, "Yes, it's true. Thank you so much and God bless you!"



Life Stories

I want to feel the sunshine on my face

Eduardo Enrique, 46, arrived at the foundation accompanied by Pablo, a former student at FEDES who worked with us assembling wheelchairs. We hadn't seen Pablo in a year and were happy to catch up. He introduced us to his friend and asked if he could get a wheelchair. Eduardo started showing signs of diabetes at 15, but in just the last year he'd become blind and immobilized. This threw him into a deep depression because he'd always been a hard worker and very active, and now his wife had to go to work all day to support them, leaving him alone in the dark house.

When we gave him his wheelchair he was so happy. He got settled into it and told us "Thank you!" with a big smile. After talking with him for a bit I realized that he had the sun shining directly on his face so I asked him if he'd like me to move him to the shade so the sun wouldn't bother him. He answered, "No please. It really doesn't bother me. I like it. I want to feel the sunshine on my face. I've been shut in for so long. It feels wonderful; I just want to drink it in. I can't tell you how thankful I am for this wheelchair because now my wife and brother can take me for walks, something I've been wanting for a long time. I can go now to the plaza and talk with my friends. It'll help me stay busy and not sit around just thinking so much. God bless you!"



Photo 1: Eduardo Enrique

Photo 2: Our student Pablo helping Enrique get out of the car without hurting himself.



Left: This story was told to us by Officer Palma of the Police of San Bernardo. Their department is one of the many with whom we collaborate to distribute the wheelchairs to the most vulnerable of the economically disadvantaged in the Metropolis area.

Mrs. Ernestina was a victim of domestic violence. Her alcoholic husband beat her and wouldn't give her the money she needed to raise their children. After finally getting a restraining order to protect herself and her children she worked as a laundress to put food on the table. After years of this her hands developed severe arthritis which is so painful she's had to quit working and now can do very few things on her own. Now her daughters care for her. Officer Palma heard of her situation when her ex-husband (who was dying) went to request permission from the police to visit Ernestina to ask for forgiveness for the years he'd mistreated her. When they went to the house to visit her, they were shocked at what they found. Her hands and legs were so disfigured she could hardly walk even to the bathroom. They called FEDES right way to ask if we could donate a walker for her. Ernestina was so happy when she received it because it means she can recover some of her mobility now.



Youth Internships – Student Testimonials



PABLO LINCOFIL
COINSA COMPUTACIÓN

“The time that I’ve been interned here I’ve realized that the knowledge I received in my course at FEDES was exactly what I needed for this kind of work. I think this has marked a turning point in my employment situation. I want to continue studying, I hope so. It’s really all thanks to FEDES and the SENCE Bicentennial Youth Program. I want to thank you for this opportunity.



JUAN FIGUEROA
BIP - COMPUTER

I am happy here. I’m doing very well with what I learned in the FEDES training course. I’ve done quite a few different jobs here and now I’m in charge of a large portion of our workspace. I think I’m going to stay on working here now that my internship is over. Many thanks to you and SENCE for what you’ve helped us become and the opportunities you’ve given us.



ELADIO DE SEPTIEMBRE
(restaurant)

SAMMY ANTOINE

Sammy has completed his practical application of the competencies acquired in the course and showed a real sense of responsibility in his work. He became so valuable to the company that they hired him as soon as his internship was done. He’s more than thankful to FEDES and the Bicentennial Youth Program who have helped him improve his economic situation.



CLAUDIA FIGUEROA
SCHOOL PÁRVULOS ENANITOS

“Studying with this course has allowed me to work in an area I enjoy very much. I hope to keep developing my skills and gaining experience in it. Thank you SENCE and FEDES for training me and giving me this opportunity.”



Training for Distal Employees



Teachers and Chefs Alvaro Valenzuela and Carlos Bazae taught this training course to the food handlers of Distal Ltda Company. These training courses are in line with a process to introduce new technologies for institutional nutrition.

Distal Ltda is a company that provides services to the National Committee for Public Schools Support and Scholarship 's school food programs.



Students receiving their certificates from their teacher Carlos Bazae.





Generation of projects in Spain



Photo 1: Steven Colon and Agueda Martin, executives of FEDES Foundation were received in the Consulate of Chile by ambassador of Chile in Spain Mr. Gonzalo Martner Fanta.

Photo 2: Steven Colon with Lautaro Contreras, attaché of international affairs in Madrid

Activities in Spain included:

1. Searching for a sister community to establish cooperative links with the community of Lo Espejo.
2. Extension of networks to establish a method for labor apprenticeships for the young people enrolled in the Bicentennial Youth Program.
3. Establishing networks and agreements for the development of a plan to reduce the risks of workplace accidents and illness; as well as seeking expert advice relevant to creating a school for further education in these topics in Chile.



At University of Lleida we were received by Nuria Camps Mirabet, director of the department for International Collaboration.



Photo 1: At the University of Lleida with the Chilean writer Mr. Miguel Gallardo and a professor

Photo 2: Touring the grounds of the University of Lleida.



Visit to Fremap

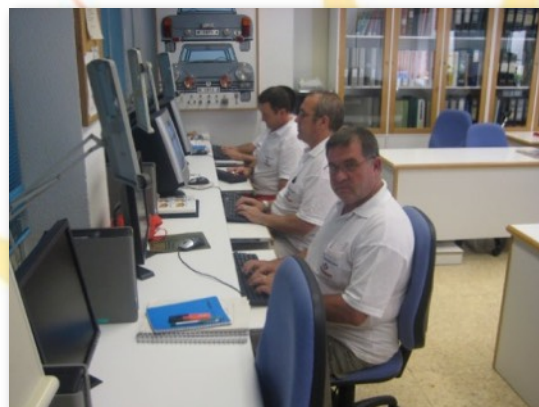


Photo 1. Steven Colon, president of FEDES Foundation, with Mr. Mariano de Diego Hernández, president of Fremap, Mr. Josu Esarte Sola, General Manager and other Directors of FREMAP

Photo 2. With Fremap administrative personnel – Center for Prevention and Rehabilitation



Administrator Miguel Ángel Montalvo showed us around and, along with other specialists and doctors explained the installations of the Rehabilitation and Professional Readaptation where vocational training is given to the victims in accordance with their abilities.



Visit to Fremap, Society of Workplace Accident Prevention



Fremap Society for Prevention of Workplace Accidents, Madrid, Spain
We were received by Mr. Ruben Guadalupe, General Director and Mr. Miguel Angel Montalvo de Lana, Administrator.
Mr. Ruben Guadalupe gave us a tour of the property and a detailed explanation of how Fremap works in the area of prevention of workplace accidents.



In Treviso, Italy, we met with Carlos Viviani and Mr. Pablo Viviani directors of the Association Solidaris onlus, a charitable organization for international cooperation.



Electronic Installations course for students of indigenous communities



During the months from August to October, through the SENCE scholarship program, an Electrical Systems Installation course was given to 20 people of different ethnic minorities of the indigenous inhabitants of Chile.

The course graduates afterwards received a subsidy in tools of an equivalent value of 400 USD.



Students receiving the tools for their trades.





Graduation of the classes 2008-2009 – Bicentennial Youth Program.



Training for Youth of the Bicentennial Program. FEDES-AURORA has played an important role during 2009. More than 260 young people studied with our vocational programs.

In October the SENCE held a regional ceremony to award the students their certificates. These photos show a few parts of this moving event.

Below: Rosario Ulloa was a student in one of the computer skills and networking courses. Through the internship she received to work at a business, she was hired to work for Apple Inc. Here Rosario speaks to promote the vocational program.



Photo 1: Jonatan Orellana manager of the Bicentennial Youth Program for the Metropolis Region, addresses the young people.

Photo 2: Bárbara Morales National Director of the Bicentennial Youth Program with Steven Colón and some of the students.



Baking Course

Through the financing of Social Programs of the OTIC CORCIN in October we carried out a baking course. It was taught by Jeanette Utau and benefited 18 women from the southern areas of Santiago.



Graduation of SENCE scholarship courses 2009.



Alejandro Aguilera of SENCE of the Metropolis Region participated in the graduation ceremony of the Electronic Systems Installation and Confectionery courses.



In the community of Paine we held a special program of "Assistance for Housewife Entrepreneurs" FEDES-Aurora helped with vocational training in tailoring and confectionery





Manuel Espinoza Montenegro, executive director of the School Nutrition Network of Latin America (LA RAE), invited Darío Calderón González, president of NutreChile A.G. to celebrate “World Food Day” in a conference where the presiding authorities analyzed the scope of nutrition policy in Chile and its possibilities for development in the future. We had a space as to present our school and social programs.

Dr. Fernando Monckeberg also participated with a presentation about Institutional Nutrition Programs.



Testimony of Juan Zamorano, 85.

He is disabled due to a variety of respiratory diseases and arthrosis which has left him unable to walk. He lives with his 72 year old wife in a room that the neighborhood committee rents to them. They support themselves by selling used clothing or other things people give them at the community fair. He wrote us this letter.

“The purpose of this letter is to thank you for giving me my wheelchair. I’ve been bedridden for a long time. Before you gave me the wheelchair my wife had to carry me in a cart. That’s how she’d take me to the doctor, or to do paperwork or to visit family. I felt very badly to see the pain she had at this age struggling so that I wouldn’t have to stay in bed all the time.

I never had the means to buy a wheelchair and had lost hope for ever having one because we’re so poor and we don’t have support from family or other public services. One day a policeman came here to visit me and after gently asking why I was bedridden he asked if he could take me out to the porch to get some sunshine. I agreed and he carried me out. My wife came out with us then told him to wait while she went inside to get a chair. Sargeant Vasquez told her she didn’t need to because behind us there was a big surprise, and sure enough we turned around and there was the most beautiful wheelchair. Both my wife and I started crying of sheer and joy. He also gave us the message from you: to give thanks to God because it was a gift of His love that He prepared specially for us. We just hugged and hugged Sgt. Vasquez, thanking him so much for all of your generosity and help, which no one had ever given us before.”





In the month of November, working with Senator Fransisco Chahuan we were able to give a donation of 700 wheelchairs, 200 walkers, 100 canes and 30 hospital beds to help the disabled poor in the Region of Viña del Mar.



Photo 1: Congressman Fransisco Chahuan addresses those gathered
Photo 2: Steven Colon gives a short explanation on the functions of the wheelchairs.

Photo 3: Jaime Alcerreca Silva, 52 years old. 10 years ago he had a heart attack resulting in his having a leg amputated. After the ordeal he couldn't go back to work and the small pension he received wasn't enough to live on. He lives alone in a room that he rents from a family. He sells small items in the street to support himself. He was so thankful for the donation of the wheelchair. He told us, "Before I had to carry the bags of things to sell on my back and it was very exhausting to get around like that on crutches." He just kept on praising God for the chance to have a "vehicle" as he called it. "You can't imagine how this is going to change my life. Thank you so much. May God keep giving you strength to help people like me."



Photo 4: Juan Ugarte, 36 years old, was accompanied by his brother. Four years ago a degenerative disease which the doctors have not been able to diagnose set in. He's been waiting for a wheelchair ever since. When we told him the wheelchair was a gift of God's love for him, he nodded his head and told us, "I believe it! I also know that He's going to heal me some day and I will walk again. God bless you!"



Wheelchair beneficiaries



Visit to the USA



Steven with the Globus Relief team loading up the container



In Utah Globus Relief loaded up a container with medical supplies and orthopedic equipment. Here we are with President of Globus Relief Ash Robinson, and Doug Beck, director of operations.



On this trip we visited several of the foundations and friends who have supported us. Here we are with Dick and Carroll Harris and Coordinator of the Education Advisory Board of Community Ventures International, Rachel Cameron in Houston, Texas



The President of Free Wheelchair Mission, Don Schoendorfer, presenting the new model of wheelchair which we'll soon be getting to Chile.



7 wheelchairs donated to the San Lucas Senior Citizens' Club

The Senior Citizens' Club is a little weekly event hosted by the church for its elderly members. Seven of the elderly who would join them have become disabled due to their advanced age and health problems and have had to discontinue attendance as they had lost their mobility. When we took them the wheelchairs they were so happy, they looked like kids getting their Christmas presents. God bless them!



Rosalia Espinoza, Blanca Hortensia and Maria Mercedes; happy with their Christmas gifts of wheelchairs. Now they can attend their prayer meetings and other activities in the little room the church lends them for the senior's fellowship and prayer club.



Blanca Hortensia, 84, Has been unable to walk for over 14 years due to arthritis all over her body. She lives alone. Her neighbor visits and cares for her, making her one hot meal a day. She was very thankful because now she can get together with the other senior citizens again and her neighbor friend won't have to carry her anymore. They both attend the club and they love enjoying other's company as well as the participating in the prayer group and hymn singing.



Maria Mercedes Caceres, 80, has osteoporosis in her hips and can't walk. Her husband has cancer as well and they were both very thankful for the wheelchair as they were going to share it between them. They told us,

"God bless you for your noble work. People come here and always make promises to help, but they don't follow through. They give us hope and then let us down. God bless you and all people of good will who remember the aged and sick who don't have the means we need. We know God brought you and is here with us with these wheelchairs. We're going to pray for all those who have helped give us these chairs, that they can keep up this good work and continue to bring hope and faith to so many people and remind them that God hasn't forgotten His children. He won't forget them either.



Christmas Stories



Raquel happy in her wheel chair together with her 2 grandchildren , Águeda Martin and Dr. Manuel Espinosa.

God gave me the desire of my heart this Christmas: a wheelchair.

Raquel Aillach, 87, suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, and arthrosis in her knees and hips. We went to deliver her wheelchair on the afternoon of December 24th and told her it was a special gift from God to her for Christmas.

She couldn't hold back the tears when she saw us come in with the new chair. "This is the best gift you could have given me this Christmas," she told us. "My husband died last month. He'd been my companion for 60 years and I miss him. My greatest wish was to be able to visit his grave for Christmas and I was just so miserable because I didn't know how I could get there since I can't walk."

She continued with tears in her eyes. "Last night I dreamed of my husband and in the dream he told me that I was going to receive a wonderful surprise that would make me very happy. And seeing this wheelchair you brought me, I know it is the gift my darling was telling me of in the dream. I'm so happy and excited. God bless you for remembering me. I can't express how much it means to me."

Total Medical Equipment Donated in 2009

5095 Wheelchairs
237 Walkers
321 Orthopedic canes
96 Pairs of crutches
173 Hospital beds
940 Boxes of medical supplies