

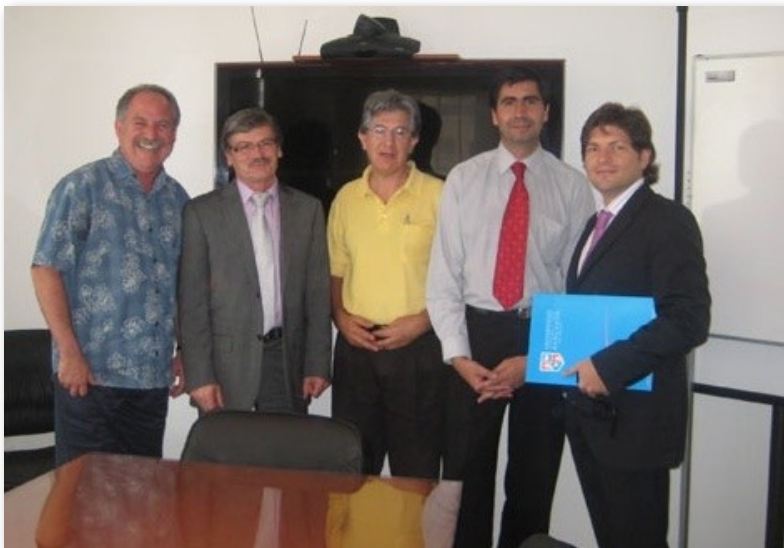


## Meeting with the Minister of Labor and the National Director of SENCE

A meeting was held concerning an agreement for collaboration between the Extremeño Center for Studies and Collaboration with Latin America (CEXECI), the National Training and Employment Service (SENCE), and the Foundation for Education in Economic and Social Development (FEDES). The purpose of the agreement was to create opportunities of apprenticeship for young Chileans (Bicentennial Youth Program) in the Extremadura Region of Spain.



Steven Colon with Minister of Labor Claudia Serrano and the National Director of the SENCE Juan Manuel Castro.



Steven Colon, president of FEDES Foundation, José L. Gurría Gascón, director of the Extremeño Center for Studies and Collaboration with Latin America (CEXECI); Hugo Ávila, academic director of the FEDES Foundation; Juan Manuel Castro, national director of SENCE and Manuel Aguilar Yuste from CEXECI in a meeting to commence drawing up the terms of the agreement.



## SEMINAR

IX UNIR – International Summer University of  
Rancagua 2010



José Luis Guría, director of CEEXCI and Eduardo Soto Romero, Mayor of Rancagua sign an agreement on the importance and continuity of the International Summer University.

For nine years this annual event, in which experts and entrepreneurs from Spain and several countries in South America convene, has been held in Rancagua. In the opening ceremony Jose Gurria Gascon, director of the Extremeño Center for Studies and Collaboration with Latin America, (CEEXCI) shared the CEEXCI's vision for the International Summer University, its history, and goals for the coming year.



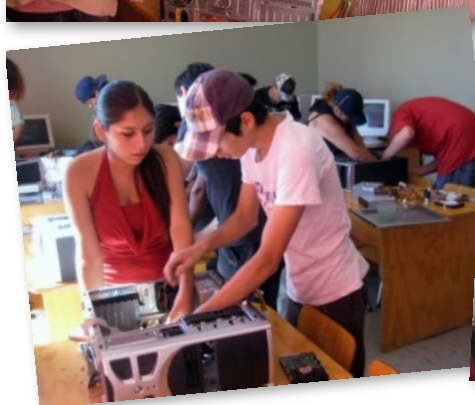
Opening the first panel, Hugo Avila, academic director of FEDES, and FEDES President Steven Colon give the first presentation on FEDES's experiences with vocational training, management for entrepreneurs, and aiding micro entrepreneurs in communities of southern Santiago.





## Courses of the Bicentennial Youth Program Computer skills and Network Maintenance

On January 25<sup>th</sup>  
a new class began this  
interesting course. It includes  
385 class hours, plus two  
months (360 hours) of practice  
at a business.



One of the components of the Youth Bicentennial  
Program is the acquisition of employability enhancing  
competencies. These photos show a class participating  
in personal effectiveness workshops.







## Confectionery Courses

Through the SENCE scholarship program 2 new groups began the Confectionery Course. It includes 200 class hours and a small initial investment of capital to boost new micro entrepreneurs.

These courses were taught by chefs Alvaro Valenzuela and Alvaro Drouillas.







## International Culinary Arts Course

The SENCE scholarship program continues financing training courses for people between the ages of 18 and 59. Two new classes of 20 students each began in January. Each course includes 250 classroom hours.



## Dressmaking and Tailoring Course

At the request of the Government of the province of Maipu, we carried out this course with the program Housewife Entrepreneurs.



Students showing clothing they made during the course.





## Coexistence Event

In keeping with FEDES tradition, every semester an integration event is held. The students from different courses formed “alliances” and hold contests among themselves in song, dance, stage productions and other competitions.

The participants always give very positive feedback on these activities during the study period.



## DONATION OF 250 WHEELCHAIRS TO THE CITY OF COQUIMBO

**Photo 1:** President of FEDES Foundation Steven Colon and Agueda Martin Colon; receiving a gift from Oscar Pereira Tapia, the mayor of Coquimbo.

In collaboration with the Mayor's office, we organized meetings with several mayors in the region to present the wheelchair donation program, and the supplying of medical equipment and supplies to emergency centers and primary care centers. They are currently compiling a registry of their communities' needs.

**Photo 2:** Meeting with Raul Saldivar, mayor of La Serena and his team

**Photo 3:** This was a meeting with Mayor Marta Lobos of Ovalle and other mayors of the region.







## DONATION OF 250 WHEELCHAIRS TO THE CITY OF COQUIMBO FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PERSONS



Coquimbo is located 462 km north of Santiago de Chile. It has a population of 144,900 and is the largest port in the area. It lies where the foot of the Andean mountains reaches the coast.

Photo 1: The ceremony was held at the plaza of Coquimbo where 150 wheelchairs were given to their new owners. Recipients included individuals, retirement homes and hospitals.

Photo 2: Steven greeting the audience and explaining the history and features of the wheelchair.

Photo 3: Beneficiaries of the wheelchairs.

Photo 4: Steven Colon and Oscar Pereira Tapia, mayor of Coquimbo, sign a document verifying the receipt of the donations and collaboration agreement.



Photos: Agueda Martin, greeting, bringing the disabled individuals gathered in the plaza their new wheelchairs, and helping them get settled in.





**Marta Daw, 61**, suffered a stroke 3 years ago which left her right side paralyzed and affected her speech. (Her sister told us that Martha has great difficulty pronouncing words correctly, though with her left hand on her heart and a big smile she gave us all the thanks we could ask for.) She was so happy that, through signs, she asked if we could take a photo of her with all her friends whom she hadn't been able to see since the stroke. When she turned to see them she couldn't hold back the tears and she began to cry unrestrainedly. The rest of us got misty-eyed too.

Her sister told us "This is going to change our lives...thank you so much for giving us this wheelchair. We know without a doubt it's a gift from God. My sister has been going through deep depression and we didn't know how to help her. Now she can go to the Senior Citizen's club and see her friends and have a good time. We can take her for walks on the beach, and most importantly, we can go to church and give thanks to God."



**Maria Cerda, 103**

**years** old, suffers from severe arthritis and has lost all her mobility. She told us that the first thing she was going to do with her new wheelchair was go for a walk and go to church with her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren! In spite of her advanced age she converses very clearly and has a wonderful sense of humor. She was very happy with "her little chair," as she called it.

She kept repeating.

"God keep you. May God repay you. What a great work." And when we asked if she'd like us to take a photo of her, she fixed her hair and scarf to pose like a true lady.



**Mario Rojas, 74**

arrived looking very elegant in a suit someone had given him especially for the ceremony. He was accompanied by the President of the Senior Citizens Club of his township (they had requested the wheelchair for him) and one of his neighbors, as he lives alone. He's been disabled for 16 years due to a workplace accident.

"I used to work a jackhammer on concrete." He explained in a soft voice. "One day as I was drilling, the jackhammer exploded and metal shards shot into my stomach, kidneys and spine. It was a miracle of God that I survived. Not even the doctors could believe it, as my body had been completely destroyed. After a long year I recovered, but I've never walked again."

"I want to thank you for giving me this wheelchair. I love going to the Senior Citizen's club in my area since I get lonely at home alone – it was the highlight of my week; but I haven't been able to go for years now because I didn't have a wheelchair. God bless you for helping me get back that companionship!"





## Before and After:

Progress continues on the renovation of a building in the Community of Lo Espejo where the new vocational school will be located.







## Earthquake Relief Trips

In response to the February 27<sup>th</sup> earthquake here in Chile FEDES has made several relief trips to the disaster zone. There is another planned in the immediate future. For more information on these activities, please see the earthquake relief newsletters and photos available on our website. [www.fundacionfedes.org](http://www.fundacionfedes.org)



The first trip was to Curico. There we distributed:

- 8 wheelchairs
- 17 sets of crutches
- 8 walkers
- 12 medical canes
- 3400 diapers
- 46 boxes of medical supplies



Next we were off to Constitucion. Along with the supplies we brought a musical team to cheer up the victims of the quake. In total we gave out:

68 wheelchairs	1900 diapers
200 blankets	70 hygiene kits
25 family sized food packages	
20 walkers	20 sets of crutches
20 canes	5 boxes medical supplies
350 kilos of plastic tarp to weatherproof tents or damaged housing.	



Boeing donated the air freight to bring the shipment provided by Americares, and also arranged the LAN equipment to unload the plane and paid for all the transportation to our storage facilities in Chile.

*Foto: Mr. Taylor of Boeing and Michelle Jackson of Americares with Steven Colon delivering the emergency supplies.*



In Talcahuano and the surrounding areas we distributed:

- 100 wheelchairs
- 30 walkers
- 20 pairs of crutches
- 61 boxes of diapers
- 700 family hygiene kits
- 100 boxes medical supplies
- 12 boxes soaps and skin creams
- 120 boxes of Ensure high nutrition drinks





April 2010



## Visit of Free Wheelchair Mission Delegation

In the month of April, FEDES was honored with a visit from Free Wheelchair Mission founder Don Schoendorfer and a delegation of FWM representatives from the USA. They brought with them the new Gen 2 model wheelchair, a significant upgrade on the original design.

On the team was Dr. Susan Shore, a design consultant for the Gen 2 model, who wrote a manual for the users and caretakers to fully take advantage of the wheelchair features, and to explain certain aspects of care that should be given to the physically impaired individual.



Several distribution events were held. One took place in Huechuraba where we distributed 50 wheelchairs, and another in Lo Espejo, where we distributed 30 wheelchairs. The recipients of these chairs will be participating in a survey on the new design.



Steven Colon translated for Free Wheelchair Mission President Don Schoendorfer as he explained the vision for and functions of the new model of wheelchair to those present. At the ceremony the municipality of Huechuraba introduced a group of folkloric dancers who performed and then invited the visitors to participate in the traditional dancing.







*Top: Charlie and Bill adjust the footrests on a wheelchair for a young girl.*

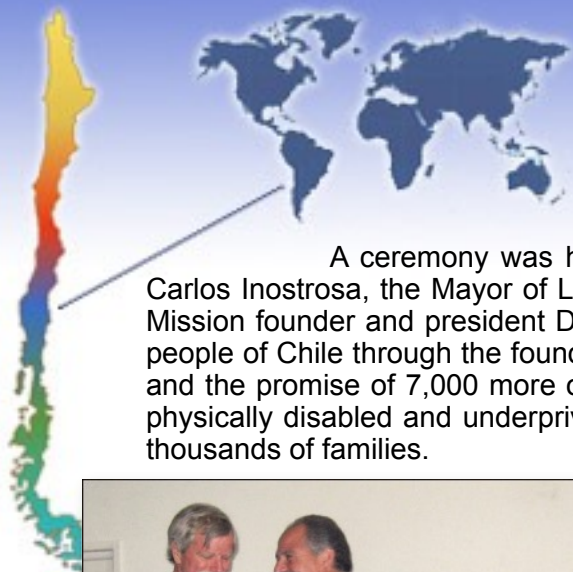
*Top right: This young man who was born with down syndrome was almost as excited about the new soccer ball Mark gave him as his mother was about the wheelchair.*

*Bottom: Charlie invited Leonardo to race now that he has a new wheelchair. Leonardo's tears of joy moved all of us; it was such a privilege to be part of the moment.*

*Bottom right: Bill and Marion with Alfonso, who was a basketball coach until a stroke took his mobility. He was thrilled as now he can get back to the court to keep teaching his team.*







A ceremony was held for the launch of the Gen 2 wheelchair, where FEDES, with Carlos Inostrosa, the Mayor of Lo Espejo, presented an award of appreciation to Free Wheelchair Mission founder and president Don Schoendorfer in recognition of the extraordinary service to the people of Chile through the foundation's donation of over 30,000 wheelchairs over the past 6 years and the promise of 7,000 more over the next year. The foundation's efforts to bring mobility to the physically disabled and underprivileged in this country have improved the quality of life for tens of thousands of families.



The ceremony was attended by representatives of several municipalities, staff of congressmen, police chiefs from several counties, and organizations for the disabled and elderly. It also included a performance of the "Cueca", the national folkloric dance of Chile. *Mayor Carlos Inostrosa, with Steven Colon, giving recognition to Don Schoendorfer on behalf of the people of Chile.*



1



2

1. Penny and Bill with a happy recipient of a new chair to replace her worn out one.
2. These childhood friends had both been confined to their homes. They were finally able to visit each other with their new wheelchairs.





We visited the Lo Espejo camp of low income families. There we distributed clothing the FWM Volunteers had brought from the USA and soccer balls for the kids.



We felt honored to be part of the moment and had a wonderful time getting to know them.



In total, 103 wheelchairs were distributed in their time here. We'll miss the cheer and energy of the FWM representatives, and hope to see them again soon.





May 2010



## January – April Trimester Graduations

May was graduation month here at FEDES Vocational School. Heads were held high as 160 students received their certificates. Students ranged from 18 to 64 years old. Many were housewives who'd never completed high school and had been forced into unskilled labor years ago due to early marriage or financial pressure on their families. Others were "at risk" youth whose only shot at achieving a tertiary education is a program like this that makes the bridge between job skills, personal development and study programs.

*Right: Relater, Carmen Martin, relating an anecdote during the personal development classes. Below: Students of the cooking course prepared some of their specialties for graduation.*







FEDES considers that one of the most important aspects is restoring the student's faith in themselves. Going back to school at 45 is daunting under the best of circumstances, but for a nanny who comes from a family where no one has graduated from high school, who dropped out of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and has 4 half-grown children, the prospect is almost terrifying.

Students often join the course afraid to ask questions, shy of opinionating in group discussions, and unfamiliar with the vocabulary or job competencies. They leave knowledgeable and confident in their subjects, holding the verifying certification that empowers them to negotiate their working conditions, and in many cases, a new determination to further their studies.



*Above: Nursing and Elderly Care students in class.*

*Above right: Graduating nursing class.*

*Right: Sisters who took the nursing classes with Natacha Solovera, their teacher. At graduation they expressed how empowered they feel and that they don't have to accept just being house wives but have gained the confidence to study and work to improve the lives of their families.*







Those who completed the Nursing and Elderly Care, Bakery, and International Cooking courses (through the SENCE) will receive a small subsidy in supplies to begin their trades. The youth graduates of the computer skills and bakery courses will go on to a 2 months internship in local businesses to gain job experience before getting started in the labor market.







## Student Success Stories

**Nora Mendez Carreon, 44**, had to leave behind her studies in her teen years to care for her terminally ill father and aunt. In her low income family everyone had to contribute and she worked hard to help pay the bills. Eventually she began a family of her own and continued to care for her sister who suffers from schizophrenia. A born caregiver, she'd wanted to further her studies and be able to serve the community but supporting her family financially and giving them the care they needed left her without the time or resources her own education would require.

Then tragedy struck. She lost all three children in an accident and, as if that wasn't enough, a year later her job as a telephone operator as well. With the economic downturn the job market in Chile is highly competitive, and at 40 years old employment

opportunities are extremely hard to come by. She had to fight the feeling that there was nothing left in this life for her.

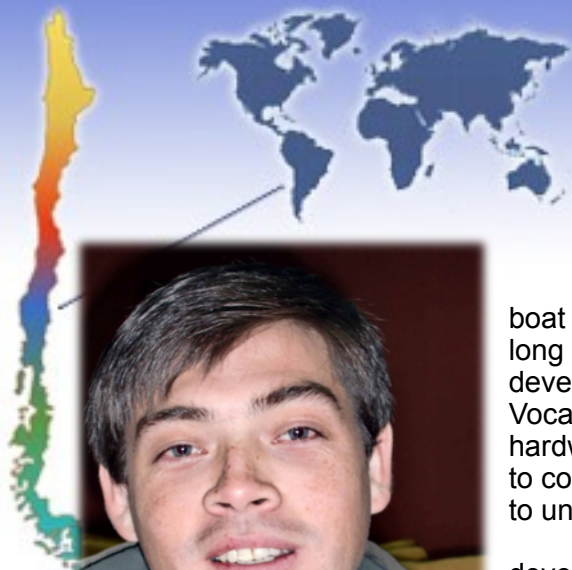
Incredibly, instead of allowing tragedy and obstacles she faced to hold her back, she decided that she'd start again. She sold clothing, candy, or bread in the streets while she studied, first a foot health course with the municipality and then applied for the FEDES elderly care course; anything to achieve her dream of starting a social project of care for one of the most neglected social groups in Chile-the elderly in low income communities. Her project was recently approved by the government and she and a partner will begin services soon after graduation. She is also applying to attend university a few days a week in the near future.

She says, "This course has been exactly the step up I needed to regain faith in myself. The difference between FEDES and the other courses or vocational programs I've attended, was that in the other courses if I showed up or not people didn't really seem to care. Here the administration really gets involved with the students, holding them to a high standard. I could see they really cared about me and put importance on me becoming professional in my skills"



*Nora (extreme left) with the rest of her graduating class at the FEDES Vocational School*





**Christopher Llanos, 24**, had been working as a speed boat driver in a vacation center, but realized if he wanted to have a long term career and economic stability, he'd have to study and develop other skills. Active searching brought him to the FEDES Vocational School where he enrolled in the computer assembly and hardware course. After graduation he has an interview with a company to complete the practical application practice required, and is applying to university to continue his studies in IT subjects next year.

He expressed how much he feels the personal development classes helped him, as he has a rather strong personality, and his lack of communication and teamwork skills have been an impediment to his advancement in the past. Through the classes, particularly the group activities and exercises, he learned how to express himself more diplomatically and how to collaborate better with his co-workers.



*Christopher in class learning computer assembly*



*Christopher with his teacher Ivan Colon on graduation day.*





### Donation of 30 wheelchairs

In collaboration with the Police from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Commissioners Office in Talagante, a donation of 30 wheelchairs was made to the disabled poor in this town.



In the small ceremony, held by the police of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Commissioner's office, a group of the officials presented demonstration of the police dogs skills, and later, a clown show. Then young Carlos, a wheelchair beneficiary, delighted us all with some beautiful, romantic songs, some of which he had composed himself.



It's hard to imagine living without ever going out in the fresh air and sunshine, but that is the reality for many invalids here in Chile. Rosa Palmira Valenzuela, 86, had been immobilized for over 15 years due to advanced arthritis in her hips. Hard working yet feminine and soft spoken, she still has her daughter-in-law carefully braid her hair in the traditional fashion as any self-respecting lady of the Chilean old school would.

She'd always been active. Six children and a family business—a small clothing store — kept her on her feet and busy most of her life. As she hit her 60's though, the arthritis set in and she lost more and more of her mobility. She couldn't afford a wheelchair and eventually even basic movement at home became a struggle.

For 15 years she just watched life go by from her bed or at times the couch. Sometimes one of her children would carry her to the front door to look out at the sidewalk to watch people passing, but it was almost harder to not be able to join the action. She missed the daily interaction with her neighbors and family members. Being in nature, always a favorite activity had been long out of her reach — until last month.

Through Free Wheel Chair Mission's collaboration with FEDES Foundation in Chile Rosa received a brand new wheelchair. When asked what the first things she wants to do with her new "wheels" were she told us. "I just can't wait to visit my grandchildren! Just think of all these years I haven't been to church! This Sunday I can finally attend with my children and grandchildren. I also haven't been taken out shopping in years. Today though, I'll just enjoy my walk home in the sunshine."







## HACCP Application and Cook & Chill Technology May 26-28

This training program was given to the food handling students from the Casino of the International SEK and Seper S.A. Group. The course was carried out in concurrence with the Chilean regulation 2861. The main subject was nutrition systems risk prevention and management. 28 students participated.



Teacher Yulia Kvyatkovskaya with course attendees during course study hours and certification.





July 2010



## International Aid Groups Meeting in the Senate

A meeting was held in the Senate of the Republic of Chile in honor to the organizations who provided significant assistance in the aftermath of the February earthquake and tsunami. The meeting and luncheon afterwards were hosted by Senator Francisco Chahuan and attended by a representative of the Chancellery and representatives of major local and international organizations. It included a presentation by the lawyer of the Library of Congress who explained the details of the laws of donations, new and old, and an open forum for questions and answers to clarify any uncertainty the organizations had on those topics.

At lunch representatives from each organization presented themselves and their organization's work. It was a special networking experience to get to know each other better and hopefully facilitate future collaboration. The UN, through its vast network here and many projects, are creating a program to facilitate collaboration of the major aid groups in the region. The meeting served as a platform to create awareness of this project and stimulate further cooperative dialogue.



Award given to FEDES Foundation and with it recognition to all the organizations we represent: Family Care Foundation, Free Wheel Chair Mission, Direct Relief, Americares, Vida USA, Globus Relief, and other companies, laboratories, friends and supporters who sent aid. God bless you all for all your help.







## Internships for Graduates of the Bicentennial Youth Programs

The Bicentennial Youth program consists of 300 hours of training in a vocation, plus 85 hours of computer skills, and 70 hours in personal development and job competency classes. After the students completed their courses they did 360 hours of internship at cooperating companies. Here we see a few:

1. Antonela Mora – Technosystems Company
2. Nelson Caceres did his internship at the catering company Delgado Escobar y Cia Ltda. After it was done they hired him to stay on fulltime.
3. Debora Flores - Technosystems Company
4. Ana Cancino - Giratorio Restauran
5. Francisco Hahn was also hired by Technosystems when he completed his internship.







## Vocational School Graduates Receive the Tools of Their Trades

The students who graduated from FEDES' courses, through the government's SENCE scholarship program, received a subsidy of supplies and tools of their trades with a value of \$150,000 Chilean pesos (about \$300 dollars) to help them get a head start in beginning their new professions. Here are a few of the "*International Cuisine*" course graduates with their subsidized equipment.



Below: Some of the "*Nursing Care for the ill and Infirm*" course with some of the basic equipment for their job.







**Luis Silva Gonzalo Figueroa is a 19 year old** working hard to finish his last year of high school. Popular with his friends at school, he's a good student with a big smile. He is also paralyzed from the waist down.

Last month we got a letter from his teacher, Viviana Benitez Fuentesvilla. Luis had been absent from the rural high school he attends for a few days so she went to his home to investigate. She found Luis healthy but stuck in the house and discouraged. The wheels on his old worn-out wheelchair had broken and would be too expensive to fix. His single mom, who had raised Luis alone, had been looking for work for months but nothing was coming through. There was simply no way they could afford to fix his old chair, much less buy a new one. With no way to get to school and back or move between classes, he'd have to drop out.

Viviana wasn't about to let such a good student go that easily. She started praying, researching, talking to the school directors, trying to find a way to get Luis back in school where he belonged. Eventually somebody told her about the FEDES' program with Free Wheelchair Mission to give wheelchairs to those without the means to buy one on their own, so she wrote FEDES.

When we heard his story we called Viviana to let her know that Luis could receive a wheelchair right away. Viviana came herself to pick it up and deliver it to his home. We felt honored to meet this dedicated teacher, who was going beyond the call of duty to make sure her students had the best shot at a good education possible. With a big hug and many thanks she assured us that this was the answer to many people's prayers and we were all part of a miracle.

Soon after we got photos of Luis in his new wheelchair with his friends at school. That big smile and the confident look in his eyes warm our hearts and remind us that investing our time in the wheelchair mission was investing in the future.





August 2010



The President of FEDES, Steven Colon, met with the Minister of Labor Camila Merino, to discuss possibilities for the Vocational School. Further dialogue on potential scholarship programs, future investments, and other innovative ideas and projects also occurred.



President of FEDES, Steven Colon, with Minister of Labor Camila Merino



Steven Colon with the team from the Ministry of Health, Nilo Suñiga, Jose Vega, Tania Gonzalez, Jose del Carmen, and Macarena Castro

Steven also met with the department of the Ministry of Health that works in processing and distribution of international medical donations. This was a very special opportunity as formerly there was no written procedures by which donations were processed, which led to confusion for foreign donors. Now, thanks to the efforts of Soledad del Campo, head of this team, and the Minister of Health, Dr. Jaime Mañalich, there is a clearer, easier process for bringing in donated medical supplies, equipment and medications.

*We'd like to take a moment to thank the members of In His Love Inc. who have supported our initiatives here in Chile. Many of you have been true friends and supporters for years. All of this wouldn't have happened without your generosity and commitment to making a difference for others. Thank you!*



## Tailoring Course

The Tailoring course, which was carried out between June 9<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> through the SENCE Scholarship Program, consisted of 180 hours of training in tailoring, plus 10 hours of business management. After completing their studies, the beneficiaries received a subsidy of tools for their trade. This group of 20 women come from Puente Alto, one of the most densely populated and socially vulnerable counties in the Santiago Metropolis Area.



## Students' Life Stories

Sandra Madadiara, 43

I've had a rough life. I never finished high school. I am a single mother and have struggled with unemployment many times over the years. I had to provide for my children on my own, so I have done everything from working as a cashier at a bank to sweeping the streets to put food on the table. I have struggled for the last 8 years with major depression; thoughts that told me I was worthless. These were amplified when my 16- year-old daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo surgery to remove the tumor. I felt that she was carrying my genes so somehow it must be my fault.

My father was my best friend and confidant. He always tried to help and encourage me. When he died this January, I felt like it was all too much. I fell into a deep depression and tried to kill myself several times. After my last suicide attempt I was in a coma for a month, and when I woke up in the hospital I was put on treatment for depression. Then we learned that my daughter, who is now 22, had another tumor and had to undergo more operations.

My therapist told me that I needed to get involved in something new, learn a new skill, specifically something physical with my hands to keep my mind busy, and help move forward in my life, both economically and mentally. He said that only by believing in myself, being empowered, and gaining self-esteem will I get out of this depression, so I signed up for this sewing course.

These classes have meant so much to me. I feel that God did not let me die because He loves me so much and He did not want me to miss the opportunities to enjoy all the special things he has for me, like this course. Here the teacher has been very encouraging and patient. All the staff has been very kind to me. It's helped to keep me busy, learning, and positive, which makes it easier for me to fight the negative self talk and depressing thoughts. Now I also know a new skill to support myself and my girls. I can do it. I feel that my dad is watching me, helping me, and I'm going to keep fighting and learning for him, to make him proud.



Sandra Madadiara at work in the tailoring course and showing samples of the clothes she made.





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*Sandra Madadiara at work in the tailoring course and showing samples of the clothes she made.*





Susana Huaquimil, 33, is a proud member of the Mapuche tribe from the south of Chile and a single mother of 3. In high school she began studying design but had to drop out because her parents couldn't afford to pay for her schooling any longer.

"It's a step by step process to improving myself and achieving economic independence," she explained. "I worked with seamstresses and was always watching and trying to learn from them. Over the years I saved up enough to buy my own machine. This course was absolutely heaven sent because before I knew to do little repairs but now I can actually make good, detailed clothing from patterns. With the subsidy at the end of the course I'll buy materials I need to get started. I found the classes about sales, how to present yourself and your products to clients, and running a small business that they gave here very helpful. I want to buy polar material and make clothing to sell in the south where it's colder most of the year and there's less access to clothing so it's a good market. I'm very thankful for this opportunity with FEDES that the SENCE has given me, because it has been the next step in my growth to move forward."

On the issue of discrimination against her indigenous origins she told us, "When other girls or people would tease me or bother me about being Mapuche, I tell them that this is mine and my family's land, and was long before they got here. I have an ancestry to be proud of. When they see that I'm not ashamed, they stop bothering me and usually we can become friends."

Susana designed a beautiful wedding dress for her mother to wear at their vow renewal ceremony on her parent's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They had been too poor to afford a real white wedding when they had married, so this has special significance to their family. "I feel like it's the best present I could give her. Mom always said it would be like a dream come true. I'm making it happen."



## Humanitarian Aid Trip to Araucanía Region

In August, representatives of FEDES Foundation took 2 trucks full of medical supplies, hospitals blankets, hygiene kits, and other blankets for distribution to areas affected by the earthquake, which lie almost 700 km south of Santiago. Americares and Direct Relief donated the supplies for the hygiene kits and blankets for distribution in Temuco and the surrounding areas. The medical supplies were part of a container sent by Vida USA sent for distribution throughout the disaster zone.

Our first stop was at the Temporary Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Temuco, which was a shopping center that had been converted into an emergency medical center when several wings of the Hospital of Temuco were closed due to earthquake damage.







September 2010



## Vocational School Moves to New Complex

September was an exciting month for FEDES. The Vocational School was moved into a complex in Lo Espejo that in the last year has undergone a complete renovation, sponsored by Family Care Foundation, for our use. The use of the complex has been given to FEDES free of charge for the next 30 years under an agreement with the municipality of Lo Espejo, with a possibility of extending the contract at the completion of that period. It has 11 classroom/workshops, offices for FEDES administration, a meeting room for the teachers, student cafeteria and storage areas – all built around a courtyard filled with benches and flowers for the students to relax in. FEDES' move to the new facilities coincided with Chile's bicentennial independence day so there was double cause for celebration. The first courses to be taught in the new school, in tailoring and hairdressing, are already in full swing. The municipality is also donating the use of some land to build a warehouse for the assembly and storage of the wheelchairs. Please pray for the supply of funds for the construction of this warehouse.

We'd like to say a special thank you to the Family Care Foundation, Bob and Cindy Holloway, Dirk Cameron, Carol Harris, and Mark Allyn for their generous sponsorship of the reconstruction of the school complex. It's like a dream come true and you made it happen. In the names of all the future students who will benefit from this school and their families, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



*Below: FEDES staff celebrating the opening of the new school and Chile's bicentennial independence day.  
Right: Traditional "Huasa" clothing of the Chilean peasant and noble women*







## Repairs on Health Care Centers Damaged by the Earthquake Begins

The effects of the earthquake on February 27<sup>th</sup> are still evident in many of the public health care centers in Chile. In the county of Cerro Navia several of the primary care centers, which serve marginalized communities, were already dilapidated and under-resourced before they were damaged in the quake. Surrounding walls and fences collapsed in the shaking, and in some, leafy branches and open sky remained where halls and enclosed walkways used to be. FEDES brought the situation to the attention of foreign aid organizations and Direct Relief responded. Direct Relief provided a grant to repair the damage and bring needed equipment and supplies, creating not only a safer environment for health care, but improving service. Vida USA has also committed to helping improve conditions in these medical centers in the coming year. The first steps, rebuilding the walls and fixing the fences, are well underway.

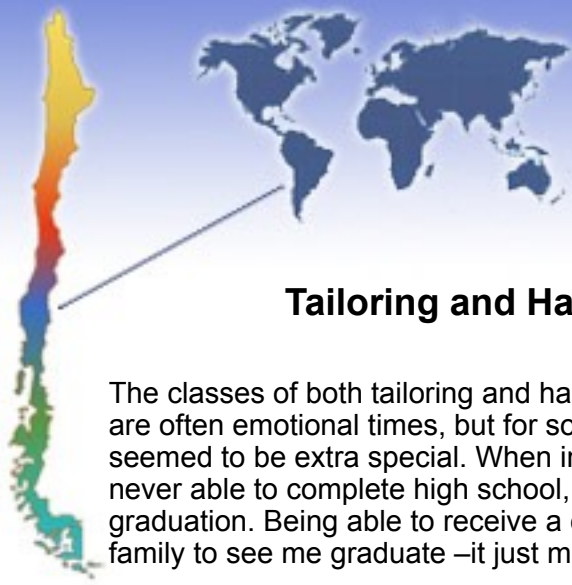


*Right: Primary health care centers damaged by the earthquake and Steven Colon supervising the reconstruction the walls that surround them.*

*Below: Steven Colon with Mayor of Cerro Navia at center Luis Plaza and friends.*







## Tailoring and Hairstyling Students Graduate

The classes of both tailoring and hairstyling completed their courses and graduated. Graduations are often emotional times, but for some of the ladies taking the course of tailoring, the graduation seemed to be extra special. When interviewing one of the students she explained to us, "I was never able to complete high school, or attend college. I've never felt what it was like to have a graduation. Being able to receive a certificate that shows the skills I've learned, and invite my family to see me graduate –it just means so much to me."



*Above and right: Hair styling students in class, with their teacher, Eduardo Chacon, and at graduation.  
Below and left: One of the tailoring course students shows her work and receives her certificate from Agueda Martin.*







## FWM Delegation From Chicago Visit Chile To Distribute Wheelchairs

A delegation of Free Wheel Chair Mission from Chicago visited Santiago and the region of Maule, which was strongly affected by the quake on February 27<sup>th</sup>. From rural homes to the Senate building, their lively spirits and warm smiles were wonderful complements to the joy they brought through their sponsorship of wheelchairs for the disabled poor.

During their visit a donation of over 248 boxes of medical supplies, donated by VIDA USA, was delivered to under-resourced clinics and health care centers in Lo Espejo. They helped deliver hygiene kits and blankets donated by AmeriCares to low income families in the county. Senator Francisco Chahuan escorted them in distributing wheelchairs in his region, and invited them to lunch and to take a tour of the Senate building.



*Right above: FWM volunteers help unload medical supplies*

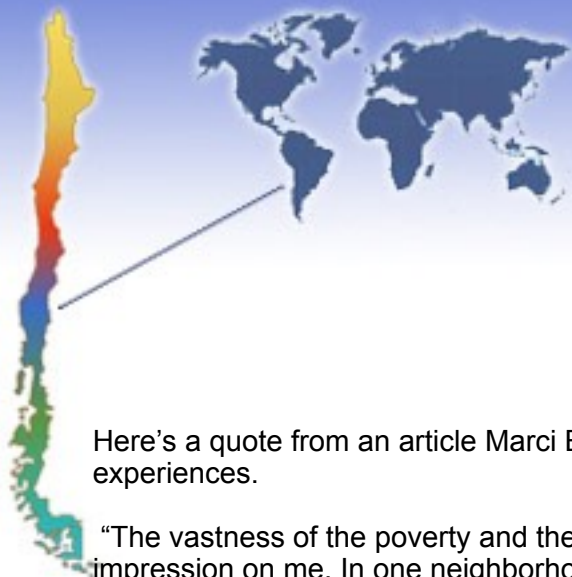
*Right: Volunteers with Juan Moreno, the wheelchair beneficiary, and Senator Chahuan*

*Below right: Visit to the Senate building with Senator Chahuan.*

*Below: The mayor of Lo Espejo, Carlos Inostroza, with the volunteers. The mayor received the donated medical supplies for the public health center and 15 wheelchairs for the disabled in his county.*







Here's a quote from an article Marci Barth, wrote on their experiences.

"The vastness of the poverty and the need made a deep impression on me. In one neighborhood, we delivered 11 chairs to people in a 3 block area! Had we been able to expand out beyond those three blocks, how many more people in need would we have found? On the last day, we revisited a "camp" where we had already brought many chairs. On this day, the plan was to distribute the clothing that we had brought with us. Low and behold, we found 3 more people who desperately needed wheelchairs: Nelly, a blind, double amputee with diabetes needed to get to her dialysis appointment. The wheelchair eased the burden of this necessity. Claudio, 18, with muscular dystrophy desperately wanted to visit his mother, who lived in another house. The chair made this possible. Patricia, at 30 years old, unable to walk or communicate very well had never had a wheelchair to take her to the doctor or anywhere else. She had only been carried by her sister when possible. Had we not returned to distribute our clothing, these 3 beautiful people may not have received these chairs...Thank God they did! But how many others did not?"



*Marci Barth with a happy young recipient of the clothing donation.*





November 2010



In search of better collaboration between the State and civil society.

Through the many humanitarian relief efforts that occurred in response to the earthquake in February, the lack of coordination between charitable and civil organizations, both amongst themselves and the government became apparent. Luis Berr, Director of the Help for Los Andes Foundation and Senator Francisco Chahúan from Valparaíso, began an initiative to start a humanitarian network in the region. Through it the UN, Habitat for Humanity Chile, FEDES Foundation, and more aid organizations have begun meeting and establishing dialogue to better collaboration. The United Nations agencies which carried out large scale post-earthquake help have expressed interest in further coordination with both the State and civil organizations, and have presented a amazing program.

In accordance with its principles of promoting aid and development actions, FEDES has committed its efforts to supporting this initiative though networking with central government agencies, local government, international organizations, and other private national and international agencies. Through these talks we hope to foster support for the idea that these kind of initiatives become government policy, both when addressing disaster response and in overcoming poverty on the local level.



Left to Right: Dr. Luis Miguel Berg, Director of the Foundation Help for the Andes; Senador Francisco Chahuan, helped carry the initiative through the Senate; Minister of MIDEPLAN Don Felipe Kast, and Steven Colon, President of FEDES.



Right to Left: Enrique Ganuza, Resident UN Coordinator in Chile; Steven Colon and Alejandro Mañon, Coordination Officer of the UN in Chile.





## Creation of *FEDES Capacitacion Foundation* for vocational training of “at risk” youth.

In the month of October the new Foundation “Capacitacion FEDES” was legally recognized. This entity’s sole purpose is the development and training of socially vulnerable youth . The recently created foundation will operate using the infrastructure and equipment at FEDES’ Vocational School.

The national service for training and employment, the SENCE, has a special youth training program. Steven Colon met with Eduardo Cuevas, director of the SENCE’s social programs, and Carolina Tombolini, administrator of the youth program, to manage the new foundation’s incorporation to the list of organizations who carry out that program.

The new foundation has already been certified under Chilean law ISO2728 and the ISO 9001:2008, and it has presented its applications to be incorporated to the national registry of training organizations (OTEC), both requirements to be entered into the registry of training organizations for the SENCE’s youth program.



*Eduardo Cuevas, Director of the SENCE’s social programs;  
Steven Colon, FEDES Foundation’s president and Carolina  
Tombolini, youth program manager*





## Seminar for Aid Organizations on Poverty in Chile held in the Senate

On November 25 this interesting seminar, organized by Senator Francisco Chahuan, took place in the Senate Chamber. FEDES Foundation was invited to participate along with other civil and charitable organizations. The speakers at the seminar were, among others, Minister of MIDEPLAN Don Felipe Kast Sommerhoff, Osvaldo Larrañaga from the United Nations Development Program, and Mauricio Rosenblüth, Executive Director of the Foundation for Overcoming Poverty.

Participants and panelists had the opportunity to exchange opinions and share their experiences. Two of the most notable aspects of these interchanges were the heterogeneous nature of poverty in Chile and the lack of empowerment and solutions on the local level. Both of these symptoms allude to flaws in systemic methodologies, about which significant steps must be taken and the lessons learned and shared.

In both his opening and closing remarks Senator Chahuan emphasized the importance of the State and NGO's working together to synergize our efforts and achieve the results we all long for.





## Vocational School

### Courses in Food Handling and Kitchen Supervisor Begin

Two courses of the Culinary Arts Program, Food Handling and Kitchen Supervisory, began in November with 20 students each from low income areas. The courses are being taught by Chefs Carolina Urrea and Janet Uteau.







## Comprehensive Care for the Sick

A course in care for the sick and infirm also began this month. Skills learned in this course will allow students to get jobs in nursing homes or private residences, as well as enable them to provide better care to their loved ones at home. The course is being taught by licensed nurse Faviola Norabuena.



An important element of all the courses is classes to develop personal and business skills. These classes are taught by Patricia Ojeda and address topics such as effective communication, keeping inventory, good presentation skills, income management, etc. Here some of the students are participating in a group communication exercise.





## Life Story

### **The wheelchair is just perfect!**

While attending an event to distribute hygiene kits to low income families here in Santiago, we saw a beautiful little girl coming down the street in one of the wheelchairs we distribute through Free Wheel Chair Mission's program. Her name is Atalia Castro and she has a form of epilepsy which causes her to have many seizures throughout the day. Her mother, Gladys virtually bubbled over with enthusiasm about the wheelchair.

"Atalia goes to school every day and eats all her meals in it." Gladys told us. "She feels both comfortable and safe, since the shape of the chair and armrests serve as protection when she has a seizure, so she doesn't fall and hit her head. This has been such a big blessing to our family."

It was encouraging for us to see the impact that this gift, provided by some generous donor overseas, was having on Atalia's life over the years.



Photo: Atalía in her wheelchair with her mother Gladys, Steven, and Jessica





## 2000 School Children in Lo Espejo Receive Dental Hygiene Supplies

The children from five schools in Lo Espejo, a county with a largely marginalized population, received new toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by Direct Relief. Steven Colon and Agueda Martin visited each school, giving out the supplies to the kids. In total over 2000 toothbrushes and 2000 tubes of toothpaste were distributed. This is part of a broader program that FEDES is carrying out with the mayor to improve hygiene in low income families.







### **Families Living in a Slum in Lo Espejo Receive Blankets and Hygiene Kits**

100 families, most of them single parent households, living in substandard housing in Lo Espejo received hygiene kits and blankets. The mayor of Lo Espejo Carlos Inostroza attended the event and assisted in distributing the supplies to each family.







## 100 Wheelchairs donated to the Teleton

The Teleton is a yearly charity event that occurs on a national scale every December to benefit children with developmental disabilities. In collaboration with Senator Chahuan and through Free Wheelchair Mission's program in Chile, 100 wheelchairs were given to the Teleton for both disabled children and adults who wouldn't otherwise receive one.



**Cristobal Soto, 5 years old,** was playing with his friends by a train track when a train passed and sent a rock on the track flying straight into his leg. The stone smashed the bones into tiny pieces. It's been over 8 months and the doctors don't know when, if ever, it will be healed enough for him to walk. Having his leg in a cast certainly hasn't stopped him from getting out and enjoying himself though. Using the wheelchair donated by Free Wheelchair Mission in April, Cristobal zips all over his school and the camp where he lives and keeps up with his friends almost as well as he did before. We were surprised at how dexterously he handled his chair and how fast he was in it. His leg might be broken, but his spirit is flying and as active as ever.







## Christmas Eve with Families in the Slum of Lo Espejo

The magic of Christmas is amplified for us when it brings smiles to children. On Christmas Eve Steven Colon and Edith Espinoza, President of the volunteer organization "La Red de Postrados" (Network for the Prostrated) visited some families in the slum of Lo Espejo with gifts for the kids and a warm time of friendship and Christmas cheer.







## Graduation of “Kitchen Master” Course

For the closing of the “Kitchen Master” course, the students prepared a delicious spread of dishes and sweets they’d learned to make. Mayor Claudina Nuñez Jiménez of the county Pedro Aguirre Cerda came to congratulate them on their studies and enjoy a taste of their delicacies.



## Integration Activity at the Vocational School

Christmas was in the air at this semester’s integration activity held at the Vocational School. FEDES staff and students from all the courses, including hair styling, culinary arts, and care for the sick joined in the fun and games, sang karaoke, competed for prizes, and enjoyed pizza made by the culinary arts class. For the women that attend, these events are a practical and fun opportunity to practice teamwork, tolerance, communication, and other values and skills taught in the personal development classes. Each class had a presentation they performed for the audience. One group did a “costume fashion show” others prepared a dance or song. The laughter, fun, and friendship everyone enjoyed made this a memorable event to close the year with.





## Certification of the Last Bicentennial Youth Program Courses

The Bicentennial Youth Program was an initiative created by the SENCE in the last phase of President Bachelet's government. Under this program Aurora-FEDES trained 60 young people during 2010. Each course lasted from 5 to 6 months and included an internship in a business.

On December 27<sup>th</sup> a certification ceremony was held for young people who'd studied the courses "Computer Network Installation and Maintenance" and "Confectionery" at the vocational school through the SENCE's program for "at risk" youth this year. Most of the students have already found jobs in network and IT support. Their families accompanied them to the graduation and, after a keynote by FEDES Academic Director Hugo Avila, three of the students spoke. Each of them expressed their gratitude to FEDES and the SENCE for this opportunity, and explained how valuable their training has been. It was beautiful to hear how their lives have been transformed, the change of perspective it's given them, and the vision they have to continue studying and improving their situations.

