

Inauguration of Exercise Machines in Park Anti-Diabetes and Obesity Program in Lo Espejo



Mayor of Lo Espejo Carlos Inoztrosa and Steven Colon join the residents of Lo Espejo trying out the new fitness machines donated by Abbott Laboratories.



*Above: Nutritionist giving tips on a healthy diet.
Below: James Tait, General Manager of Abbott Chile, brainstorming with participants*



The Anti-diabetes and Obesity Program “En Lo Espejo, Mi Salud Es Mi Vida” - has continued in full swing. Nutritionist and physical trainers sponsored by Abbott Laboratories explained the best practices to those in the program on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and avoid preventable diseases. The Q&A sessions were especially helpful so people could get answers to specific issues they face in their daily lives. This has been a tremendous collaborative opportunity with Abbott Laboratories Chile, the Health Department of Lo Espejo, and FEDES Foundation working together to bring an invaluable program to the residents of this marginalized area. Toward the end of the first session, a brainstorming meeting was held with all participants to critique the program, find its strengths and weaknesses and see how to make it most effective in the community.

Abbott Laboratories also sponsored exercise machines which were installed in a public park by the main road. Although they can't afford a gym, this gives people in this area access to both equipment and personal trainers which go a few times a week for 2 months to teach them how to use the equipment most effectively. On their way to or from school and work, people can just hop on and get in motion – if they can find one free that is! This area has now become a popular stopping place.



Inauguration of Community Center

An inauguration ceremony was held for the community center in San Bernardo that was rebuilt after the earthquake through a grant provided by the California Community Foundation and Family Care Foundation and with the help of companies Sudpanel and Louisiana Pacific. The Mayor of San Bernardo, Nora Cuevas, cut the ribbon and presented FEDES with a special award of recognition. We'd like to thank all our partners in this project. The newly rebuilt community center will be a uniting force and immeasurable blessing to this low income community.





Distribution of 100 Wheelchairs in Concepcion

100 wheelchairs were distributed throughout Concepcion and its surrounding areas, a zone that was seriously affected by the 2010 earthquake. This was in collaboration with Senator Alejandro Navarro.



Bringing the joy of mobility back to those who had been hurt in the quake two years ago but didn't have a wheelchair yet was so heartwarming. Several distribution ceremonies were held in public parks or centers. Afterwards, President of FEDES, Steven Colon and the Senator visited some disabled people in their homes to bring the wheelchairs to them.





Cosmetology and Hair Dressing Courses



Three cosmetology courses and a hairdressing course were taught for socially and economically disadvantaged women through the government's "Home-makers Training Program". In the cosmetology course, sponsored by the SERNAM, the women learned to give facials and facial massage, manicures, pedicures, waxing, reflexology and make-up application. The skills on how to run a small business are also taught and a subsidy for tools of their trade are provided at the end of the course to help them get their own businesses started. A dream come true for these women!



In response to Chile's growing middle class women's demand for beauty services, FEDES began the Cosmetology Course. FEDES regularly evaluates our vocational program in order to target growing market needs and provide career training in an effort to meet those needs. Women here, like everywhere, want to be more beautiful and the beauty industry in Chile is growing, thus this course is now in high demand!





Graduation of Young People from Bicentennial Youth Program

A graduation ceremony was held to celebrate the certification of 72 young people who completed the “International Cuisine” training course last year under the governments’ Bicentennial Youth Program. This program consisted of 250 hours of cooking classes, 65 hours of computer skills, 70 hours of personal and social development, and a 2 month internship in a business or restaurant. One of the students, Manuel, performed a song he had written about his experience studying at the school to say “thank you” for the help it had been to him.



Watching their children graduate from the vocational program was an emotional experience for the parents of the students. There was a great sense of pride as they watched their children receive their certification because many of them had never graduated from high school.





Sewing Course



A sewing course for economically and socially disadvantaged women was also run at the school. At the closing celebration for the end of the course, we were touched and surprised when one of the students stood up and read this letter:

Dear Mr. Steven Colon, FEDES Foundation, and our sewing teacher Fabiola Belmar Garrido,

I address all of you with the greatest respect and gratitude for having provided us this opportunity to overcome in our lives. Sincerely, thank you.

Until now, most of us did not have any other opportunities to access greater knowledge than what we already had.

Thank God we and you have found each other in this blessed place called FEDES Foundation, an occurrence that we could never be thankful enough for and we will never forget. From now on, in each step that we take in our lives, we will carry with us all that we have achieved and progress in, both economically and spiritually.

Together with my classmates and in the name of all those who join us in this feeling, we wish you many blessings, that the Lord blesses you greatly so that you can keep helping others who need it, as we do.

Gratefully,

Eduvira Rosa Miranda Martinez

Eduvira (immediate right of Steven Colon) and her class at the closing celebration.



Sewing and Secretarial Courses



Twenty economically disadvantaged women from the district of San Bernardo began a sewing course to teach them how to make medical, work and school uniforms and coveralls. Many of them have told us that sewing is an especially practical skill for them, since most of them are mothers and sewing allows them to do much of their work from their homes. A single corporate client's demand for work uniforms can provide steady work to a seamstress for several months at a time.

Both the sewing course and a secretarial course for 20 women were sponsored by the **PRODEMU**, a foundation run by the first lady dedicated to sponsorship of programs for the empowerment of women in vulnerability. The secretarial course not only teaches skills such as computer, office software and telephone techniques, but healthy work and personal attitudes, and presentation skills for job interviews. The students also learn about their rights as women in Chile, and **SWOT** analysis both to evaluate themselves as potential employees and the workplace. (SWOT analysis is a strategic planning method used to evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses/Limitations, Opportunities, and Threats involved in a project or in a business venture.)



Distribution of 100 Wheelchairs in Linares

FEDES distributed 100 wheelchairs to people in the Province of Linares. Through collaboration with Senator Hernan Larrain's team, Steven Colon and Agueda Martin took the wheelchairs to disabled people in several nursing homes, community centers, special education schools and their homes.



Photo1: Camila, Soledad and Jairo, students at special education school Santa Adriana, with one of the school's directors, Loreto Benavides and supporter Neri Cáceres . They were so excited to receive the wheelchairs because they attend more than 50 disabled children who live in situations of vulnerability.

Photo2: Steven talking with Mr. Zacarías Cancino and his wife who received us very warmly. When we asked him where he wanted to go now that he has a wheelchair he told us, "I want to go buy bread. It's been so many years since I've been able to go outside. Now nobody's going to be able to take me out of this wheelchair! Ha!"



Photo 3: Retirement home "San Camilo" which is run by nuns from the order of San Camilo. This home was completely destroyed by the earthquake of February 27th, 2010, and they lost everything. One area was recently rebuilt and they hope to rebuild the other side as soon, as there are so many elderly homeless. They were very thankful for the wheelchairs they received.

Photo 4: Mr. Pedro Duran didn't know he was diabetic, so he suffered a tremendous shock when, after a simple fall at work, doctors had to amputate his leg. He was so happy he was able to get a wheelchair so he can regain mobility.



Pilot Project: Collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Chile

Habitat for Humanity Chile has brought their program “**Nuestros Hijos Vuelven a Casa**” (Our Children Come Home) to the districts of Lo Espejo and San Bernardo. Habitat for Humanity’s program improves living conditions for children and young people who have a disability or life-threatening disease and are living in extreme poverty. In the last 6 months Habitat has built 3 special “housing solutions” that included bedrooms, bathrooms, and living areas so that these families can live and care for their loved ones in decent, dignified surroundings that contribute to better health. Volunteers from Canada joined Habitat’s local team for construction, and FEDES contributed funding, and coordinated collaboration with the municipality. Below is a testimonial written by Kimberly McLaughlin, a good friend and supporter of Free Wheelchair Mission and FEDES, who spent two weeks with us on her second visit to Chile. She accompanied us on visits to hospitals, delivered donated wheelchairs to disabled people, and assisted in a variety of FEDES’ other activities.



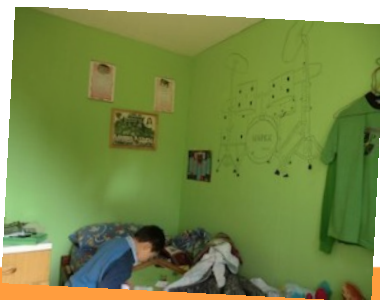
Paulina (21 years old)

We arrived to visit Paulina’s family, who had just had their house rebuilt by the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity several weeks prior. Paulina received her new wheelchair at that time.

Our friends explained how when they first came to the house to assess it for rebuilding, they found Paulina, a grown woman, deaf, blind, and mentally and physically disabled, in an old wooden chair against the wall with her hands and head tied to the wall with straps. The group was horrified, and asked Paulina’s mother why this was the case. She explained that this was the only way they could keep Paulina from thrashing around and harming herself.

Well, when we walked in to the back room of her house during our visit later, Paulina was in her new wheelchair, harnessed in, with the chair tilted back on to an old sofa, and her head supported by a pillow. Sweet Paulina had a smile on her face from ear to ear.

Paulina’s mom was just sixteen when she had her. They both lived with Paulina’s grandparents, an aunt and uncle, and their three children, all in a space of 25 square meters. Now with the new wheelchair and new living quarters the difference is truly amazing. The whole family was in the process of painting their walls, and showed us around their new house very proudly.



Pilot Project: A Container of Medical and Dental Equipment and Supplies Arrives to San Bernardo



Also as a part of the Pilot Project, a container of medical equipment, such as a sterilizing machine, two hospital gurneys, kits of dental instruments, and other medical supplies, which were donated by **Direct Relief International** arrived at the district of San Bernardo. These will be used to support and improve services in the public clinics of San Bernardo, that attend to economically disadvantaged people in that district, and are an invaluable addition to round out previous donations which included a dentist chair, lab supplies, and more.

Mayor Nora Cuevas invited FEDES President Steven Colon for a tour of the public clinics to see the items donated by **Direct Relief International** being put to use on the ground.

Dr. Eugenia Concha, an orthodontist who is the district level coordinator and has been working in San Bernardo for 25 years, told us, "These are very high quality instruments. Here in Chile (in the public health sector) we don't have the money available to buy these kinds of instruments. We have 7 public clinics that attend to the poor's dental needs and there is a huge demand. So this is a very big help. We want to invite you to keep helping."



(Above) Dentist in a public clinic with a gown, hair cover, mask, and sets of dental instruments donated by Direct Relief.



They also visited some families which are receiving help through various programs that FEDES assists, such as Erika Segura Marquez (photo on the right), a woman who suffered a stroke at only 42 years old, and was abandoned by her husband and 21 year old daughter shortly after. Her elderly parents moved from their little town in the north of Chile to care for her. They are a beautiful example of the unconditional love of parents, who, in spite of their advanced age and modest resources, do everything they can to provide good care to their daughter. Ericka has received diapers, feeding tubes, and other supplies which are necessities for a person with her condition but would have been otherwise unaffordable.



*Fundación educativa de
desarrollo económico y social*

Launch of Telecommunications

Program: FEDES has developed a new course in collaboration with the multinational Telefonica (Movistar) and the national union of telecommunications workers. Under the auspices of the SENCE's (National Service for Training) program *Programa de Formacion Para El Trabajo*, for youth "at risk" this program is taking an innovative approach of connecting training programs and students directly with the labor market and employment opportunities. Technicians responsible for company training for Telefonica are now teaching the telecommunications classes at FEDES' vocational school, transcending the classroom experience beyond the basic curriculum to working with up-to-date equipment and acclimitization to the company culture. This approach not only provides a nexus with the labor market, but also gives



Vice President of FEDES Foundation Hugo Avila speaking at the launch with Telefonica Chile's Director of Human Resources Karina Marin, Telefonica Chile's Chief of Operations for Customer Service and Networks Javier Leon Iribarren, Mayor Carlos Inostroza, and other dignitaries.



President of FEDES Foundation Steven Colon, Telefonica Chile's Director of Human Resources Karina Marin, and Head of Operations for Customer Service and Networking Javier Leon Iribarren cutting the ribbon at the formal launch of the new workshops.

the students a head start in experiencing the workplace environment. It also benefits the company as they don't need to train new hires.

The curriculum consists of installation and maintenance of telephone, internet, and satellite television networks, with a strong focus on customer service. Telefonica installed satellite dishes, telephone poles, network circuits, fiber-optic cables, and other equipment in the vocational school for no charge to exactly replicate their future tasks and has pledged internships and jobs for the graduates of this course who choose to work with them. An inauguration ceremony that was attended by the Telefonica Chile's Director of Human Resources Karina Marin, Cabinet Chief of the Ministry of Labor Francisco Pereira, Mayor of Lo Espejo Carlos Inostroza, and other dignitaries was held to celebrate the launch of this new skill and collaboration.



10 other courses started under the same program “Formacion en Oficios para el Trabajo” (Vocational Training for Employment). All of these courses include at least 350 class hours of training in a particular job skill, 70 hours of personal and professional development, and 65 hours of computer skills, plus a two month internship which FEDES finds them in an established company or seed capital and consultancy to start their own small business.

Due to the difficult circumstances that many of the students live in, helping them become truly prepared for the workplace often reaches beyond merely passing on vocational skills. Many of them are single mothers, live in extreme poverty, or are in other ways fighting adverse odds to come back to school and take steps towards long term progress. FEDES’ student support team supports them with counseling, makes home visits, follows up on them throughout the internship phase, serves as an intermediary between them and hiring companies, and works tirelessly to give them the best shot possible at their new livelihoods.



2 courses in Care for the Ill and Elderly



Sewing: After the two first months of instruction, many of the young women taking the sewing course were already producing and selling the clothes they learned to make. In the morning they come to class to learn new skills, and in the afternoon they make clothing for sale and are beginning to earn an income. This way FEDES essentially helps “walk them through” the entrepreneurship process and making the transition to running their micro-business on their own much easier.



1 course in Cosmetology



2 courses in Warehouse Administration and Stock Management



4 courses in International Cuisine w/baking.



FEDES Receives Award from Fundacion Chile and the SENCE

FEDES Vice President Hugo Avila with the recognition conferred by Fundacion Chile to training organizations that participated in project **Amplia**. *Amplia* is an initiative by national and international entities, along with the SENCE, to develop a quality framework for training organization management. FEDES was also asked by the SENCE to participate in the creation of a manual of good practices for organizations dedicated to training vulnerable youth in vocational skills.



2000 Wheelchairs and Orthopedic Mobility Aids Donated in the District of San Bernardo.



FEDES and the Department of Health in the district of San Bernardo are working together in a special program to make sure that every person in their district that needs orthopedic equipment or a wheelchair gets it. A database with a list of all the disabled people with low income has been created so that the municipality can carry out distribution and follow up in an organized manner. Several containers of GN2 wheelchairs, walkers, special canes, shower stools, crutches, portable toilets, and other necessities for the disabled or elderly have been sent by [Free Wheelchair Mission](#), [Giving Children Hope](#), and [Direct Relief International](#) so that the disabled can have what they need for more dignified and healthy living conditions and the health department has the tools they need to provide quality care.

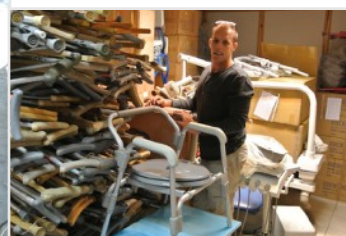
A public technical high school adopted this program and 40 teenage volunteers and their teachers assembled the wheelchairs for their community inside the workshop/classroom, with FEDES providing training and the department of health coordinating distribution.

A large ceremony was held at the school gymnasium to donate 300 of the above wheelchairs where the mayor of San Bernardo, Nora Cuevas, several of her council, Steven Colon, and other local dignitaries spoke.

The students performed a “cueca” show (folkloric music and dancing), the school band played, and hundreds of people received their wheelchairs.



Free Wheelchair Mission’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Micheal Bayer and his son Tyler came to visit and see field conditions where the orthopedic items would be used. They visited the school where the chairs were being assembled, and delivered wheelchairs, portable toilets, and other essentials for people with disabilities and serious illnesses. Having the administration from international NGO’s visit is a blessing for us because they constantly develop clearer ideas of the needs that exist in these extremely low income communities and are even more effective in their programs. We thank them so much for taking the time to come down and all the support they’ve been providing to this extraordinary collaboration that is improving living conditions for thousands.



Gymboree Children's Clothing Donation Valued at \$1.72 million USD Distributed to Economically Disadvantaged Kids in Valparaiso

The American children's clothing company [Gymboree](#), through [VIDA USA](#), donated a container of brand-new children's clothing, shoes, and crib sets which were distributed to over 5,500 children in all the children's homes, orphanages, informal settlements, etc., across the region of Valparaiso. Each child receiving a bag with their name on it and several items matched to their size. Clothing was also donated to socio-economically disadvantaged children at their schools, kindergartens, public housing, etc. The distribution process was coordinated with the National Service for Minors (SENAME), the department of the Secretary for Informal Settlements, and the foundation "Vamos Que Se Puede," Senator Chahuan's local charity.

Fedes personnel and volunteers sorting the clothes and making packages of clothing for each child.

Two items were particularly big hits, the rubber boots for the boys, and faux leopard print jackets for little girls. Someone who went back to take more supplies to a boy's home after a distribution told us that the kids were all sleeping in their new fireman pajamas down to the rubber boots!

In another home for small children the ladies who care for them told us that they were so happy that the kids can have some clothes of their own, as right now they all share the clothes the orphanage provides which is limited. If the child gets adopted, or a relative is found that can take them in, they can only afford to let them go with the single pair of clothes they wear to leave. Now if one of them is adopted, the child can go into his new life with at least a few things of their own.

