



Teaching HOPE

Empowering orphaned teens!

You are our Circle of HOPE

Issue No. 1

April 2009

Dear Friends:

Thank you sincerely! Your contributions and support have truly made a difference in the lives of many older orphaned children in Colombia.

We would like to bring you up-to-date on our progress in Colombia. This is the first of many newsletters we hope to bring you over the coming months.

Some of our board members have been able to see first-hand the successes of our program. We can only hope to continue our expansion with your help and support.

We invite you today to join our Circle of HOPE. As a member of our Circle of HOPE, you will help make an everlasting gift to the lives of these young orphans. Please take a few minutes to learn more about our program.

Sincerely,

Teaching HOPE

Board Members: Kelly Duer, Pilar Vasquez-Lunt, Malusa Rios Powell, Peter Lunt, Christy Hyatt, Jaime Bray, Jay Rios, and Alla Kamins

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A Fighting Chance

Amparo de Niñas orphanage in Bogotá, Colombia is home to over 80 girls. The girls cling on to the only home that they know, but per the common practice in the orphanage system, when children reach 18, the Colombian government stops funding their care. Children leave into a world that has no support system and very few job opportunities, especially for uneducated youth.

Unemployment for Colombians aged 15-24 is high (36.3% in the year 2000). In addition, unemployment is much higher for young women (40.7%) than young men (31.9%). The skills that the girls receive in the orphanage will not make them competitive in an economy that lacks jobs. With luck, some of the girls will find jobs as housekeepers but many will end up homeless or become prostitutes. Compounding this problem are Colombia's very high rates of teenage pregnancy. One out of three 19-year-olds have been pregnant at one time, and a quarter of Colombian mothers are teenagers. This perpetuates the cycle which is repeated over and over again.

You can help change this! We have seen first hand how excited the girls are to be learning computers and English. One of our board members that recently visited the orphanage was greeted by several girls in English and was told that they loved the new classes that they were taking. Our board member saw that despite their pasts, these girls have inner strength to fight to survive, learn, and become something in the future. The girls are learning invaluable computer and English language skills that will give them marketability once they leave the orphanage and are living on their own.

Please help us in our fight to help these girls.

How Your Contributions Help:

- Hire an English teacher at the Amparo de Niñas orphanage in Bogotá, Colombia
- Kick-off a life skills class at the Amparo de Niñas
- Choose our second orphanage to partner with in Colombia
- Start an English teaching program in the newly chosen orphanage



A reminder of who benefits from our hard work and your generous contributions. This little girl is from the Amparo de Niñas orphanage in Bogotá, Colombia.



Board Members Jaime Bray (center) and Pilar Vasquez-Lunt (right) pose with girls in the new computer lab at Amparo de Niñas orphanage in Bogotá, Colombia.

\$1 a Day

\$1 a day. That's all it takes to join the [Circle of HOPE](#). With a monthly donation of \$30, you can help purchase new computers, pay for the salary of an English or computer teacher, or help start a life skills curriculum in one of the orphanages.

If you would like to join our [Circle of HOPE](#), please [click here](#) to enter your information on our website. Your credit card will automatically be charged \$30 each month so you don't have to do anything. All of your donations are tax deductible.

Give hope to a young orphan who simply needs the skills early in life to be able to reach his or her fullest potential.



If you would like to make a one time donation by check, please make your check payable to:

Teaching HOPE
12808 Melvue Court
Fairfax, VA 22033

The Computers Are In!

We have launched our first project, a computer lab at the Amparo de Niñas orphanage in Bogotá, Colombia with ten computers for students. Classes are already in progress and every one of the 80 children are taking part in the program. This was our vision and we could not be happier. With your help, we can add computers at the Amparo de Niñas orphanage and begin a new lab at the next chosen orphanage.



English as a Second Language

We are in the midst of hiring an English teacher at the Amparo de Niñas orphanage in Bogotá, Colombia. With both computer skills and the grasp of the English language, we hope to fuel the girls with the knowledge and skills that will assist them in the outside world. Finding gainful employment after leaving the orphanage is the goal of each child and therefore our goal. It is hard work, but we are all truly passionate about children and the possibility of changing their lives.

About Us

[Teaching HOPE](#) is a one of a kind 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization aiming to help orphaned youth to transition to independent adulthood. We are starting our operations in Colombia with the vision to expand to other countries as our model is developed and proven.

[Teaching HOPE](#)

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