

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear friends... When we claim new territory for the Kingdom of God, we know it's not easy and countless obstacles face us. But working alongside each other with strength and courage, willing to defend and help one another, we CAN build a wall of protection for the more vulnerable children. We are amazed to see so many people and organizations mobilized in favor of children and adolescents in Paraguay, and we can testify to the readiness of all to achieve more and better things together. God bless and strengthen each one of you! In this news bulletin we will be briefly telling you about some experiences we have been through as a network, and of projects coming up.

Anja Goertzen
President, Viva Network Paraguay



PROTEGE (Protect) continues and is going strong!

On Saturday, September 18 from 8:00 hs. to 15:30 hs. 40 representatives of the 18 participating organizations of Protege met for Workshop #2, in the auditorium of the „Principios de Vida“ Foundation. "The reality of abuse within the Christian community" was the main focus of the second module, through 7 activities guided by the



facilitators. The Objectives presented are: Raise awareness, set concepts, pose challenges and move-to-action. Recognize real cases of abuse in its various forms: emotional, physical, spiritual, sexual and neglect; identify the warning signs, assess the responses given to these situations and propose plans for effective action in preventing and dealing with cases arising in the different organizations. Also, through role playing activities, situations are recreated in the context of Christian organizations and types of behaviour before, during and after the situations of abuse are talked about.

The Situational Mapping project was presented during the workshop; this basic research will provide an overview of the situation of children and the work being done for them. It was emphasized that a strengthened Protection Network is the main benefit of the Mapping project. In preparation, the Mapping coordinating team will, in the following months, participate in an intensive training program in Costa Rica along with the organizations Youth with a Mission and VIVA Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The day was intense and very rich in content, as participants shared their experiences of reproducing the contents of workshop 1 in their organizations. The participants' tasks for module 2 are very challenging: continue with the assigned reading, develop their own forms of job descriptions, recruitment and background checks, describing all the positions within their organization; identifying the internal and external resources (institutional and professional) for response to incidents, researching and reading the Code of Childhood and Adolescence, moving ahead in the creation of the Protection Policy, and passing on the contents of the Workshop 2 to the staff of their organization. We are really thankful to God for the commitment and determination of each of the participants and the facilitators and all the people who carry out this process. We bless their lives and ministries!



Praying with Open Eyes

The third meeting of "Praying with Open Eyes" was held on Monday 27 September at the El Abrigo Children's Home. Hosted by representatives of the SERVOME (Mennonite Voluntary Service), which bring together three ministries working with children at risk: Maternal Emanuel, Proed School, and the El Abrigo Home. Also present were workers and leaders of a local church and from the Red Viva Paraguay committee.

Here are some prayer requests that were voiced during the meeting, we encourage you to join us in praying for these requests and send us the requests you wish to share.

- For workers and volunteers working in different organizations, that God will watch over them, guide them, and renew their strength and the unity among them.
- For wisdom in attending to, teaching and protecting children.
- For the families of children reached, that God would work in their lives.
- For the children, that God may heal their hearts, and that they personally know Him.
- For the churches, that they may take greater responsibility in working with children, that they may engage and participate actively in projects to benefit children at risk.
- That the Lord would guide the planning of future activities: Enredándonos, Christmas parties and holiday activities.

Our upcoming events

Enredándonos por la niñez

A new edition of EnREDándonos is being prepared for Saturday 6 November. It is an opportunity to meet and share the different ministries that work with children at risk, with the goal of being strengthened with new tools and the sharing of experiences, topic being HOW TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN?

An introduction on the subject of Child Protection in our organizations will be given, followed by alternative forms of protection and tools for the promotion of good treatments through the following workshops:

1. "RECREATION AND GOOD TREATMENT", by Mabel Aveiro Terol, director of the Jack Norment Camp and facilitator of the courses "Playing we strengthen ourselves to face difficult situations" and "Blessed Recreation" by CLAVES - Uruguay. This workshop will present practical tools to promote good treatment for children in recreation.
2. "ALTERNATIVE PROTECTION", by the Adoption Center of the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents. A general presentation will be offered on the alternatives of adoption, foster residences and foster homes. It will also be an opportunity to respond to frequently asked questions posed by organizations that work with children.

Viva Navidad 2010

"Fiestas Navideñas" is an initiative in its fifth year by Viva on four continents, the aim of which is to meet the needs of communities with very poor children, through a celebration bursting with fun and games, food, gifts, but above all, the message of the birth of Jesus and the gift of salvation. Each year, churches, community projects, social workers and volunteers form part of a network to organize and celebrate Christmas together with thousands of children from low income families living in difficult circumstances or who are not part of a social aid network.

This is an opportunity that allows partners in these projects to work together to reach a higher number of children in a better way, and also



encouraging the community to be influenced positively. Christmas festivities also allow the network to go forward in its development, since the activity allows the objectives of the medium-term plans to be reached, providing ongoing support to children in a vulnerable state. In Paraguay, the first edition of the Christmas festivities, under the slogan "Viva Navidad" was held in December 2009 in the Mburicaó park and the Koeju Emanuel feeding-centre. This year we are preparing a network to once again carry out the party, on the 17th and 18th of December 2010.

Summer Holiday Recreational Camp 2011

Work is already underway for the 2nd edition of the recreational camp, this time in the summer holiday season. Representatives of local churches and organizations within the network, meet regularly to iron out the details and move forward with the preparations.



This undertaking is carried out with the purpose of: Addressing the need for healthy recreation for children and adolescents in the poorest neighborhoods; addressing the need for churches/projects to work more closely among themselves and with their communities, reaching more children with the message of God's love in an integrated manner; promote the development and better coordination of efforts in favor of children in the community through a joint committee of Christian organizations in the area; and establish

permanent contact with the children of the area to better identify their needs, and coordinate actions and activities continuously. In this sense, the summer holiday activities will be a follow-up to the celebration of Viva Navidad 2010, to be held within the same geographical area. We believe this will be a valuable opportunity to get closer to a good number of families in the community, considering that an estimated 500 children and adolescents will be reached directly. Also, it will be a challenge to work in unity with other churches and organizations in the area.

**Thanks for your interest and prayer,
Viva Network Paraguay team**

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