



Colombian Children's
FOUNDATION

Annual Review 2013/14



Our Mission:

Colombian Children's Foundation (CCF) aims to reduce the participation of children in the Colombian armed conflict, and enable those children who have been involved to lead balanced and productive lives away from the conflict. It does this through supporting key projects run by NGOs based in Colombia



Executive Director's Report

CCF has had a very busy year both in terms of our programming and our operations.

CCF supported our first project in Colombia, which was implemented by our valued partner, Taller de Vida. You can read more about this below, but suffice it to say that we are very excited about being able to support such a worthy project and look forward to supporting our wonderful Colombian partners with projects like this into the future! Our Chairperson has also continued to support Taller de Vida with rent-free premises to operate.

Operationally, CCF came in leaps and bounds. We now have our own website, which you can find at www.colombianchildrensfoundation.org.au. Our website contains information about CCF and the projects we support, and also provides an opportunity for partners to apply for funding support.

CCF also became a partner of World Relief Australia (WRA) by acting as its agent for fundraising and the delivery of development projects in Colombia. By doing so, CCF is now part of a network of over fifty other non-government organisations that abide by the WRA's code of conduct and have access to their capacity building opportunities. Furthermore, all donations over \$2 to CCF are now tax deductible.

You may have read in the media that our Chairperson, Rusty Young, is soon to publish the first of a trilogy based on first-hand research into Colombian child soldiers. We wish Rusty the best of luck with the books, and you will no doubt hear more about CCF once the book is launched!

Sincerely,
Belinda Pratten,
Executive Director, CCF



CCF's Guiding Factors

The two guiding factors for projects supported by CCF are Sustainability and Impact. CCF acknowledges that welfare often creates dependency amongst project beneficiaries, and only supports projects that will result in long-term self-reliance for the beneficiaries. The approach is to equip the children with the cognitive, emotional, and social skills necessary to empower them to develop their own productive and dignified lives.



Project 'Bambu' update

Holistically supporting 240 former child soldiers to socially reintegrate following their time in the Colombian armed conflict.

CCF supported our wonderful partner, Taller de Vida, to implement their project 'Bambu' in Colombia. This project was named after the strength and resilience of the bamboo plant.

The project had a number of components that enabled it to support the whole social reintegration of the former child soldiers in a sustainable way.

It helped 240 former child soldiers to develop the skills and strengths that allow them to establish lives outside the illegal armed groups. These children's formative years have often been in the armed forces, so they are unaware of their rights

or even how to form friendships and relationships outside of the conflict. Taller de Vida taught the former child soldiers about human rights, and used psychosocial and artistic workshops to help alleviate the suffering of the children and assist them in dealing with the trauma they experienced during the war. This enabled the children to lead productive lives away from the conflict.

The project also strengthened the connections of the former child soldiers with social networks, such as their foster families, who the children live with after they come out of the war. Taller de Vida trained 40 foster mothers in

appropriately caring for the former child soldiers.

Taller de Vida also capitalised on its significant experience providing psychosocial support to children through training the professionals responsible for overseeing the children. These professionals included government officials, teachers, and education representatives, who were trained to understand the psychosocial needs of the former child soldiers.

Thanks to Taller de Vida for its relentless hard work and hope that it gives to the former child soldiers!



Thanks to our generous 'Bambu' supporters:

A huge thanks to our amazing supporters for the Bambu project! In particular, CCF would like to thank:

Guy Ballard

Thanks to Guy for his generous contribution to CCF to get our first

project up and running – we could not have done it without your support!

Greg Preuss,

Thanks to Greg for hosting a charity ride to raise funds for CCF's first project with Taller de Vida –

well done Greg and thanks to your supporters – we could not have done it without all your effort! You can read more about Greg's ride below.



Greg's Charity Ride

In May 2013, La-T conducted a fundraiser to support former child soldiers emerging from civil conflict in Colombia. The fundraiser was a day where motorcyclists and cyclists ride around the Northern Beaches finishing in Manly for brunch. The Charity ride was all about having fun, experiencing stunning vistas on 2 wheels through the Northern Beaches whilst raising money for Bambu workshop activities at Taller de Vida, the implementing partner for Colombian Children's Foundation of Australia.

A big thanks to Greg for all his efforts!



Financial Summary Statement

World Relief Australia Funds

Income

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Donations | \$12,760 |
|-----------|----------|

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| International Programs | \$10,250 |
| Project management costs | \$1,178 |
| WRA project review costs | \$980 |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Net income | \$352 |
|-------------------|--------------|

Funds contributed by Directors

Income

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Donations | \$1,473 |
|-----------|---------|

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Website development | \$1,473 |
|---------------------|---------|

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Net income | \$0 |
|-------------------|------------|



Full financial statements are available to the public on request by emailing belinda@colombianchildrensfoundation.org.au or by calling 0415544940



CCF's Board of Directors

CCF is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors consisting of the following people:

Rusty Young (Chair)

Belinda Pratten (Executive Director)

Steve Fisher (Director)

Contact details:

Executive Director: Belinda Pratten

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Email: belinda@colombianchildrensfoundation.org.au

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Become a 'Friend of CCF'

Stay up to date with CCF's projects and news by becoming a 'Friend of CCF'. Simply go to our website – www.colombianchildrensfoundation.org.au and click on the tab 'Support CCF', and you can sign up to become one of our valued friends!

CCF welcomes feedback on this report and on our operations. Please send any feedback or complaints to Belinda Pratten (details above). We will respond to any feedback we receive.



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