

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2014



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We continue to get regular visits from university students and primary school students.

Twenty school students came from a nearby village called Paparo. They came to visit for the second time together with a group of ten teachers and parents. Specially the adults are surprised when they see the variety of plants we have which they thought couldn't grow in this region. The children loved filling bags with soil and taking them to the table of the nursery. After that they harvested and ate guava. We are developing projects for children and adults related to agriculture, ecology, values and community. We hope to instill in them a sense of wonder and responsibility for this amazing beautiful and fragile planet.



Nelson teaching about Moringa



Students filling bags....



...and harvesting guava.

MARKET

Farmers face many problems when it comes to selling their produce. Many do not have transportation to take their goods to the market and depend on intermediaries who will pick up their produce for a cheap price. Many farmers also face bad roads which specially during rainy season become impossible to transit. We are supporting and joining local farmers selling our products directly to the clients. We use our transportation to pick up their produce and together we sell it every Saturday morning on the market. The farmers are very happy as the economic benefit is quite obvious. Nelson is making a lot of effort to make this happen every weekend. The mayor of Maporal, the town where the market is located, expressed he wants to support our effort helping with transportation from the municipality, which will be a big help.



WATERWELL

Centro Madre receives its drinking water from the water company through a water hose (installed by us) coming from the nearest village. As we are at the end of the supply line, the water often doesn't have enough pressure to reach our house, specially on Saturday when everybody washes their clothes, or other times when a farmer cleans the land accidentally cutting our water hose. We are therefore extremely happy when finally we were able to install a water well on our land. INDER (Instituto para el desarrollo Rural) supplied the equipment and Centro Madre, the man power and the material. What is missing still is the pump that goes in the well to bring up the water and the irrigation system to bring the water to the plants.



Drilling a water well...



...successfully

CHRISTMAS AND A WHEELCHAIR

We serve the family of Señora Nora regularly buying adult diapers for her handicapped son. We buy them in Caracas for a much cheaper price than here in San Jose. Each time she pays us for three bags of diapers, Centro Madre donates one. This mother is often in despair when it comes to getting diapers for her son because due to the difficult economic crisis we are going through in Venezuela they are sometimes not available and when they are, they are more expensive than before. Besides diapers, we were also able to get a wheel chair for her son. This was thanks to Nelly Castro, a volunteer from Guatire (a nearby city) who joined our team six months ago and who's sister has a friend who has a sister who works for the Municipality in Caracas (that's how things work here).

We did our yearly Christmas celebration in two villages this year with children and adults making their own gifts with handicrafts. We also gave Christmas baskets with food, sheets and small gifts to 10 families with a handicapped child.



VOLUNTEERS

At the moment we have a wonderful group of volunteers. One young woman from Portugal who is a very hard worker and keeps every body else on their toes, and a group of students from Caracas.



Suzanna from Portugal



Daniela y Homero from Caracas

These young people are all looking for new ways of living and want to be part of a solution towards a better world for all. They really like our life style of daily meditaion, hard work and healthy collective meals.

If you want to contact us, or support our project, please write to centromadrebarlovento@gmail.com

Thank you very much to the many people who donated items and money to make this possible.

Hendrika Renkers
Directora Centro Madre

For more information about Hendrika's work in Barlovento please refer to her website www.centromadre.org . You can also contact our Dutch organisation: www.centromadre.nl

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