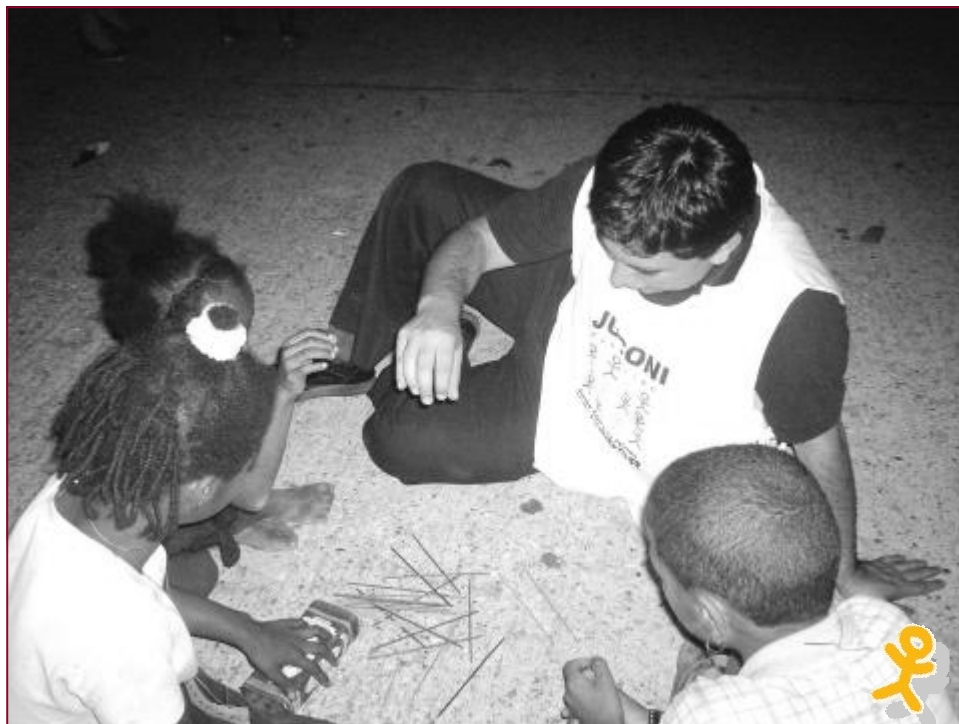


What is happening behind a child working in the street?



Operation Friendship, in the northern sector of Guayaquil.

I will begin this article from the general perspective of child labor; for this I will take the International Labor Organization's definition which describes child labor as "any activity that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is detrimental to their physical and psychological development".

Even though child labor takes many different forms, a priority is the immediate elimination of some of the worst forms of child labor according to the definition in Article 3 of Agree-

ment number 182 of the ILO. Even more so when taking into account that 215 million children in the world work. These are the most recent data from the World Report (2010).

In the case of our country, more than 213,000 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 17 work, according to the figures from the National Institute for Statistics and Census (INEC). Guayas and Pichincha are the two provinces in which the greatest percentages of this phenomenon are evident.

Many times child labor is socially justified as a

cause of poverty, which does not permit a deepening of real analysis.

In the 17 years of work of Fundación JUCONI we have seen that other psycho-social factors exist such as domestic violence and life stories with deep traumas (of abandonment, abuse, extreme psychological and physical violence, sexual abuse, etc.) that influence the emergence of this problema.

Therefore, when we encounter a child who finds him or herself in the street, exposed to so many risks, it is a symptom that something more is happening inside the family; in this sense we have to analyze the reasons a child prefers to pass more time outside his or her home. The recognition that the family is the closest human group to the child, whose role is to provide protection and guarantee integral growth and development, we need to take into account that to eradicate child labor attention to the family system is necessary.

According to our records the totality of the attended families enters our program presenting some type of violence. The most frequent category is emotional and physical violence; the least visible is sexual violence.

Each family establishes their own manner of interaction between one another inside the

What is happening behind a child working in the street?



Neighborhoods in the North and South of Guayaquil



home; many of these are extremely violent, which is seen reflected in other spaces such as in their school, their community and their own society. In this way a pattern of violence is established that does not merely stay within

the family limits.

For the psychological and emotional characteristics displayed by the families of the child laborers, added to diverse socio-economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, converts them into a population of extreme vulnerability; now that their own internal resources are not sufficient to find for themselves an answer to their own problems.

The methodology which JUCONI employs with children and families is designed, precisely, for this population. It implies a long-term process of attention (between three and four years) which helps to break the inter-generational patterns of violence and working in the street.

We consider that there are no bad parents; in reality they are people who have been forced to confront difficult experiences.

We are convinced that the solutions are not only in one or another approach to the problem, but rather in the coordination of actions that include all of the causes that result in a child ending up in the street.

MERLI LÓPEZ

Director, Child Labor Program



AKROS with a Sense of Solidarity...

Akros, a business dedicated to Technical Services, works committedly with JUCONI for one year.

As a result of this relationship of solidarity two children diagnosed with inguinal and umbilical hernias were able to receive operations.

The business, knowing the reality of the families of these children and the needs they come across, welcomed the cases and colla-

borated wherever necessary to ensure that the operation and pre- and post-op care were as successful as had been hoped. Thanks to this important offering, today the two children enjoy good health.

After this positive experience and in view of the recurrence of health cases in our population, **Akros** this year will be helping a 4-year-old boy who is in need of an umbilical hernia operation.



“What is obtained with violence can only be maintained with violence”

Gandhi



Medical Brigade Sponsored by SOLCA

Saturday, March 16, doctors from SOLCA united as part of their social commitment and support for the community in a Medical Brigade for the families that form part of the Child Labor Program of JUCONI—NT.

Medical Specialists attended to mothers, fathers, children and adolescents.

The mothers received complete gynecological attention. Furthermore, each family received a complete deparasitizing treatment.

A control and record of height, weight and diagnosis of each child was kept, which will serve in the next medical brigade as part of their clinical history.

Even though our focus intervenes at an emotional and social level, the work of prevention which SOLCA promotes is of vital importance in the community, to help the families that need attention and in many occasions do not have the access to these services.



Javier Gutierrez, Executive Director; Dra. Aracely Garcés, Gynecologist; Ing. Héctor Plaza, and Lcda. Rita Valdéz

TRAINING TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Throughout 2012, JUCONI trained technicians, teachers and political representatives from El Triunfo and Naranjal counties, from the Province of Guayas, within the framework of an agreement with the international organization SAVE THE CHILDREN.

This agreement revolved around three axes: training, awareness and communication; coordinated in themes that permit the well-being of this population.

It is for this reason that it was important to reflect with the teachers on what exists

behind the behaviors of aggression, sadness and others that call their attention. The teachers realized that these were the children who have poor achievement in class and do not learn what they are being taught.

Also, we shared with them tools for positive discipline which facilitates group management for boys and girls inside and outside the classroom, strengthening the focus on positive aspects more than bad behavior.

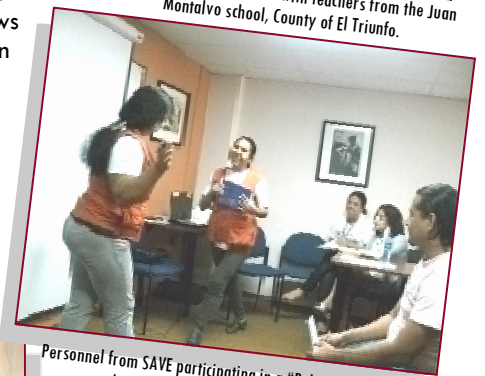
The experience permitted the teachers to be able to share

and reflect on the difficulties they encounter in these situations, and strategies that have worked to obtain positive results.

Sharing in these spaces permitted the community of teachers to realize that it is much better to reflect in a group setting, which allows simultaneous identification of solutions thanks to assertive inputs from each of them.



"Communities of Practice" with teachers from the Juan Montalvo school, County of El Triunfo.



Personnel from SAVE participating in a "Role Play" about intervention in schools.



"Coexistence Codes" workshop with teachers from different public schools in the county of El Triunfo.



Teachers from Marcel Laniado School, Naranjal County making a floor plan of the school to locate safe sites and sites of risk for the children.

"Love is to a child what sun is to a flower; Bread is not enough: they need care to be good and strong."
Concepción Arenal

Cruz Azul Pharmacies Preventative Health Campaign



Dengue prevention and treatment talks for mothers and fathers.

For the winter season Cruz Azul pharmacies engaged in a campaign for the prevention of dengue through talks about health for the most vulnerable communities of Guayaquil.

This activity was conducted in cooperation with Juconi, the 14th and 15th of March, benefitting more than three-hundred mothers and fathers in the different sectors in which the Foundation works, in the communities of Balerio Estacio, Fertisa and Isla Trinitaria.

The objective for Cruz Azul is to contribute to the preventative education about this disease, informing about the way to minimize the risks of contraction, symptoms and treatment in the case of contraction.

Alliances of collaboration such as this allow for the families who form part of the Child Labor Program to supplement, enrich and inform these mothers and fathers about the best way to manage the health and well-being of their family.

VACATIONAL COLONIES 2013...

facilitators in the imparted programs. The input of each of them shows positive changes, a product of the interventions at a familiar level realized by the foundation.

And so it is that we find youth, who passed through our methodological process, serving as instructors and facilitators of workshops that promote the defense of the environment and use of recyclables for the creation of arts and crafts; with which, additionally, the participants obtain knowledge useful in the creation of small businesses.

The adolescents participated, as well, as dance instructors creating choreographies and enjoying special moments.

Similarly, a number of mothers helped facilitate nutrition workshops, sharing with other mothers what they had learned.

The JUCONI team that organized and formed part of the different events in the Colonies had the great reward of a job dedicated to giving positive experiences and happy moments to the children.



Each year, during the winter months, JUCONI organizes Vacational Colonies in each sector in which we elaborate programs (such as Fertisa, Trinipuerto, Isla Trinitaria, in the South and in Balerio Estacio in the Northeast).

The colonies are spaces that are created to give the boys and girls an opportunity to live positive experiences, of recreation and good moments within their own communities.

Within the colonies, the children are able to choose activities based on their age and interests. This year options included singing, dancing, arts and crafts, painting, play time, values, environmental education and sports.

These Colonies also provide a space to integrate the mothers and fathers with the objective of sharing these beneficial experiences with their children. Themes of the activities with the parents were: education and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, nutrition, prevention of consumption of drugs and alcohol.

It is very satisfying that children who participate in the JUCONI process also served as

