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**ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT,
TRAINING- EDUCATION - FEDICE**

FRIENDS OF ECUADOR AND FEDICE

We are to end a year that has been of great expectations and dreams, in compliance with the missionary mandate, the Disciples of Christ, we have imposed in Ecuador. The international financial crisis has severely beaten in the expansion of educational services, technical and financial, especially for indigenous and peasant women. We recall the biblical passage when Peter and John went to the temple and saw a crippled beggar. Compassionate Peter said: "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ, arise and walk. That said, Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up..., The paralytic rose to his feet and began to walk "(Acts 3:6-8). FEDICE doesn't have sufficient resources, but with its words and technical assistance to communities they have been raised. This is part of FEDICE's human development work. They're walking, but those poor stands in need of financial assistance to engage in productive projects, so, the Indians and peasant's people can overcome misery and produce income to meet their basic needs: work, food, health, education and housing. Despite financial restrains, FEDICE this year has helped 10 projects in Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, and Imbabura benefiting 1,375 people. With the construction of Child Development Centers and Community Service has benefited in Imbabura to 474 families, in Cotopaxi 69 families. We are building another Center will benefit 181 families in San Francisco. [So, your solidarity and support to FEDICE are important](#)

We have a few human stories:

MARTHA MAGDALENA GONZA CHICAIZA



Born in the Indian community of Tocagón, married, and she has two children. General Manager at the "Community Enterprise Totorá Sisa", dedicated to make and sell handicrafts and furniture made of straw. Its purpose is to support the 28 artisans to improve their quality of life, create jobs, to export their products, so they can improve living conditions and prevent migration of young people. They knew FEDICE through our President, Sebastian Caiza. They and FEDICE prepared a Project of making and trading their crafts. The 28 partners of the enterprise are very encouraged by the FEDICE support. "With the support of my God almighty- Martha told us- I keep struggling in order to achieve our objectives: producing new straw products, selling and exporting. So, our micro enterprise "Totorá Sisa", become one of the pioneers, at Community level of Ecuador."

GINA ELIZABETH FIALLOS MAYORGA

She is a leader of the 26 women group of Santa Rosa, in Cotopaxi province. Married, with 3 children: "They are the reason for my struggles," says Gina. Due to the difficult economic situation, she tried to travel abroad. Made loans, they got the money for the trip, but she was cheated, "they robbed us not only money, but also my stability and dreams of a better future," She spoke with tears. Gina works in the farm and home. Her husband worked cutting down trees, but he almost was killed by a tree, he was injured severely. Gina had to work alone for several months. "I was able to overcome these hard times based on a great effort, "FEDICE believed in me and the women group, they helped me to buy a sewing machine with which I could make clothes and sell them. Gina has a degree in Accounting and Auditing; also she is a great craftsmanship. Gina, FEDICE and the 26 women are working together," each of our families, benefiting with the projects: pigs, sheep and chicken we have improved our lives, we are not alone, there are angels helping us in our daily battles. God will bless them"-Gina told us.



LUPE OFELIA YUGCHA

Born in Pupana Sur, Cotopaxi province, 36 years old, she is a widow. After 9 years being married to her husband, he died in an accident. She continued to work sacrificially. Now, his first son, Christian studies at the University. Her other 3 children attend school. "With the support of FEDICE, I could bring up my children," says Lupe, went on: "The 21 women in the community work with FEDICE, for three years has helped us with technical education and financial support. We know about the handling of chickens, guinea pigs, cows and pigs. Another activity is the production of totora (straw handicrafts) and pottery; we sell in Quito market, on Saturdays and Sundays, to tourists. With FEDICE women have learned to be organized and fighters against poverty. I ask God to give them life and health and to all our supporters"- she concludes.



MARILYN COOPER AND GLENN HEBERT



They have 1 year working in Ecuador, as volunteers of the United Church of Christ, Austin, Texas; they are dedicated to teach English in indigenous communities, in a highly international tourism province. We are studying the possibility that they can teach in government agencies in Otavalo area. Marilyn and Glenn invite the churches to send missionaries groups to work in poor communities or make contributions to help the work of the FEDICE, sharing it, in God's love.



Universities of Quito, rely on FEDICE and its technical staff, they consider FEDICE as a serious and responsible institution. Several students have made their professional dissertations in Indian and peasant communities. The latest: **Ibeth Dominguez** and **Hugo Pacheco** drew up their thesis: "Evaluation of impacts of projects in Curiquingue Community, Cotopaxi. They graduated as Economists. Hugo Pacheco works in FEDICE as a technical. **Grace Zurita** and **Rene Chango** graduated in Finance Engineering with the thesis "Production and marketing of strawberries, in Inti Huaycopungo community". Grace works in FEDICE as Bookkeeper. Rosita Morales, won through FEDICE a scholarship to study medicine in Venezuela. She came to Ecuador for a short vacation and joined the medical team's work of the Disciples of Christ, Plano, Texas. She did an excellent job. The Church of the UCC Illinois, USA, donated a laptop to her. The Colombian student of South American Nazarene Seminary, **Claudia Segura**, is doing her thesis with FEDICE on "Support to pregnant teenagers", in order to obtain her degree in Theology.



In order to help community leaders in three provinces, FEDICE, organized the Third Encounter of Women with the theme "Women, Development, for Good Life", in memory of Violet Groth Vaca. We invited Government officials to explain what is and how to achieve development for Good Life. Also, In the Encounter, participated, 17 female students from the Nazarene Seminary.

In July, our Director, Victor Vaca, participated in the General Assembly of the Disciples of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee. He was invited by the Disciples of Oregon. In September, the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize, on Human Rights, Dr. Martin Almada and the Museum of Memories invited Victor Vaca, to visit Paraguay and solar energy projects in rural communities. Victor worked in Paraguay from 1970-76, with Friendship Mission. He created PROMURI; it was a Program to promote Urban, Rural and Indian Community Development. But the dictator Stroessner didn't like his missionary work among the poor and put him in jail and then he was obliged to leave the country. His visit was after 35 years of absence.

**FEDICE WISH YOU ALL MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
WE ASK YOUR SOLIDARITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP THE POOR AND THE WOMEN IN ECUADOR.
SOLIDARITY WITH THE HUMBLENESS IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS.**

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We can send specific projects.

Victor Hugo Vaca
Executive- Director

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**



**UNITED
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Administrative Team**