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La Esperanza celebrate children's day with continued progress

NP Staff

La Esperanza Granada celebrated International Children's day with great success. Volunteers took part in the festivities in six schools this year, and thanks to the generosity of those who have given children's toys and gifts throughout the year over 800 prizes were handed out, so that each child had something special.

During that same week La Esperanza Granada attended the inauguration of the three new classrooms at Las Camelias. Representatives of the Kamal Foundation who helped with nearly half of the funding were there as well as Granada's mayress and representatives of the Ministry of Education. It was a moving ceremony, and gratifying to see the results of so much effort. Attendance at the school has increased from 208 to 270 children now that the extra classrooms are complete.

In Salomon de la Selva building continues and will be fully completed ready for the children to start in their new classrooms on July 15 when the term break ends. So many people contributed to this building project, the latest being \$1000 from Crooked Creek Elementary School in the U.S.A., and \$3300 from our Vice President, Mark Turner to complete the project.

Lots of volunteer changeover as is normal at the end of term. New volunteers have arrived to help.

Starting on June 30 La Esperanza Granada is holding a special learning/activity

group for selected children from grades one and two who are falling behind in classes. 38 children are taking part, and each child will have their 'own' volunteer for two weeks. A group of volunteers have been involved in the planning and put in a lot of effort to try and make this event a success.

June 30 was also officially designated in Nicaragua as Teachers Day. The local teachers put in a great effort with very little in the way of resources to back them up, and very little in the way of wages too. Loreal of Germany had given a large donation of goods, most of which were children's toys, and there was a great selection of items which made wonderful gifts for the teachers.

Kat Coiner-Collier arrived with two suitcases full of both things for the children as well as clothes for the school sales. Kyle (Miguel) Virgine brought some great craft things, Nerea Schniewind brought school resources, as did Paulette Sokolow. Esperanza had paypal donations from Lisbeth Patrone, \$185, Romeo Kienzler \$25 and from Lane Haywood \$100. Doortje brought 100 Euros from Jose and Herman Couwenberg and Ria Van Den Hout. Plus many people have called into the office bringing both clothing for the school sales and school supplies to put in the bins.

La Esperanza Granada is working on two new collaborations this month. First with The Children's Wellness Fund, we

Esperanza has sent its first volunteer to teach English in the schools they help on the Island of Zapotera, and the second with Louis Wiggan who is trying to develop a children's baseball league that will involve children in the rural schools.



The joy of a new pair of glasses, is all too clear to see on this young student's face.