



# CHILEAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 53448, Washington, DC 20009

September 2008 Newsletter

[www.chileusfoundation.org](http://www.chileusfoundation.org)

## Chilean Independence Celebrations

This year our Independence Day had celebrations all over the Washington Metropolitan Area thanks to the **Corporación Cultural Chile** and **Agrupación Chile**. Park celebrations and dinners were very well attended and we all enjoyed the flavors of traditional Chilean empanadas, lomitos and sweet pastries.

## Kind Contribution

We wish to share with you the accomplishment of our volunteer Geraldina Díaz, who works in the Washington D.C. office of Knobbe Martens LLP. The law firm has implemented a monthly "Care Day," on which its employees – for the right to wear jeans or casual clothes at the office -- make a contribution of five dollars or more for a specified charity. In July, Geraldina requested that these funds be allocated to help the Chilean-American Foundation. She prepared a briefing about the activities we carry out in favor of Chilean children in social risk, and they collected \$970! A few days later, the check in the above amount was deposited in the Foundation's checking account. Our Board of Directors overwhelmingly expressed their gratitude for the generosity of the employees of Knobbe Martens LLP, who most likely had never heard about our Foundation before.

Geraldina promoted the value of contributions to the Foundation in the following terms:

**Your tax-deductible contribution – of:**

- US\$ 5 – covers the cost for copybooks and writing pads for one child during half a year;
- US\$ 10 – a nutritious daily snack for one child during a month;
- US\$ 20 – one backpack and school supplies for one student;
- US\$ 50 – one monthly psycho-pedagogic session or therapy for several children suffering from hyperactivity or attention deficit disorder;
- US\$ 100 – one bed and blankets for one child;
- US\$ 200 – bus rental for one weekend to take a group of 50 youngsters to a school field trip; and
- US\$ 500 – training for 20 teenagers in charge of promoting community development in poor neighborhood areas affected by juvenile delinquency.

## An Unforgettable Show



Beneficiary teenagers of *Siempre Contigo* at Cirque du Soleil's ALEGRÍA show in Santiago.



Adolescents from Hogar de Niñas "Las Creches" attended Cirque du Soleil's ALEGRÍA show.

Nine children of the groups we support in Santiago had the great pleasure of seeing the *Cirque de Soleil* in August thanks to the initiative of our president, María Teresa Soto-Aguilar, who contacted the Social Action Office of this famous circus in Montreal, Canada. On August 12, María Francisca, Ana María, Valeria, Sonya and Carla, residents of Hogar de Niñas "Las Creches", and Amaro, José, Marcos and Cristián, who are young people suffering from attention deficit disorder, beneficiaries of the program at *Siempre Contigo* enjoyed *Cirque du Soleil's* extraordinary show ALEGRÍA. The girls were recognized for their good school grades and the boys for their good behavior.

They attended the show free of charge, chaperoned by Foundation Representative in Chile, Álvaro Beca, the Director of Hogar de Niñas "Las

Creches”, Eliana Collao, and psychologist María José Durán from *Siempre Contigo*.

Mrs. Eliana Collao’s note of gratitude – in Spanish to maintain authenticity – follows:

Miércoles 13 de agosto de 2008

Estimado Sr. Beca, quiero oficializar nuestro agradecimiento por habernos beneficiado con 6 entradas para el Cirque Du Soleil.

Esto nos permitió premiar a las niñas que en el primer semestre obtuvieron notas sobre 6. Justo eran 5 niñas, así es que la selección fue muy fácil. La elección del adulto que las acompañó fue subjetiva.

De verdad disfrutamos de un espectáculo maravilloso, al que de no mediar su generosidad, no hubiesemos podido acceder.

Las niñas estaban demasiado felices y yo también. Agradeciendo a Dios los privilegios especiales.

Nuevamente muchas gracias por haber tenido presente a nuestras niñas.

Saluda Afectuosamente.

Eliana Collao Pino, Directora

Hogar de Niñas " Las Creches "

### Latino Dancing Night

Last July 26, the Chilean-American Foundation collected US\$710 in entrance tickets for a dance night held at Breakers Bar & Lounge, in Herndon, VA. Among the attendees were some members of the CAF, but the great majority learned of the event through flyers and internet classified ads. We danced to *merengue*, *salsa* and *reggaetón*, provided by DJ Neo’s excellent musical repertoire. The great surprise of the night was the fantastic flamenco style dance show by *YemaShun* group, with its Artistic Director Tania Fiske and dancers Paola and Tiffani.



*YemaShun* group performs its last creation

### Update and report on current projects

The Chilean-American Foundation requires that Chilean charity organizations that may have received financing for their ongoing projects during the present year submit a project progress report, every four months, as well as a justification in which they explain how funds from the Foundation are being utilized.

*Hogar de Niñas “Las Creches”* (based in Metropolitan community of La Reina), which was awarded US\$5,000 in 2008 for the project “Psychosocial recovery for girls who have been seriously violated in her rights”, informed us that 20 girls out of 23, between 5 and 18 years old – who are brought to the center by the Family Court for serious violations of their rights - are receiving necessary professional, psychological and social support in the project. Two of them “graduated” during the first quarter and returned to their families; another one returned on a temporary basis.

Due to certain difficulties that we encountered last year in bringing from Chile the edible products that were supposed to be sold at the Chilean festivities in Washington D.C., the Foundation’s Board of Directors decided, by unanimous consent, to donate the “delayed” products (chewing gum, candies, jams, *merquén*, casserole and sausage Maggi soups, and canned papayas) to the Hogar de Niñas “Las Creches” for their use. “Again, I wish to thank you for your generous heart, which so benefits projects like ours. God bless you abundantly,” said thankful *Hogar Las Creches’* Director.

Project “Espiral”, carried out by *Corporación Siempre Contigo* informed us that thanks to the US\$5,000 donation made by the Foundation, the project is able to take care of 40 highly vulnerable low-income children and adolescents. These impulsive youngsters were previously unable to listen and focus on their school tasks; they showed memory problems, and were out of control and their families either did not provide them support or had given up on reforming them. *Siempre Contigo* provides individual psycho-pedagogic care; offers workshops on self-esteem, and works with their families and with their teachers in the municipal schools to which they attend. The organization’s

goal is to prevent them from relapsing into antisocial behavior, and from continuously repeating their school year. This NGO, based in the community of San Miguel, was recently created (2002), and just in June last year SENAME (Servicio Nacional de Menores) [National Minors Service] accredited it as a collaborating institution. Our representative in Chile, Álvaro Beca, who regularly visits the institutions to which we provide help, highlights satisfaction shown by target family groups, who explain substantial behavior changes in the children, both at school and at home.

**Fundación Techo para un Hermano** received US\$5,000 during 2008 to finance its project "Alimentación para niños del Centro de Apoyo Escolar Cecilia Arrieta", in Peñalolén, southeast of Santiago. The project objective is to provide 63 children and teenagers, who attend on a daily basis while their mothers work until the evening, with at least one daily nutritious and balanced meal.

Furthermore the minors are given medical and dental care; they get tutoring in their homework; they obtain support in self-esteem and self-confidence according to their abilities/capacities. When Álvaro visited the center in the beginning of July, he could observe the project's progress, as well as the enthusiasm and devotion of its supervisory personnel, hired staff and volunteers. He said, "I noticed an environment of joy, order, neatness and good health surrounding the boys and girls that were taken care of."

The fourth project which has been benefited from our US\$5,000 funding this year is carried out by the **Corporación Municipal de Educación Salud y Atención de Menores de Puente Alto** in El Volcán neighborhood area. The activities covered by our financing (equipment and transportation) aim to prevent street gangs in this neighborhood, which is one of the poorest areas in Santiago. The project takes care of 132 adolescents between ages 10 and 18.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Chilean-American Foundation    <a href="http://www.chileusfoundation.org">www.chileusfoundation.org</a></p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP</h2>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I'd Like to volunteer</b></p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Thank you for your contribution</p>						
<p>Please print this form and return it with your contribution. Your donation is tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3). Use our EIN # 237177030 for tax deduction purposes. Please make check payable to: Chilean-American Foundation.</p>								
<p>Date: _____ <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Check if new address</span> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State ____ ZIP _____</p> <p>e-mail: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Active member .....\$50</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....\$250</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Special member .....\$25</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Patron member.....\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring member .....\$100</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Active member .....\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Special member .....\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron member.....\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring member .....\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Payment information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charge my                      <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard                      <input type="checkbox"/> VISA</p> <p>Card number _____ Exp.Date ____/____</p> <p>Authorization signature: _____</p>
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