



Dear Friends

Christmas is a time of giving, and what better way to remember Jesus’ birth than to give to children in need! Last year, FEDICE had the first **Give Joy** Campaign which helps provide funds to accomplish what we do every December, in bringing an extra dose of joy to partner communities by hosting Christmas parties in the Children’s centers where we are involved. We are proud to announce that even though some funds did not come until April, we went over our goal for last year, and have some funds on hand to begin our project this year.

The communities that we support are:

Caluqui, in the name of Violet GrothVaca	Romerillos, in the name of Lisa Franke
Pijal Centro	San Francisco, in the name of Victor Vaca

We are also involved in 11 pre-schools near Otavalo where one of FEDICE’s volunteers teaches English. Two have asked for help with outdoor play equipment. One has no outdoor equipment; the other has insufficient equipment.

As many of you have seen first-hand, the centers are a critical resource to families and are a safe place where mothers can leave their children, knowing they will be looked after and receive early childhood education while they are working. If we have extra funds this year, we want to include another center, which was in Lasso, but has been moved up the mountain because it was located where they expect flooding from the Cotopaxi volcano if it explodes, as has happened to the San Francisco center as well. In that case, three of the five centers are located close to the volcano. We feel that these children especially deserve some happiness in their lives, while living under the shadow of the volcano.

In honor of Violet & Victor Vaca, Lisa Franke and the many others who have supported these four centers and beyond, we invite you to join us in our campaign to **Give Joy** to the children of Ecuador this holiday season. Our goal is to raise \$2,200 to host celebrations and bring Christmas to two families in particular need, who have been identified in the Pijal area. We also hope to raise an additional \$1,000 for outdoor play equipment.

You can donate anytime at www.fedice.org or send a check to FEDICE USA (P.O. Box 302, Ogilvie, MN 56358). To direct your donation to this campaign, please designate the "**Give Joy Fund**". Gifts of any amount are much appreciated. Online donations given on **#Giving Tuesday** (December 1) will go to the **Give Joy Fund**.

As I always say, "gracias a Dios" for your continuing support of FEDICE and the families in our partner communities. May God's blessings be upon you during this holiday season and in the New Year!



Blanca Puma Martínez
Executive Director
FEDICE