



QUARTERLY GENERAL REPORT:

ORGANIZATION: Conciencia

PROJECT NAME: Conbeca Scholarship. Argentina

LOCATION: Argentina - South America

REPORT PERIOD FROM-TO: Annual Report 2007

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1.1 Project description:

CONBECA is a program that has been implemented by Asociación Conciencia since 2003 in order to provide access to and continuity in secondary schools to all those students who lack economic resources and who are willing to study, demonstrate effort, achieve good performance and behaviour and show a commitment to their studies. The program provides them with all the necessary tools to improve their future opportunities in adult life.

It is a program which is organized with the foundation of three central issues: economic support, through material contributions; individual student support and mentoring, through a system of Guides (volunteers); and the guides and beneficiaries' education in regard to values and continued participation as citizens, through the coordinators (also volunteers).

NOTS supported in the last three years over 70 students offering them the necessary tools to generate and achieve opportunities for their future. Conbeca is a personalized program which fits the needs of each beneficiary.

1.2. Project objectives for the reporting year:

The objectives we proposed for this year are the following:

- **Retain the 70% of the total of scholarship students of Conbeca at school this year.**
- **Intensify our workshops on values in the path of self knowledge as a way of rebirthing their capacities and trust in themselves.**
- **Reinsert in our program those beneficiaries that although they have repeated the academic year, continue in secondary school.**
- **Incentive beneficiaries that are in the last year of school to work in a concrete life project such as university studies, with the help and support of their guides.**



- Make aware guides and beneficiaries about the importance of the link established between them as a way of growing as valuable people for CONBECA and for their communities.

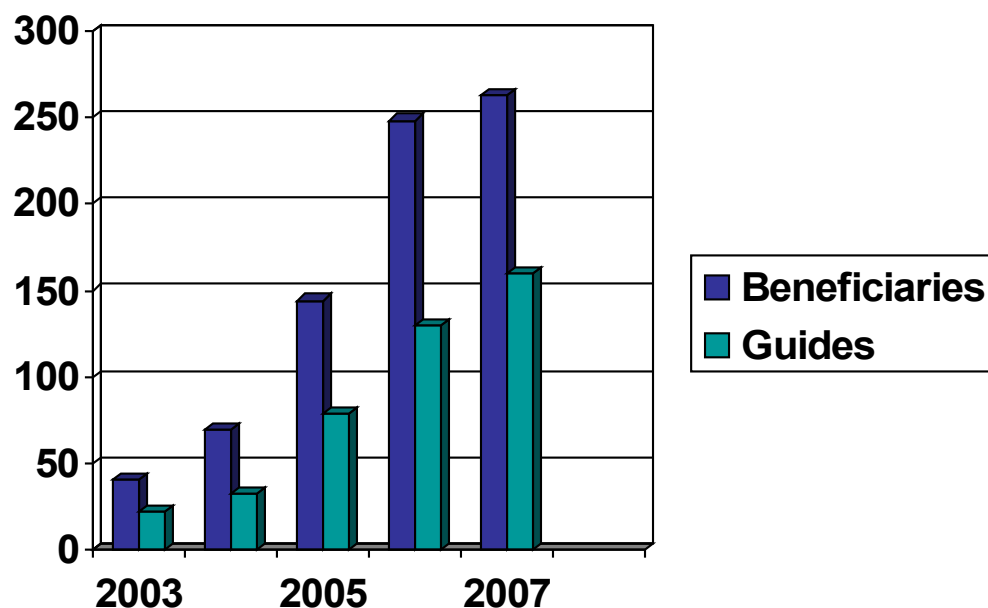
- Extend the activities of guides and beneficiaries further than academic and administrative supervision, encouraging the increase of the recreational outing and Workshops in values.

- Fundraising so that the program will increase to: 1000 beneficiaries, 500 guides and 66 branches.

1.3 Realized results in the reporting period:

During 2007 Conbeca consolidate its number of beneficiaries that had increased 90% in 2006 (from 143 to 273). We incorporated new beneficiaries in July, at half annual school term, focusing in those kids that were close to quit school. It was a very positive experience and with Conbeca support and follow up, they recovered their enthusiasm and will to complete their secondary studies. The number of beneficiaries that joined Conbeca in July were 44 in total. These students were selected out of adolescents, which belong to very low income families and were either out of school already (reinsertion) or in a very high risk situation of abandoning school. The Beneficiaries are usually adolescents that without the scholarship would not be studying.

The quantity of guides increased during 2007, this happens because of the great enthusiasm that the guides show with their volunteer work. Most of the new guides are friends and relatives, who were moved by the rich experience that the former guides testimony about their role.





This year our goal was to reach 70% in retaining the total of scholarship students of Conbeca at school this year, we reached 87 % and 41 students were graduated from secondary school. The different reasons why 38 beneficiaries abandoned the programme were mostly because they quit school due to their poor academic results, pregnancies that decided them to end their studies abruptly, or not attending workshop or beginning work which discouraged them to continue school.

It is also important to mention that we believe that for the beneficiaries that abandon in the way, it is also very good for their lives to get this opportunity and we are noticing that their lives changed in some aspects due to the help of their guide, even if they don't get to finish the secondary school.

Volunteer work continued growing during 2007 and in many cases the beneficiaries extended the four hours per months required by Conbeca. It made them feel really important in their role of helping others. Their help in schools, public libraries, churches, community centers and mucho more other places give them another perspective of their situation and make them realize how they can also make a difference in others life. Volunteer work is a highlight in Conbeca.

1.4 Financial highlights:

Funds were spent according to last year's Budget. The Financial report in point 4 is based upon the tickets that the guides send every month. These tickets are backing up all the expenses that the guides do and report for each of the Beneficiaries.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

2.1 Realized results:

Impact

▪ Direct effect on target group:

- Beneficiaries receive an unconditional follow up that escort them in all aspects of their lives, this help them to grow in self esteem and in projecting their lives beyond their high risk reality. Guides become acknowledge of the other reality of different social strata with less benefit and they realize that big changes can happen with their small but important work.



- Beneficiaries grow in trust towards their guides and they quickly start opening themselves and sharing their problems and dreams. This is the result of the Value Workshops which each team adapt according their area

reality. All of them help to create a close and kind relationship between guides and beneficiaries.

- In 2007, 41 beneficiaries graduated from their secondary school. Most of them continued their studies at universities or non official centres. 15 of them applied to different scholarships and 2 of them won university scholarships of Retama to study Veterinarian and Agronomy.

▪ **Indirect effect on community/families:**

- Each year we notice how Conbeca help their beneficiaries to insert themselves in society. When these adolescents were selected, one of the conditions to get into Conbeca was their "marginality" in society, this means that they did not have access to the normal benefits that each member of our society have. When they join Conbeca, a new reality and benefits presents to their lives, their guide is a very positive influence for them, and encourage them to choose a life project that is very different to the violence, drugs and lack of goals that are a constant threat in the communities they live.
- Guides also enrich their own lives learning how it's possible to live with minimal economic resources, and this also generates a bigger commitment on their side.
- Guides friends and families get involved in Conbeca programme because of the enthusiasm that guides experience with their role and they share many aspects of their beneficiaries and incorporate them into their close circle.
- Guides become active social individuals in their prime societies who assume their responsibility towards positive changes. They don't only provide beneficiaries support with their studies and concrete problems but they generate a one to one relationship.

2.2 Main activities

▪ **To train Volunteer guides as responsible citizens towards their country**

Volunteer Guides Accompany and guide beneficiaries through their life at school, and with all those matters related to studies. They are in charge of managing grant money and supplying beneficiaries with everything they need for school. They personally buy the material and issue the expense reports to Conciencia Central.

Guides have monthly meetings with beneficiaries and parents in Conciencia branches, and organize recreational activities, in order to follow up so as to inform Conciencia about each beneficiary's progress. They not only care about their academic progress but also for their personal and family situation. They are intermediaries between Conciencia and the beneficiary. They work as volunteer. We are convinced that the key in this program is centred in the relationship



between beneficiaries and Guides, both of them are empowered with this relationship.

The most important aim we discovered in the follow up of the escort of the guides is that although during all this time we tried to measure the results only in an academic way, we noticed that from that point of view results may be really frustrating because guides and beneficiaries grew up in a very close and committed relationship that lives them a positive mark in their acknowledgement forever. This is why we apply a human-emotional measure that we consider highly satisfactory.

- **To build up workshops for self knowledge. To enforce participants of the program's self knowledge through 4 Workshops.**

Using as a stand up base the workshops of last year, we decided to encourage 2007 workshops in the building of a project of life and future. This is the reason why the four workshops given to the beneficiaries along the year were concerned to self knowledge. We worked with a psychologist in how to work out this subject so as to do the thing correctly.

During the process of the workshops the beneficiaries could obtain a mayor vision of the meaning and importance of having a project of life, to allow them selves to dream with a future.

It is very important to highlight that for guides this was a great and intense experience, they had the possibility of sharing with beneficiaries their deepest feelings.

- **Insert scholarship students in their community through volunteer and recreational Activities.**

They were able to fulfill the volunteer activities in the following places: Retirement Homes, Churches, Kindergartens, Orphanages, Cáritas NGO, Neighbourhoods Schools, Proniño Program , Asociacion Conciencia, Public Library, Town Hall, Communitarian dine for people of the street, shoe workshop.

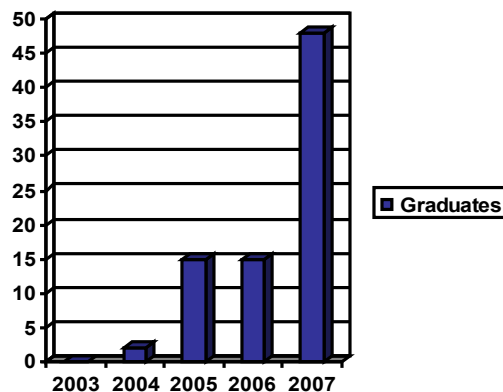
In all this places they performed a wide range of activities such as: Cleaning, cooking, sewing, teaching, maintenance activities, gardening, accompanying, filing, organized different workshops, shoe fixing... etc.

2.3 Results/ Output:

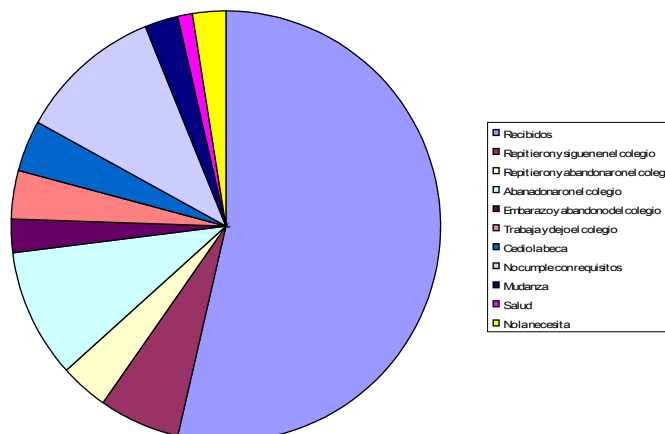
From a total of 273 beneficiaries, 168 continued school and 45 graduated. This was a record for Conbeca and made a very special year in most of the



branches who celebrate this goal as a great accomplishment. To reach this results, school support lesson were very important as in 2006. Each branch organized their beneficiaries in order to take grupal lessons and save money.



- While in 2006 were 57 the beneficiaries who left the program, during 2007 there were only 25 in the same situation. This was an important goal for the program.
- From a total of 8 that didn't reach the academic goals and had to do repeat their current year, there were 3 that were given a second chance because their families` problems or because their will to progress and change their school results. The other 5 were left outside Conbeca as their guides considered that it was the way to make them mature about their attitudes towards studies and life.
- Two students got pregnant and decided to leave school despite the advice of their guides.
- Nine students showed lack of interest towards their studies.
- Three began to work and decided to full dedicate and their guides couldn't change their minds.
- Other Motives: moving (1), illness (1) , improved economic situation (3)





- **National Situation**

At a National Level there is no certain data of the desertion of kids with this economic level situation today, but until last year the percentage of these kids that would quit school before getting their degree was over 60 %, this means that the percentage that we are working with shows the great success of the program for kids in an extremely poor economic and social situation.

- **University Studies:**

Conbeca introduced some of the graduate students to Retama which is an NGO that's grants University Scholarships. We distinguish the Study Development of Romina Guzman from Mar del Plata and Emanuel Duna from Pergamino that won the Retama University Scholarship to study veterinary studies and Agronomy.

In the group a global consciousness of the importance of working self knowledge was generated. The most relevant result was that beneficiaries felt comfortable enough so as to share about their personal lives and dreams. Some of them have important dreams for their future, they think themselves as doctors, Psychologist, lawyers and know they have to work hard for achieving these dreams.

- **Unvaluable results:**

We are convinced that in Conbeca occurs what we call "The Multiplying Effect" because not only beneficiaries receive the scholarship and all the things that this means, they also receive many other things that their guides or people related to Conbeca facilitate them, and in some cases this is extended to their parents and families. In most of the cases Guides are really committed to their Beneficiaries so they get them a lot of things on their own like clothing medicine, professional help with volunteer friends of them, access to private clubs, private libraries, courses etc.. Some guides went with their beneficiaries to the dentist, to the doctor , they also organized recreational programs so as to have more time to share and get to know each other , some of the places they visited were. **Temaikén** (Grand Bourg, Pilar, Saldias), **Parque de la Costa** (Quilmes) , **La Isla de los Inventos** (Rosario) , **Paseo por la Recoleta y Museo de Bellas Artes** (Pilar) , **Paseo en catamarán e ida a las Termas** (La Paz), pic nic en el **Puente Pexoa** (Corrientes), convivencias en el centro **Brama Kumaris** (MDQ), **Cerro el Campanario** (Bariloche) .These are the things that happen in Conbeca that make us feel very proud of the work of each one of us.



2.4 Forward plans.

- Every month the guides will meet the beneficiaries, to follow up their development, evaluate their potential needs and give them support.
- March 08, first workshop with beneficiaries, parent's beneficiaries, coordinators and guides.
- June 08, second workshop.
- July 08, winter holidays
- August 08, define the beneficiaries that will need support lessons to make sure that at the end of the year they achieve the results expected.
- December 08, end of the course, beginning of the holidays.

3.0 Financial Highlights

	USD	EUROS	%
Guides costs	USD 10.197,25	€ 6.952,67	10%
Food	USD 1.250,37	€ 852,52	1%
health	USD 1.292,00	€ 880,91	1%
School Support	USD 2.171,79	€ 1.480,77	2%
Recreation	USD 2.186,95	€ 1.491,10	2%
School Fee	USD 2.923,89	€ 1.993,56	3%
Workshops	USD 4.893,20	€ 3.336,28	5%
Bank Expenses	USD 3.539,44	€ 2.413,25	4%
Transport	USD 3.831,28	€ 2.612,23	4%
Conciencia fee	USD 9.144,33	€ 6.234,77	9%
Library	USD 10.084,46	€ 6.875,77	10%
Clothes	USD 18.367,87	€ 12.523,55	18%
Administrative costs	USD 9.366,67	€ 6.386,36	9%
Family Support	USD 21.339,42	€ 14.549,60	21%
TOTAL	USD 100.588,92	€ 68.583,35	100%



4.0 Photos of the Project



