

(Felix Sosa Lantigua)

INTEGRACION JUVENIL IMPLEMENTS NEW AID AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR UNPROTECTED CHILDREN

Puerto Plata

With the objective of seeking solutions to the problems that affect Puerto Plata's children, the Board of Directors of Integración Juvenil is reformulating their services and assistance programs.

This information was given by Mrs. Rosa de Salcedo, president of the Institution, who announced, among other things, the creation of a Referral and Education Center in the neighborhood of Aguas Negras, which will also cover Playa Oeste and Los Coquitos.

Rosa de Salcedo specified that the Center has already begun to bear fruit in the sense that many boys and girls in these neighborhoods have been equipped with their birth certificates, as well as 180 youth are registered in the entity's Educational Center.

Doña Rosa de Salcedo, who spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors of Integración Juvenil, said that the neighborhoods of the low income parts of the city, especially the area covering Playa Oeste, Los Coquitos and Aguas Negras, have formed a Parents Association, which works continuously with the social problems of these sectors.

She further offered that these new programs could be replicated in other neighborhoods with similar characteristics.

In other declarations, Integración Juvenil states that in the next few months a Temporary Home will begin functioning which will provide food, shelter and attention to children living on the streets.

The objective of this program, said Rosa de Salcedo, is to facilitate for these children who wander the streets of Puerto Plata, a return home, to a relative's home or to a substitute family.

This entity proposes to take its first group of youth before the end of the year and to help them gain the necessary tools to achieve a dignified and risk-free life.

The first phase of the program implemented in the Temporary Home is intended to cure the wounds caused by the trauma of living outside the home, creating a family-like atmosphere for them and offering orientation for their reinsertion home.

The Temporary Home will be staffed by people willing to create a truly familial atmosphere where human values reign and personalized attention will be given to each case, Salcedo said.

The Temporary Home is being built with help from different institutions and individuals concerned with the problems facing Puerto Plata's children.

Doña Rosa de Salcedo and Ondina de los Santos gave as an example, the continuous help provided by Rita Gautschi, a Canadian who is the founder of the institution Gracias, which has as its objective helping the most needy children and young people of Puerto Plata.

The slogan of Gracias, over which Mrs. Gautschi presides, is: to help and provide for the underprivileged in the Dominican Republic.

For more than fifteen years this woman has dedicated all her effort and love towards Integración Juvenil, Doña Rosa de Salcedo and Ondina de los Santos, the executives of Integración Juvenil, informed us.

She has contributed to the purchase of various pieces of equipment for the different workshops and has improved the physical condition of the institution.

At the present moment this distinguished Canadian lady is in Puerto Plata and her latest gift was the donation of doors, windows and bathroom accessories for the temporary house in construction.