

EC Partners

Fundación Junto con los Niñ@s de Puebla A.C. (JUCONI)

International Children's Trust UK

Facts and Figures

- Duration of the project: 2007 – 2011
- EC contribution 625 231 € (53% of total)
- Over 2 000 children reached through the organizations Juconi works with
- Thanks to increasing media coverage and innovative fundraising strategies, income raised increased nationally 65% in 2008



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Social cohesion

Increasing the impact and sustainability of services for socially excluded children in Puebla, Mexico

Implementing new methodologies for helping children and families recovered from violence has been a rewarding challenge. We feel what we have developed so far has made a significant difference. We are increasing JUCONI's sustainability and also learning a lot that will stand us in good stead for the future.

Alison Lane, JUCONI



Context

In Mexico, many children get involved in street-life when they are exposed to violence in their families and communities. In order to help these children to participate fully in society and permanently leave street-life, Fundación Junto con los Niñ@s de Puebla A.C. (JUCONI) provides therapeutic actions that reduce or eliminate violence in their families and ensure that children recover emotionally from past experiences.

Objective

- To support JUCONI in developing therapeutic strategies to better respond to the needs of children exposed to violence in their families and communities.
- To disseminate effective therapeutic tools with other practitioners in Mexico and Latin America.
- To ensure the sustainability of JUCONI through innovative fundraising strategies and engage the Mexican public with its work.

Impact

- This project has helped JUCONI to develop a number of therapeutic tools. For instance, it developed an "emotional thermometer", a visual tool that uses traffic lights that allow children to understand their emotions. Then it developed "safety plans" that help children to express constructively their emotions when they reach the red light in their thermometer.
- These therapeutic tools are reinforced to teach children how their behaviour impacts positively and negatively on others.
- In 2003 JUCONI established a Technical Support Centre for sharing its widely recognized therapeutic tools both in Mexico and abroad.

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The story of Javier

When Javier first entered JUCONI House, he appeared to be adapting well to the new environment. He did keep to himself a lot, but this was attributed to his shy personality. However, his behaviour began to change radically. Javier started having problems with some of the other children. Some months later, Javier did not want to do his chores and began to have a very dirty appearance. Every time he was bought glasses he would lose them. Javier was not registered to school due to his difficulties in learning and his lack of interest. Instead, he participated in the classes provided at JUCONI House where children make up for the school years lost. On one occasion, when Javier was in a math class, he went to the corner of the room, got into a foetal position and did not want to get up. When the educators approached him, Javier ran off screaming that he hated everyone at the House. He went to sit in Anita's office (the JUCONI educator in charge of attending to the emotional needs of the children). Anita, through the use of the thermometer and safety plan, managed little by little to calm him down. Afterwards, in a community meeting, he expressed that he missed his parents (both his parents died from HIV/ AIDS). Ten days later he started with Special Time (a child-lead therapeutic process).

For the first six months of Special Time, Javier talked little and wrote little. He did though make frequent drawings of roses. Finally during the sixth month, he blurted out that when his mother died his aunt told him to put a rose on his mother's coffin. From that point on he began talking more about how he was feeling. Through Special Time, Javier began to give closure to the loss of his parents. Nowadays, Javier is a more emotionally stable and outgoing child than he was when he first stepped into JUCONI House, although there is still a lot of work to do. Javier no longer loses his glasses and is much more aware of his hygiene. He still has outbursts and moments of retraction, but has many friends and generally portrays a more self-assured Javier.



Children helped by JUCONI