Affordable Housing

Every family deserves a dignified home. TRF’s affiliates in five countries are helping families in need build simple, affordable, and dignified homes. Proven programs include prefabricated production of homes, sewage management, sidewalk construction, and tree planting, as well as many other services. For example, SERVIVIENDA in Colombia produces prefabricated model homes which are sturdy, attractive, easily transportable, and can be erected in four hours by the families that purchase them.

Capacity Building

Each year, The Resource Foundation organizes training seminars in the region to build the organizational capacity of its affiliates. In 2010, it sponsored a training seminar in Peru on how organizations can align human capital recruitment and retention strategies with their missions. The event featured experts from the World Bank, Enterprise Solutions to Poverty, and diverse NGOs. A total of 60 representatives of 40 organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean attended the seminar.

Cultural Programs

TRF helps to support an array of socially-relevant arts and cultural programs for disadvantaged children, youth and families. Supported projects include cultural centers, museums, and foundations that promote cultural preservation and provide access to art, science, and cultural works for all sectors of society. In Brazil, CRIA offers art and cultural activities such as theater, poetry, dance, and music to promote self-esteem, creativity, and social skills among at-risk youth.

Disaster Relief

In the aftermath of natural disasters, immediate responses and programs that address long-term needs are critical. TRF’s affiliates have unparalleled expertise in meeting the pressing needs of affected children and families. By quickly assessing needs on the ground and providing immediate support, affiliates are able to help victims cope with the trauma, rebuild their homes, reestablish their businesses, and restore their livelihoods. For example, in response to the January 12th earthquake that devastated Haiti, TRF’s affiliates provided food, shelter and clothing to survivors hours after the quake and have continued to provide counseling, training and support to facilitate their emotional, social and economic recovery.

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Education and Job-Skills Training
To ensure that children and youth have access to superior educational programs and are equipped to successfully participate in the global economy, affiliates throughout the region are implementing a wide range of educational and job skills programs. ORI-GEN in Chile and FUNDAEC in Colombia provide low-income and at-risk youth with an accredited high school degree. UNETE in Mexico provides training in computer skills for children enrolled in public schools, and SUPERATEC offers youths and adults in Venezuela the opportunity to acquire computer and personal development skills.

Environmental Concerns
TRF’s affiliates combine environmental conservation with income-generating projects, such as plant and tree nurseries, sustainable fishing, and ecotourism. These innovative, cross-cutting initiatives prove that environmental protection and human progress are not mutually exclusive. For example, FVSA in Argentina and SalvaNATURA in El Salvador promote environmental conservation through education and ecological reserve management, while also promoting ecotourism projects to help community members generate increased income.

Health
In order to address today’s complex health challenges, TRF’s affiliates are implementing comprehensive health care and prevention programs. These include basic and preventive health care, reproductive and maternal and infant health, pediatric health care, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, cancer screenings, diabetes prevention, and others. For example, in Argentina, Fundación Huésped’s provides direct services, training and education about HIV/AIDS and incorporates youth, adults and the elderly as multipliers, allowing them to share information with their peers so that they can be active in their health and well-being.
Microenterprise and Microfinance
Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean small family-owned businesses are important drivers of the economy as they offer jobs and generate incomes within communities. TRF’s affiliates offer a range of microenterprise and financial training, technical assistance, and credit and sales services to improve microentrepreneurs’ profits and ensure their long-term sustainability. In Peru, for example, Grupo ACP offers workshops and training sessions that enable micro and small business owners to apply modern business management techniques to commercial and financial activities. In El Salvador, SalvaNATURA provides environmental and entrepreneurial training to individuals living in border areas of a protected national park to make it possible for them to run successful eco-tourism businesses.

Potable Water and Sanitation
TRF’s affiliates play an active role in addressing inadequate access to potable water and sanitation services for low-income, and especially rural communities. They install pipes, wells, and cost-effective water treatment plants, and provide training about water systems management. In addition, they offer training in health and hygiene to educate children and families about water-borne illness and sanitation measures. In Honduras, Agua para Pueblo (APP) works closely with community members to provide access to potable water and sanitation systems in order to improve health and living conditions.

Sustainable Agriculture
Small-scale farmers provide essential food supplies for the region’s growing population, yet many farmers need training to improve their crop yields and generate a livelihood to support their families. TRF’s affiliates manage sustainable agriculture programs that combine environmental education and protection with improved farming techniques. Programs teach water conservation and management, terrace farming, use of solar energy for greenhouses and homes, animal husbandry, and more. In Guatemala, Fundación del Centavo trains women in livestock and agricultural production to help them gain valuable skills and increase their income.