

Center for Nonviolent Communication Project in Latin America

Coordinated by Jorge Rubio (jor65@juno.com)

This is our dream:

Nonviolent Communication being used as a viable tool for social transformation toward peaceful and cooperative Latin American communities.

Objective of the Latin America Project:

To generate and support self-sustaining core NVC teams that would have the capacity to replicate their experience in their communities.

Target Population:

Low-income Latin American communities, preferably localized in substandard areas, with the highest levels of poverty and violence in North, Central and South America.

Programs:

Our key program: Youth NVC Core Teams

The objective is to generate Youth NVC core teams in schools, institutions, and/or youth organizations that would be able to support the peaceful resolution of conflicts. They would also be able to train others generating new core teams. We will develop three pilot projects with the active participation of existing core teams. Existing core teams will assist in coordination and support and participate in the projects as apprentices.

Expected Results of the Program

- Reduction of violence indicators in the communities of the youth participating in the project, increasing the quality of their lives.
- Establishment of three core teams of youth NVC mediators and trainers.
- Creation of a participative model of teaching NVC to youth, which would rise from the choices of the participants as to how they would like to teach this to others.
- Strengthened National Teams, through participation in the youth teams' development.

Additional programs we are envisioning:

New NVC national teams: Train and support new National Teams that would be empowered to promote NVC in various Latin American countries.

Local NVC network, Community Mothers in Colombia: Support a group of Colombian "Community Mothers" (low-income day-care) in the creation of an NVC network of empathic support in any of the states where we have already trained them (Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Boyacá, and the city of Bogotá).

NVC in mass media: Design and implement NVC programs for radio and television for children, youth, and adults in Latin America.

We are in the process of generating the resources to continue the Latin American Project.

Our work team

Consists of Jorge Rubio (Project Director) and by Lina Fonseca, who has supported and inspired the Colombia Project.

We are also developing an international support and connection network. Marianne Gothlin is the European Liaison for this network. Members of the network will support us by coordinating Jorge's workshops and other fund-raising events in their communities, and by volunteering their expertise (legal, grant-writing, computers, editing...).

We are now looking for the financial support to sustain the development of the Project. We hope that the international support and connection network will assist us in locating foundation and corporate sponsors, as well as with organizing fundraising events. Our expenses include administration and coordination of the regional network, design and implementation of projects, equipment, and hiring consultants when necessary.

CNVC Latin American project background

In 1999, Marshall Rosenberg led the first Nonviolent Communication (NVC) workshops in Colombia. Since then, NVC has been promoted in Latin American by Jorge R. Rubio, NVC Latin American Project Director of the Center for Nonviolent Communication, and Certified NVC trainer.

The mission of the NVC Latin American Project in Colombia is to promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence in a war-torn country, by teaching NVC and training core teams of NVC practitioners around the country.

Since 1999 we have trained over 2000 Colombians. Some of them have had extended trainings of between 66 and 80 hours duration. Some of them are:

- Policeman as a part of a President Project "Creating a Culture for Peace" in alliance with the National Police.
- "Community Mothers," a program of the Colombian Institute for the Welfare of the Family-ICBF.
- Government officials including those from the ICBF, Minercol (National Mining Company), the Defensoria del Pueblo (National Ombudsman Office), the Mayor's Office of Bogotá, and from the National System of Family Welfare.
- Women and men of many walks of life: Students and teachers, community leaders, journalists, and families.

We want to use our experience in Colombia to bring NVC to Latin American communities in North, Central and South America, and in particular to support the interest generated by Marshall's visits to Brazil, Mexico and Puerto Rico.