

August 28, 2009

Mr. Bill Brown  
Bill Brown Construction Co.  
242 Phelan Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Bill:

You have helped so many disadvantaged rural children and families benefit from having access to quality, up-to-date books through your enthusiastic support for Biblioteca Pública El Páramo, that I thought you would be interested in learning how your compassion is making a positive, lifelong difference for them.



### **Record Numbers Graduate As Students Stay Interested in School**

According to a recent study<sup>1</sup>, only 33 of every 100 children that entered 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Venezuela's mostly poor and rural areas were able to complete the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and of those only 16 went on to finish high school.



This year, 95% of the students of the Class of 2009 graduated from the DC20 Rural School in Caserío El Páramo (Valle de La Pascua), Venezuela.

When asked to what they owed their success, the graduates said that although their families could not afford books, they were able to study and do their homework from the large collection of books at Biblioteca Pública El Páramo. All emphasized that the library was the key factor for them staying interested in school and not dropping out.

### **Health Education Workshop Calms Community's Fears**

When a young woman in Caserío El Páramo contracted HIV, word spread quickly - many feared that they would catch the disease and soon die.

The woman's parents had never heard of HIV, but after they were threatened by frightened townsfolk, they hurried for help to Biblioteca Pública El Páramo.



Library personnel informed the worried parents that HIV is not spread through casual contact, and then called the medical department at the University Romulo Gallegos in Valle de La Pascua.

That week a team of the university's doctors and students conducted an HIV Prevention Workshop at the library, and an overflow crowd of over 200 was relieved to learn all about HIV and how it could be prevented.

The community is extremely thankful to have Biblioteca Pública El Páramo, especially because it has been instrumental in preventing needless suffering that is borne from ignorance.

I hope that these reports have illustrated how your sharing has been instrumental in enriching the lives of poor rural citizens in the Caserío El Páramo region, and on their behalf please accept our deepest gratitude.

Sincerely,

América Soler-Everhart  
Board President

<sup>1</sup> 2008 Study, Economic and Social Research Institute, Universidad Católica Andres Bello, Caracas, VZLA.