



UNITED FOR THE SOCIAL GOOD

One of the major commitments of the Women's Club of Costa Rica (WCCR) is support of education with its contributions to children and university students.

Hundreds of members of The Women's Club of Costa Rica (WCCR) focus on education that reaches disadvantaged young people.

MISSION: The club offers underprivileged youth an opportunity to persevere and to achieve an education that will help them excel and achieve their dreams.

The organization began when a group of women from the United States, living in Costa Rica in 1940, organized The Women's Club of Costa Rica.

In the beginning, the club was a social organization. During World War II, between 1940 and 1945, it changed its mission. At that point, the club's efforts were concentrated on providing wartime support. Over the years, its objectives varied, but they always focused on service and education.

Membership fluctuates between 250 and 300 women of different nationalities, President Sylvia Prince reported. The organization's members voluntarily participate in social events, lunches, conferences, dinners, themed events, charities, and fundraising.

The Club also has special interest groups, for example, reading, and French and Spanish conversation, as well as a professional group that supports club development through conferences and workshops.

CHANGING COURSE - The country's needs set the scope of club's work.



In the late seventies, members directed their efforts toward the education of young people and that goal remains, stressed Prince.

Initially the program focused on high school students and subsequently on university students. Currently WCCR assists six students in the International Baccalaureate program and 23 university students.

TIRELESS The will of the club’s members is the main factor to its success, especially the desire to support all beneficiaries equally. “The club does not have a head office because maintaining one would reduce the funds available for its projects,” stated Prince. Once a month the club meets in San José to discuss agenda items as most of its members live in the greater metropolitan area.

Throughout the year, the club focuses on several long and medium term projects. However, if any member proposes an idea within the parameters of education for low-income youth, a committee establishes a pilot project in order to consider whether it may become a sustainable program.

Sponsorship for subsistence comes in part through direct contributions to existing programs. Most of the time contributions come from its members’ pockets. The club organizes fundraising events during the year; its main activity is always an annual event, funded with ticket sales and the auction of objects donated by sponsors. Members continually seek funds, and hunt for opportunities to bring some relief to the neediest populations in the country.

PROGRAMS



University scholarships: One of WCCR’s main objectives is providing scholarships to students.

Asobitico: The club offers support to Jose Gregorio Ramirez High School students enrolled in the **Costa Rica International Baccalaureate** program. The club plans to expand coverage in the coming years.

School Books for Kids: According to estimates in 2010, more than 270,000 school children in Costa Rica attended classes without textbooks. To remedy this situation Grupo Nación launched the *Libros para Todos* project. The Women's Club of Costa Rica has supported the project since then.