

August 2017

Dear Friends of Fundación Amistad:

Our June newsletter highlighted FA's keynote speech at the Ministry of Education's conference on secondary education, and the spirited graduation of the four-year-old students of La Guarderia, the pre-school operated by the Cathedral of Havana and supported by FA. During the subsequent summer months, FA's dedication to education for Cuban youth has continued with robust and meaningful programs.

Early Childhood Education Teacher Training

For the third year in a row, FA sponsored a week-long workshop for 25 pre-school teachers to discuss innovative approaches to early childhood education in the classrooms of the Padre Felix Varela Cultural Center.

The workshops are an important component of bridging traditional educational philosophies with contemporary ideas of how best to shape tomorrow's global citizen.

This year, the leaders of the workshops included three teachers from Havana's International School who shaped a dynamic, interactive program for the participants. FA has helped to sponsor one of these exceptional teachers to pursue her Masters degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education this year.

The Opening of La Guarderia Main

The fourth pre-school sponsored by FA is set to open in September 2017 in the village of Penalver, part of the township of Guanabacoa on the outskirts of Havana. The school was founded in collaboration with the Salesian Sisters to provide early childhood educational opportunities for the Penalver community which has a large number of families in need.

Architect Lina Alba and engineer Pedro Suarez, on behalf of FA, were responsible for the design and monitoring the reconstruction of the original building to house the new school. Twenty-two students are enrolled in the first year, and the plan is to have over 60 students aged from 2 to 4 years old by the third year of operation.

In his August visit, FA's Board member Stephen Johnson assisted in procuring key equipment for the school's operation, including a refrigerator, A/V system, books, and kitchen supplies in advance of the first day of school.

The school's teachers were part of June's teacher training of best practices, including instilling an appropriate knowledge of the environment, community, and sense of self for students beginning at a young age.

The continuing support and growth of these important educational initiatives is an affirmation of FA's mission of meaningful exchange between the American and Cuban people.

Please visit www.fundacionamistad.org/getinvolved to contribute to Fundación Amistad's important programs in education.



Participants in the June 2017 Teacher Training Program at the Padre Felix Varela Cultural Center



The new La Guarderia Main pre-school, with the Salesian Sisters and FA's Board member Stephen Johnson.