



## RJI IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Newsletter #1

May 14th, 2008

[www.retojuvenilcr.org](http://www.retojuvenilcr.org)

### Important events to come:

- Participants orientation for PCR08A starting in May 17th.
- Receiving group from Winthrop University in Nicaragua on May 14th.
- First group of Mexico Program arriving in June 23th
- Workshop of "Indigenous Youth Empowerment for a Borderless Region." in Nicaragua and Guatemala.
- Camp of "Leadership and Advocacy for Central America Youth Integration" in Costa Rica from May 26th to May 30th.

## SECOND PLACE IN BEST GALLO PINTO COMPETITION

On April 12th, Matt Barton finished second place in a Gallo Pinto\* Competition that took place in a community called Bijagua. Matt was one of the group leaders of a group of 10 volunteers from Canada who were working in a 8 weeks project in this community. The activity was part of a fundraising activity organized by this group to help to promote the women group (COABI) in Bijagua.

Around 150 people assisted to this cultural activity that gave a lot of entertainment to the local and neighbors communities but also helped and had an excellent impact in the community.

But this activity was only



The 1st place winner receiving a recognition and in the back Matt Barton, 2nd place.

one of results achieved by this group. They finished the construction of the high school gym and the renovation of a bull ring plaza that is an important place to organize other social activities for raising funds in Bijagua.

\* **Note:** Gallo Pinto is the typical breakfast of Costa Rica. Is a mix of rice and beans with Lizano sauce. We eat this meal with eggs, cheese, and ripe plantains.

## NEW CHALLENGE BEGINS IN MEXICO

Next June 23th one new challenge is about to start for Reto Juvenil Internacional in coordination with Youth Challenge Australia. The first Project in México is taking place in a Orphanage located in the state of Cuernavaca.

The volunteers are going to be working in different social projects such as english classes, the organizations of several workshops related to self-esteem, values, hygienic habits and Basic first aids. Also they will be painting, doing some gardening and other manual

works.

Another important activity is going to be the organization of an event with art, dance and other performances to raise funds for the place. Good luck to all our future challengers !!

## 38 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED TO WORKSHOP IN BORUCA

Boruca was the last scenario in Costa Rica for the workshop "Indigenous Youth Empowerment for a Borderless Region." This workshop is part of a new Project that coupled RJI with KusKura, an organization that works with indigenous communities to maintain their traditions and raise awareness about their rights. The goal of this project is to organize workshops in different indigenous communities all over Central America to develop leadership abilities in

young people, and empower them to create a formal group with members of different indigenous groups.

The workshop already took place in Panama with the groups of Kuna Yala, Emberás and Ngobe Bugle. Next May 16th, Monica Salas, RJI staff member in charge, will be traveling to Nicaragua to organize the workshop with the Chorotega group in Matiguás and the Miskitos in the north



The Kuna Yala (Panama) group already participated in one workshop.

atlantic region. In June they will be working in Guatemala. And the closure will be in July with a Regional workshop, also in Guatemala.

*"The RJI volunteers will always have a home in Bijagua. You are a part of the family now and we hope to see you again when you have children and return for a visit."*

*Association  
Representatives from  
Bijagua*

## RJI RECEIVED A NEW BABY

Marcela Murillo, our administrador, became a happy mom the 3rd week of March. After a long wait, RJI family received a new member, Maria Celeste.

This beautiful girl is the first child of Marcela and her husband Henry. And this big event has been also a new challenge for the staff since Marcela left for her maternity leave.

We hope all the best to this couple who have now one of the most challenging roles in life, raising a human being. Congratulations to Marcela and Henry!!

## FUNDACIÓN DESAFÍOS AND RJI WORKING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA INTEGRATION

The 3rd camp of "Leadership and Advocacy for Central America Youth Integration" was organized in Guatemala this last week of April.

This Project is been realized by a Nicaraguan organization called Fundación Desafíos in coordination with others 3 organizations from Guatemala and El Salvador. RJI is the representative for Costa Rica.

Around 30 young people from these 4 central American countries participated in 3 days of dynamics that give them an space to discuss about the role of the youth in politics and the importance of working to-



The camp is integrating young people from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador y Guatemala.

gether as part of the same region.

The next camp is taking place in Costa Rica from May 26th to May 30th. And the final activity is going to be a conference with two representatives of each camp per country, in Managua Nicaragua.

\*If you have Facebook you are invited to join our group : <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=17122581334> or search it by Reto Juvenil Internacional