

THEY BET ON THE GROWTH OF CENTROS SOR ISOLINA FERRÉ

New and known faces mixed yesterday at the Centros Sor Isolina Ferré, Caimito. The first group were there to get to know the programs of education and self-management offered there; the second to testify how they are better human beings after belonging to the non-profit entity.

New installations at the center, opened last August, were the scene of an "Open House" whose main purpose was to interest residents in Caimito and surrounding communities in the programs of the organization. These programs address the problem of dropouts, prevent juvenile delinquency and teenage pregnancy, strengthen families, develop leaders and create micro-enterprises.

One person at the center for the first time was Rosa Acosta, resident of Caimito, who came in search of programs for adults. While they made a pencil drawing as part of the amenities of the day, Acosta recounted that her two sons, 10 and 11 years, receive tutorials there. "I've seen a big change in them. They now like to study more. I wanted to come to see what is for me," she said.

Luisa Benítez, also of Caimito, went to the "Open House" for a clear purpose: search for information on a Cosmetology course scheduled to start next June. "I studied here some time ago, taking a short barbershop and styling course, but now I want to take a course in Cosmetology. The thing (current economic situation) is bad and I know that it will help me to have additional income," he noted.

Lourdes Ortiz, Executive Director of the Sor Isolina Ferre center in Caimito, explained that today there are between 800 and 1,000 people participating in the various programs offered there. New facilities allow them to serve more people and therefore they had the "Open House".

"There is something that Sister Isolina always instilled in us: promote the development of communities to the fullest. We had to do this activity with the people in the community so that they know that this is their home," said Ortiz, remembering that the center will celebrate 25 years in Caimito in September.

The young Albania Pujols, aged 15, attended to support others interested in the center. He has participated in several programs and does all that they offer. "My experience was unforgettable." I attended lectures, orientations, tours... I am a better person and learned how to make own decisions," said Pujols, who attended the "Open House" with her mother, Dilania Polanco.

Other amenities of the day included educational talks, a bouncy house for children, sports activities and gifts of trees.