



La Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela



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Since his election in 2000, the Chavez administration recognizes the “accumulated social debt” (VCSI, 10) meaning that the government accepts responsibility for “the fact that the levels of poverty and social exclusion ...continue to be very high” (VCSI, 10). The government owes it to its people to create an environment of opportunity in which everyone has the chance to succeed and enjoy basic social rights. As a result, in 2002, a number of educational and health missions began.

“the people have written this history”

“With or with out Chavez”



As a result, they are also proud of the country that has become theirs. The Constitution was written by and for the people. Thanks to a leader that is of a similar background, those who are often forgotten are now included.

Venezuela gradually moves away from exclusion and towards inclusion. This is socialism of the 21st century and it will continue with or without Chavez.

“The important people are Julio, Maria, Juan... Lisa, Ledys, and Charlie”



Since 1999, a lot has changed in Venezuela and the ones responsible are the everyday people that live in the barrios and have dedicated their lives to creating an inclusive Venezuela. While Chavez organized the missions, the people have carried out the work to start and maintain them. Education, healthcare, and equal opportunity are constitutional rights that no one can deny them.

“doing small dreams on a large scale”



Initiatives like the organic farm pictured above are examples of the ways Chavez has committed to helping el pueblo. This farm, in the middle of Caracas, grows and sells their produce at the same location, thus cutting out the middle man. Therefore, they can sell their product at reasonable prices to members of the community.



“My girlfriend is the revolution.” -Sandino



“Nothing can put to sleep the Spirit of the youth...becoming aware is our greatest gift.” –Luz
Frente de Francisco de Miranda
is a youth group committed to promoting the missions in communities.

a new kind of education

“Start at the level it never filters down to.” -Lisa Sullivan

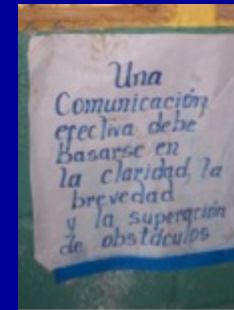


Money is being given directly to the missions themselves instead of pouring it into the Ministry of Education and allowing the funds to trickle down. Thus, changes can take place immediately. Currently, no able bodied person has any excuse to not go to school. Previously, in rural towns like this education past the sixth grade was impossible. Thanks to this Bolivarian high school, students can go on to university.



Struggling for endogenous development,
to change the negative values our
country previously held beginning with
ourselves

-Raquel, student



Chavez has expectations for the people—to get an education is first, especially for the poor. This is a striking contrast to decades of dictatorship in which the wealthy received all the benefits of oil profits and the nation's resources.

its more than the classroom



La Pastora school was built in an abandoned coffee factory. The stream below was contaminated with pollutants until the students of *La Pastora*, as a part of their science class experiments, worked together to test the water, analyze the results, clean the stream, and educate the community.



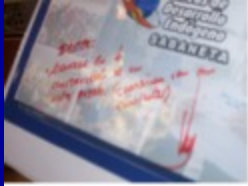
Above is a Bolivarian cafeteria where students, of all ages, can receive free lunches everyday. In addition to a classroom, there is also an area for students to have recess and play baseball.

“Bolivarian schools will be successful when the community also becomes responsible.”

-Goya



La Zaragoza school, a catholic school, is entirely run by the members of the community. Students do not refer to their teachers as Mr. or Mrs. but by their first name. this eliminates the traditional hierarchy. They also practice collective learning and everything the students do, including clean the bathrooms, the teachers also do. The individuality of each student is respected. For example, to prevent students from dropping out, they are expected to learn to read between ages 7 and 9.



“La democracia es un modo de convivencia libre y pacífica. Nos enseña a dar la mano al vecino y a luchar contra el tirano... la democracia es dialogo y el dialogo abre las puertas de la paz. Solo si defendemos la democracia estaremos en posibilidad de preservar la paz.”

-Octavio Paz



“People coming out of ignorance
is the greatest thing”

—*Mission Ribas*
teacher

