

Villages of Opportunity

For almost 40 years, **Opportunity International** has been providing economic self-empowerment options for Colombians, helping them start or expand a small business through microfinance. Now Opportunity International is pioneering a high-growth formal financial institution (FFI) in Colombia, focused on the poorest quadrant of the population.

By partnering with a Village of Opportunity, you will assist our efforts to launch this FFI and enable thousands of Colombians to have new access to microloans and other business-building services such as **savings accounts** and **insurance**.



Villages of Opportunity

seeks to create long-term relationships between a community in the developing world and interested groups or individuals in Canada. Through this shoulder-to-shoulder approach to microfinance, a 'village' of people in Canada will help bring dignity and new opportunities to another village of people rich in energy, ideas and innovation.

Sixty villages in Colombia are waiting to make the connection with interested groups of Canadians!



THE NAME CANADA IS DERIVED FROM THE WORD "KANATA", A HURON-IROQUOIS WORD FOR "SETTLEMENT" OR "VILLAGE"

It takes a village...

Through the philanthropic donations of socially-responsible investors, Opportunity International Canada can provide the funds needed to reach multiple communities in Colombia. By combining the resources of many, new economic opportunities and new hope will be offered to thousands of people.

Investors in a Village of Opportunity will help launch hundreds of small businesses that will directly impact the entrepreneurs' families and their entire community. Furthermore, because 95% of Opportunity International loans are repaid, investments are recycled and reused over and over again, allowing more families to break the cycle of chronic poverty.

Benefits to Colombian Villages

The benefits of providing microfinance services to economically disadvantaged villages in Colombia are numerous. For the first time, many residents will be able to access:

- ◇ Business loans
- ◇ Savings accounts
- ◇ Home improvement loans
- ◇ New community partnerships like water projects
- ◇ Young Entrepreneurs program – teaching entrepreneurial skills to teenagers

Villages of Opportunity will provide more than loans and training; it will also become a forum of transformation for individuals, families and communities. Through weekly group meetings with Opportunity staff members, residents will have the opportunity to support each other through business, family and community challenges.

Be a Village Partner

Investment in a Village of Opportunity is \$150,000.

60 Village partnerships are now available in Colombia.

Who can invest?

- Individual donors
- Churches
- Corporations and/or their employees
- Community groups
- Groups of friends

All Canadian Partners will:

- ◆ Be committed to one specific Colombian Village for a minimum of three years
- ◆ Experience the transformation that comes from being in a long-term relationship: Canadian Partner, Opportunity International Canada and the Colombian Village
- ◆ Be connected to other Village Partners in Canada (regional gatherings)
- ◆ Have the opportunity to raise awareness in their community throughout the year
- ◆ Have access to resources and Opportunity Canada staff as keynote speakers to promote this hope and vision of village-to-village partnership with Colombia
- ◆ Receive pictures of their partner Village, semi-annual reports and additional information as it is available
- ◆ Further opportunities to collaborate and innovate with Opportunity Canada and Opportunity Colombia as the relationship progresses



Loan client with her daughter in Colombia

What kind of businesses do Opportunity clients operate?

Microentrepreneurs operate an extremely diverse group of businesses. In urban areas they might include shopkeepers, artisans, street vendors, taxi service providers, repair people or manufacturers.

In rural areas, microentrepreneurs tend to be farmers or those who operate agriculture-related businesses such as food processing or trade.

To register...

Please complete the Villages of Opportunity registration form. For more information about Villages of Opportunity, please contact the National Office:

295 The West Mall, Suite 504

Toronto, ON M9C 4Z4

1-877-867-2448 or 416-444-2448

www.opportunityinternational.ca