

BBVA Colombia has awarded education grants and resources worth 100 million pesos to the Department of Caldas

- **Nearly 400 children belonging to the Fandis and Fesco Foundations are to benefit from the money provided by BBVA Colombia**
- **The investment runs to a total of 100 million pesos and is part of BBVA's Social Responsibility Plan for 2008.**



With an investment of 100 million pesos, consisting in the donation of education scholarships for disabled children from La Dorada (Caldas) and the provision of resources to aid educational processes for the prevention of psychoactive drug use and support for sex education, BBVA Colombia continues to provide support for the children from society's lowest strata through its Social Responsibility Plan.

In the first case, 70 minors from the Foundation for Attention to the Disabled (Fandis) from the most underprivileged sectors (strata 1 and 2) in the town of La Dorada (Caldas) are to receive a scholarship each to help them cover the cost of education in their special learning process. Similarly, 320 children from the Foundation for the Integral Development of Childhood, Youth and the Family (Fesco) based in the city of Manizales - are to receive 50 million pesos to finance education processes and decision making on drug use and sex education. These contributions are furthered increased by the donation of 3,500 million pesos to the Caldas Hospital for its reactivation as the department's most important health centre.

"These contributions reflect the support that BBVA has been providing, in its commitment and vocation as a responsible company with respect to the region and the country, thus strengthening relations between private enterprise and public administration and bringing our financial company in line with the needs of the less-favoured sector of the population", BBVA Colombia chairman Óscar Cabrera Izquierdo stated.

The awarding ceremony, which took place at the Hotel Termales El Otoño, was attended by BBVA Colombia chairman, Oscar Cabrera Izquierdo, accompanied by the Governor of Caldas, Mario Aristizabal Muñoz and the Mayor of Manizales, Juan Manuel Llano Uribe, as well as the Department's Education Secretary, Heberth de Jesús, and that for the city of Manizales, María Constanza Montoya Naranjo.

In addition to providing support for culture through its Art Gallery and sponsorship of a variety of organizations, through its Social Responsibility Plan, BBVA Colombia is to invest over 3,668 million pesos on education and will benefit over 3,000 minors with education scholarships implying not only food but also the donation of satchels with learning material for 16,000 boys and girls with limited resources in 14 of the country's cities.