

# EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

## Family Week Trip to Colombia

JUNE 19 – 25, 2011

**YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED** to join Opportunity International for a week filled with learning, new experiences and community in Colombia. Family Week Trips are designed for Governors who want their families to connect with our work and the world at a deeper level.

**YOU'LL DISCOVER** how clients in Colombia have used Opportunity's financial services for the past 30 years to work their way out of poverty despite unstable politics and economic fluctuations. You'll see firsthand why Opportunity is building a bank to serve the millions of displaced persons in Colombia who struggle to support their families.

**OUR ITINERARY** will be filled with hands-on learning activities that reflect Opportunity's values, with a focus on poverty, entrepreneurship, faith and stewardship. Your family will participate in a meaningful service project and you'll meet and interact with our microfinance clients in their homes and places of business. By attending Trust Group meetings, you'll see how a small loan, savings, insurance and training can transform the lives of those living in poverty. In addition, your family will get to experience the local culture and cuisine of Colombia.

You'll leave Colombia with unforgettable memories, new friends and a renewed vision of how your family can help alleviate global poverty.

*Two years ago, Bertha Urrutia became ill, lost her job and was forced to move to Henequen, a poor neighborhood just outside Cartagena, Colombia. To support her family, she opened a general store in her home. Soon thereafter, she met Opportunity International Loan Officer Diane Araujo, who encouraged her to join a Trust Group. With the group guarantee, she was able to take out a loan to build up her inventory of dry goods and hardware items.*

*Bertha says she has learned to love and respect her loan officer and the 18 group members, who support one another in good and bad times. "People have lost family or had children in the hospital, and I've seen the love of God extended to them by our group," she says.*

*With increased profits, Bertha has been able to put more meat and fish on the table and her health has improved. She's also been able to improve their housing, as well as educate her son, Pablo. "Now I can afford all the supplies he needs to go to school." Bertha dreams of finishing school herself and accessing more capital to grow her business beyond her neighborhood. She says, "Before, I didn't have these opportunities. Thanks to Opportunity, I now have capital and better economic stability." She also sees the hand of God at work in her life. "When one has the necessity and then there is the loan, it is the blessing of God."*



# Itinerary

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19:** Depart in the morning for Bogota. Local Opportunity staff will meet you upon arrival and take you to your hotel.

**MONDAY, JUNE 20:** Join your fellow travelers for breakfast and enjoy an introductory presentation by Jim Frantz, chief transformation officer for Opportunity Colombia. Put on your walking shoes for an eye-opening visit with our clients in their homes and businesses. Enjoy dinner at an authentic Colombian restaurant in historic downtown Bogota.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21:** Depart for another inspiring day with clients at a Trust Group meeting and in their places of business. After lunch, enjoy free time shopping in downtown Bogota. Depart on a late afternoon flight to Cartagena, check into your hotel and have dinner.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22:** Tour an Opportunity branch and join in a devotional time with staff before heading out to the field. After lunch, get your hands dirty as we join together in a service project for our local office and hardworking clients.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23:** Spend the morning in Cartagena in the field learning about the lives of people who are using our microfinance services to work their way out of poverty. Watch as our clients proudly demonstrate their work and share their before and after stories.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24:** On your last day, relax at the hotel, shop in the beautiful historic walled city of Cartagena, or take a boat tour on the sparkling Caribbean Sea. Share your memories at a final group dinner and discussion.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25:** Return home with new friends, unforgettable memories and the inspiration to become more involved in Opportunity's mission to help end global poverty.

**OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT**  
In our 20 years of conducting Insight Trips, we have always provided a safe and rewarding visit for our participants. Every trip is carefully planned in conjunction with local Opportunity staff and hospitality experts to ensure your safety and comfort. We will also offer you a guidebook that includes everything you need to know about traveling in that particular country.

## Registration

### HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER FOR YOUR INSIGHT TRIP:

- 1) Contact your regional director or Susana Georgescu in Opportunity's international education department, at [sgeorgescu@opportunity.org](mailto:sgeorgescu@opportunity.org) or 630-242-4127. Registration deadline is April 20, 2011.  
**(Early registration discount of \$150 per person applies if registered by April 1, 2011)**
- 2) Go to [Opportunity.org/insight](http://Opportunity.org/insight)  
Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

### SUMMARY OF COSTS:

\$2,268 payment to Opportunity  
*Includes all meals and beverages (excluding alcohol), local transportation, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs.*

\$800 estimated airfare (from Chicago)  
*Airfare to be booked and paid for by the traveler.*

\$638 hotel costs  
*Hotel cost estimate is per person, based on double occupancy. Hotel costs are paid by each traveler upon checkout.*

**\$3,676 total cost estimate\***

*\*Incidentals, shots, passports, visas, souvenirs and optional sightseeing not included.*

- 3) Make travel arrangements once all of the trip participants have registered. We strongly discourage booking your air travel before you hear from us. If you require booking assistance, contact Opportunity's preferred travel partner, Travel Inc., at 877-548-2995.
- 4) Prepare for departure.  
Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your intended departure date. Visit [www.vp2go.com](http://www.vp2go.com) for assistance in obtaining a passport.  
Consult your doctor for any necessary immunizations and vaccines. For a traveler's health clinic near you, go to [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).

## Spotlight on Colombia

**LOCATION:** Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea between Panama and Venezuela, and the North Pacific Ocean between Ecuador and Panama

**CLIMATE:** Tropical along coast and eastern plains, cooler in highlands

**TERRAIN:** Flat coastal lowlands, central highlands, high Andes Mountains, eastern lowland plains

**POPULATION:** 45 million

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish

**GDP PER CAPITA:** \$8,800

To learn more, visit [opportunity.org](http://opportunity.org)

Opportunity International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.