



Niños & Crías
Aprender para conservar la Naturaleza

Editor/Translator: Ana Morales

Niños y Crías NEWSLETTER

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“Chen kolel ‘ob”

By: Addy Escamilla.

In 2003, a team of 8 women was formed, “Chen kolel ‘ob” (“Only Women”, in Maya), in Celestun, a community within the Biosphere Reserve of Ría Celestun. The group saw an opportunity to increase its financial economy and social well being as well as benefiting the environment through the recollection of PET. Today, this initiative can be considered a successful example of solid waste recycling.

Since its beginning, the group has worked recollecting PET plastic in their community. The volume of this plastic has increased yearly from 18.2 tons in 2003 to 30.4 tons in 2006.

In May 2006, the group had grown to 17 members. Ría Celestun’s Reserve Directorate in conjunction with Niños y Crías’ Environmental Education Department, supported its effort by helping obtain its Legal Status, being that they are a valuable source of environmental healing for their community.

In the month of June, the Federal Ministry for the Environment (SEMARNAT), announced a grant program where “Chen kolel ‘ob” had the opportunity to submit a proposal which was approved and where members obtained funds to acquire safety equipment, tools, vehicles and uniforms needed to perform their tasks.

The perseverance and commitment of the “Chen kolel ‘ob” group resulted in a year full of achievements: a piece of land donated by the Yucatan State Rural Development Program where they built their PET recollecting center, the Reserve granted them extra funds to make it more functional.

At 4 years from its birth, “Chen kolel ‘ob” has collected a total of 70.6 tons of PET, equivalent to more than 3 million plastic bottles, thus, we can presume, that if it weren’t for them most of

this waste would probably be scattered throughout the community.



Chen kolel ‘ob obtains 17 new tricycles to collect PET.

We recognize and applaud the great effort that this group of women has done and for which we commit ourselves to continue our support in the search for a better price for their product.



PET Collecting Center.

This story does not end here, it has gone beyond this port and it is now an example that is being followed by other Yucatan coastal communities.

We do hope to continue writing stories of success where not only we report social benefits to communities: better quality of life, financial equity and better health, but also where these efforts bring benefits and joy to “Mother Earth”.