



*United States Agency for International Development  
San Salvador, El Salvador*

## ***Information Sheet*** *TRANSLATED from Spanish to English*

*November 19, 2005*

### **Certified coffee sales allow the opening of “Los Gutiérrez” School**

Today, San Miguel’s Barrios City is celebrating. Thanks to a contribution of \$35 thousand by the Barrios City Cooperative, the “Los Gutiérrez” School will open today. Guests of honor at the event include El Salvador’s President Elías Antonio Saca, Minister of Economy Yolanda de Gavidia, the Presidential Coffee Commissioner José Antonio Salaverría and the director of the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) mission to San Salvador Mark Silverman, among other special guests.

The program includes the presentation, “United for Sustainable Coffee Growing,” which will highlight the Barrios City Cooperative’s achievements, its Rainforest Alliance certification and social responsibility. At the same time, the cooperative will award Mark Silverman the title of Honorary Member to recognize USAID’s support for national coffee growers.

Through the help of USAID’s Regional Quality Coffee Program, the cooperative has certified all of its farms in the last two years with the Rainforest Alliance. The Cooperative has also sold 8,700 quintals of certified coffee to Kraft for more than a million dollars, or nine percent of its total production (93,400 quintals), which has generated value added that the members invest back into their communities.

Among other achievements, the cooperative has financed the “El Amatón” Ecological center, 42 manzanas of pine and oak that make up “Finca La Montaña” Environmental Reserve, a vegetable and fruit demonstrative diversification center, the formation of the ecological park “La Coyotera”, the construction of “El Suspiro” Panoramic Park and the construction of the “Los Gutiérrez” School that will benefit 125 children.