



Spring 2015—Colombia
Education Brings Hope



From mother to teacher

My name is Neyla G. Aguilar López. I am 28 years old and I live in El Progreso with my husband and my children: Nicole Guevara is 8, and Jafet is 3. When I arrived in the neighborhood I looked for a good preschool for my daughter Nicole and I heard very good things about the Centro de Capacitación del Niño (CCN). I enrolled my daughter at CCN in pre-kindergarten in 2010.

After a while I began helping at the school with shopping and cooking, and the teachers began to trust me. After helping out, I started to take turns as a substitute teacher. My daughter also continued to study at CCN because she liked the school. It's a place very dedicated to work, responsibility, creativity and collaboration with the community.

When my daughter finished her time at CCN in 2013, I enrolled my son Jafet for the 2014 school year and I went from being a substitute to being a permanent kindergarten teacher. So now I'm not only asking them to be responsible for my son, but I am responsible for the children of others. It is beautiful to hear their stories from day to day, to share with them, and the most special thing is the way in which the children mold our character as adults and teachers. Today I can say that I'm very happy as a member of the work team at CCN. I have learned a lot of things and I am thankful.

News

Income inequality continues to be a major issue in Colombia as in the rest of Central America. Employers in Colombia report that this is because of a shortage of people trained for available jobs; skills that are needed to do well-paid jobs are not widely taught in schools and universities, and many companies bring in foreign workers to fill the gaps instead of employing locals.

Update

Education Brings Hope continues to support 100 children in preschool and primary school. All the children come from the neighborhood of El Progreso, which was settled in 1982 by families displaced by conflict. The program has begun a side project training women in tailoring and clothes making, which helps them provide for their families.



Some of the children with an MCC Seed volunteer.



Neyla's home.

Photos and report by program staff.

Thank you for your support

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