

Changing Lives Through Opportunities: Carlos Andres' Story at Children of Medellín



Seventeen-year-old Carlos Andres is an inspiring example of how opportunities and support can transform lives. Born on the Colombian coast, Carlos moved with his family to Medellín in search of better prospects—a journey that ultimately led him to the foundation, a place that changed everything.

In Carlos' own words: “I studied at a small school and had very few opportunities. When I arrived in Medellín, my sister told me about the foundation, and since then, everything has become a little easier. Learning English, studying better, and having more opportunities.”

The foundation offered Carlos more than just education. It became a safe space for personal and professional growth. “The foundation has made me stronger and has helped me become a better person,” Carlos shared. “Honestly, I don't think I could have achieved what I have now without them.”

Finding Strength in Community

One of Carlos' favorite aspects of the foundation is its vibrant community. Through English classes and other programs, he has met new people and built valuable friendships. “I used to be a shy person, but the foundation helped me overcome that. Now I socialize more, and learning English has opened amazing opportunities for me.”

His fondest memories are tied to the people he has met at the foundation. Carlos speaks warmly about his English teacher and his Entendamos instructor, both of whom have inspired him in many ways.

Big Dreams for the Future

Carlos' dreams are both inspiring and ambitious. “I want to travel the world with my mother and work at a good company where I can use my English skills. But I also want to help people, just like the foundation does.”



Carlos is already taking steps toward these goals. Recently, he collaborated with a partner on the project “Leadership in My Neighborhood,” titled “The Voices of Yourself.” This powerful initiative aims to tackle homophobia and promote understanding within his community. “We want people to be themselves and live without fear or prejudice,” he explained. The project is not only about combating homophobia but also about fostering broader acceptance of diverse identities. Carlos is committed to creating a safe space for everyone, regardless of their background or sexual orientation.

This project is deeply personal to Carlos, as it reflects not only his own experiences but also the desire of many in his neighborhood to express themselves without fear of rejection. “It’s about allowing people to be their true selves, no matter their situation,” he added. For Carlos, this initiative is a way to turn his personal experiences into action, hoping to inspire others to fight for change as well.

The inspiration for this project came from Carlos' own observations in his neighborhood, where discrimination is a daily reality. “We want to create a neighborhood, a community, a city, and a country where respect and free choices are at the center. It’s a small step toward a bigger change.” After completing the project, Carlos felt the support and saw its impact, not just on himself but also on the community.



Staying Motivated Despite Challenges



Carlos' journey has not always been easy. He comes from one of Medellín's poorest neighborhoods, where violence and limited resources make daily life difficult. Balancing school and personal growth brings additional challenges, but his determination keeps him on track. His motto? “After the storm comes the rainbow.” Carlos uses these words to remind himself that even in the toughest times, better days are always possible.

When asked what message he would like to share with others, Carlos said: “Keep going, no matter how hard life gets. Better days are always ahead.”

A Foundation That Changes Lives

Carlos is one of many whose lives have been transformed by the work of the foundation. By providing education, fostering a sense of community, and encouraging young people to dream big, the foundation continues to make an impact.

As Carlos puts it: “The foundation changes lives. Not just mine, but so many others. It’s a place where people can grow, find themselves, and discover who they want to be.”

Carlos' story is a testament to the power of opportunities and community. His dreams are big, his determination is strong, and with the ongoing support of the foundation, there is no doubt that he will achieve them.

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