

# A Changed Life

Stories of Inspiring Hope from FundaVida

## A Young Girl Forgives

**T**hroughout her childhood and adolescence, 19 year-old Karla Madrigal has suffered frequent panic attacks. These shocks of intense fear find their roots in the tragedies of Karla's earliest memories. She recalls fleeing from her childhood home when it was nearly washed away in a flash flood. She vividly remembers visiting her older siblings in jail. But perhaps the most difficult memories surround her father's violent outbursts.

"I remember one night like it was yesterday," recalls Karla, "I woke up to my Dad screaming at the neighbors, shooting his revolver into the air." Nine year-old Karla ran outside with her mother to calm him down, when suddenly one of the falling bullets pierced her mother's lower right abdomen. Nine year-old Karla held her mother in her arms until the ambulance arrived. Her mother survived. The bullet was removed, but the memories remained deeply buried in Karla's heart.

In 2008, after repeating 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Karla was on the verge of dropping out of school. Fortunately, a friend introduced Karla to FundaVida's Interactive Computer Center. The classes sharpened her technical skills, but more importantly the encouragement and counseling from FundaVida staff bolstered Karla's self-esteem. Karla loved it so much, that she played an integral role in founding a FundaVida Teen's Club where teens meet twice a week for leadership training, counseling and developing lasting friendships.

This past February, Karla co-led a cabin at FundaVida's annual teen's camp. According to her co-leader, "Karla comforted the younger, home-sick girls, and explained the security found in trusting God and the freedom found in forgiveness." Today, Karla is less than a year away from graduation and is closer to her mother *and father* than ever before. The change in Karla's heart has been radical and has allowed her to overcome the shocks of this world and to make a difference in her own family. Thank you for your support as FundaVida continues to cultivate change in the lives of children throughout San Jose, Costa Rica.



## Transforming Lives

**FundaVida** effectively breaks the cycle of poverty afflicting children and families in at-risk areas of Costa Rica by offering life-changing hope, instilling purpose and inspiring freedom.

**We achieve this** by promoting physical and emotional health, creating educational opportunity and developing character and strength of spirit.

**We are committed** to building long-term, caring relationships, empowering youth to discover and use their talents, and leveraging our resources for the greatest possible impact.

**Learn more:**

[www.fundavida.org](http://www.fundavida.org)

**Donate today:**

[www.puravidacoffee.com/foundersfund](http://www.puravidacoffee.com/foundersfund)

"**The destiny of a child** is shaped not by peers but by a caring adult. At FundaVida we desire for every child to know that they are valuable, loved by God and that hope is within their reach."

Chris Dearnley  
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