

A Changed Life

Stories of Inspiring Hope from FundaVida

Forgiveness Forms a Leader

20 year old, Jorge Robles Rojas has few, but painful memories of his father. He remembers his father's abusive acts of violence against his mother. His dad left the family when Jorge was only a small boy. Raised in the neighborhood of Concepcion de Alajuelita, Jorge encountered an open market for drugs and sex-trafficking. Disobedient, stubborn, and thick-skinned, Jorge spent most of his childhood with clenched fists, fending off threats or even suspicious looks. After he received failing grades from school in 2006, his mother asked Jorge to help support the family economically.

FundaVida gave Jorge a chance as an intern in the Teens@Work program. Jorge made some mistakes and lost his first part time job, but he learned the importance of honesty. In February of 2008, at a camp retreat, Jorge encountered God's love for the first time and forgave his father. He learned the importance of forgiveness and the change was extraordinary.

Once distant and resentful, Jorge flourished as a leader in FundaVida's Teens' Club earning the trust and respect of his peers. In September 2009, he started his first full-time job at Applebee's.

Jorge recently commented "During one of the first days at work, my mom came to visit. When she told me how proud she was, it was all I could do not to cry. I am so grateful for this job." Jorge's boss at Applebee's made it a point to thank FundaVida for recommending Jorge. "He is one of our hardest working employees," commented the manager, "but what makes Jorge different is that each task he does, he does with joy."

A heart that was once bitter and resentful has been transformed into one that is forgiving and joyful. Thank you for your support, as FundaVida continues to cultivate change in the lives of at-risk youth 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

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"**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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