



Spring 2013—Colombia
Education Brings Hope



The Garzón Velándia Family

We've lived here 10 years. I began my family life with my first partner. We had a son, Miguel. My daughter Karen is from a new relationship.

All that is done and planned with the school seems to revolve around family. It impresses us that homework is not just to reinforce concepts; it also makes us responsible for accompanying our children, and so we spend more time with them. My daughter teaches her grandfather what she learns each day. Although illiterate, he is practically her student. This generates the gift of family unity. My daughter always reminds us at meals that we have to be thankful because it's God that gives us what we have.

It's important to support our children in their education so that they will have a better life. We feel part of the educational community when they worry and help in our needs. Although my daughter had to catch up when she entered the program, she finished the school year perfectly. She is now more open socially, has more friends and shows good manners.

Dilsa's dream: finish school and become a doctor

Miguel's dream: be a soccer player

Karen's dream: be a nurse, teacher and mother

News

The peace dialogues of November 2012 bring cautious hope for an eventual end to conflict. At the same time, in the neighborhood of El Progreso, new gang rivalries create disturbances and insecurity. Other challenges include high school dropout rates, drug addiction in preadolescents, street children, HIV/AIDS and parents more involved in work with less time for their children.

Update

Students come hoping to improve their academic performance. Through an agreement with another school, graduating students get the opportunity to continue their studies without costs as long as they keep their grades up. The majority have kept their top academic positions, many proudly displaying their honorable mentions and recognitions for their good academic development.



Students at the graduation ceremony.



Graduation activities.

Report by: Program staff
Photos by: Program staff

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A program of Mennonite Central Committee

