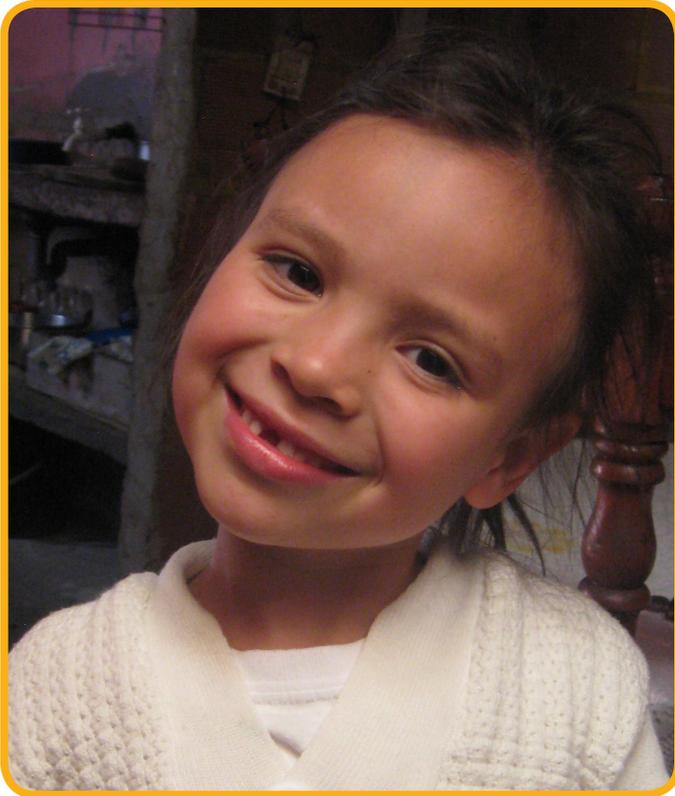




Fall 2015—Colombia  
Education Brings Hope



## Program update

In April and May a national teacher's strike interrupted public schools across the country and impacted the community. As a result, seven new students joined the Centro de Capacitación del Niño (CCN) because of their parents' concern that they would be left behind. Your support continues to provide the program with much-needed teacher's salaries, food, and teaching supplies.

## Other news

In September there was a major breakthrough in the three-year long peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the rebel group FARC, who have been at war for decades. The government believes they will be able to sign a peace deal within six months, which would bring an official end to decades of conflict.

## Thank you for your support

Call toll-free: 877-684-1181 (Canada); 888-563-4676 (U.S.)

## Support for the whole family

My granddaughter, Luisa Fernanda Mejía García, has been studying for three years since preschool and is now in grade 1. We came to the neighborhood of El Progreso displaced from Espinal. The most difficult part of our time here has been our economic situation that with each day becomes more difficult. We are three that live in this house: my husband, granddaughter and I. Thanks to God, He has never abandoned us.

Luisa likes her Spanish class and reads all that she finds to read. She was recognized at school for her academic performance in oral and writing skills during her first semester in school. She dreams of being a teacher when she grows up.

I am very thankful for the teachers, the director and everyone at the school for their efforts so that the children improve each day and can overcome life's challenges. I am thankful to God for the people that without knowing us, have offered us help with school supplies, food, pension and a good education. Their help has been not only academic but also spiritual.

During these years not only has Luisa benefited but my entire family. It saddens me thinking that she will attend a different school as she goes into second grade. Thanks to all of you for your wonderful blessings during this time.



Diana is proud of Luisa's excellent academic performance.



Diana and Luisa in the doorway of their home in El Progreso.

Story by Diana Garcia and Elizabeth Kessler  
Photos by Hermanos Menonitas del Progreso

