



This is my teenage reality

Being a teenager can be tough for anyone. Navigating relationships with your family and friends, knuckling down at school and trying to work out what you want to do when you 'grow up'. Imagine how much more difficult all this is when people write you off because you live in a 'slum' neighbourhood, you have a chaotic home life and you are just finishing a two-year sentence in juvenile detention.

When we met 17-year-old Dario, he was in exactly this situation.

"You get out and you try to get a job but no one will give you one. You have nothing to do, nowhere to live and nothing to eat. So then what? You might really want to change your life, but then you have to face the reality of your situation. And this is my reality - I don't have any family and I was stigmatised because everyone knew I'd been in a specialist facility and so, yeah, I found myself reoffending. I wanted to do the right thing and leave that life behind; it was so frustrating that I didn't have the

opportunity. I think it'd be so great if they could help you prepare for when you leave and then check up on how you're getting on."

We have listened to Dario and other young people in his position. This year, we will start running a project that provides practical and emotional support to children while they are in detention facilities as well as guidance and access to services after they leave.

Now, we just need your support to help make this work possible.

Help teenagers like Dario get what they never had. A chance.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY



Children in detention

There are around 4,000 adolescents (aged 14 and above) in penal detention facilities in Colombia. There are thousands more detained in secure children's homes. The vast majority of these young people are from marginalised neighbourhoods in Colombia's large cities.

Over the past 3 years, we have been working with our partner Tiempo de Juego to address the needs of young women within both types of detention facilities in the Colombian capital, Bogotá. Almost all these young women told us that, before being detained, they had lived on the streets, had had abusive relationships and developed substance addictions. Many were from single parent families and had assumed the role of 'provider' at a young age. Too young to get a

job, they became involved in gangs and petty crime to make money.

While young people are in detention, the problems that led them there do not go away. For instance, Colombian Social Services does not support their families to address the problems that contributed to their child's detention. There are guidelines for the psychological and life skills support that young people should receive whilst detained, however, our experience has shown us that the quality of this support varies widely between centres. This means that when many young people reach the end of their sentences, they do not have the skills, self-confidence or support networks that would help them build a new life for themselves. After leaving detention, they receive no follow-up support.

"Some kids get out and they have family waiting to support them. That's cool, but what if you don't have a family?"*

Learning from our experiences

Those of you who have supported us for some years may remember that we have previously worked with children and young people as they prepare for leaving institutional care. From 2010 - 2015 we supported our partner AIMY in Bogotá to develop a highly successful programme that enabled families to provide a safe and stable environment for their child when they returned home after being in care. In Cali, starting in 2004, we helped another partner, Formación de Futuros, provide young adult care leavers with friendly advice, practical skills training (cooking, cleaning, money management) and a place to call home.

"Companies should offer us opportunities. They shouldn't shut their doors to us because we don't have certified experience. If we've showed that we're hardworking and committed during our sentence, they should take us on, train us and give us a job."*

Our experience with these two partners, in addition to what we have learnt through our work in detention centres over the past three years, has showed us that on-going, personalised accompaniment is fundamental to young people's successful reintegration into their family and community and their ability to access education or employment.

So, over the next three years, in continued partnership with Tiempo de Juego, we will run a new project which will ensure that young people across Bogotá receive this type of accompaniment as they prepare to leave detention.

Improving life chances of young people

As of this year, we are working in four juvenile detention and secure children's homes in Bogotá, with 160 adolescent boys and girls. Weekly activities will help these young people heal from traumas they experienced before and during their involvement in crime and will help them make positive, informed decisions about their futures. Echoing the approach of many successful reintegration programmes across the globe, many of the Tiempo de Juego team

"My main fear was of being judged. I committed a serious crime and some of my family don't recognise that I've changed... Moving home has been tough."*

running the project are from similar backgrounds to the young people. Their determination to help them break the cycle of violence and crime in their communities is extremely inspiring.

We will also work with the young people's families, helping them to improve their relationships with their sons and daughters so that they are better able to support them in the future.

The project will work, too, with staff at the detention centres, to convince them of the benefits of a less punitive, more therapeutic and educational approach to working with young people. We hope that by the end of the project, the staff will be able to provide this support without our input.

We will also build a network of service providers - healthcare, employers, colleges and sports clubs - to help them break down the barriers that exclude ex-young offenders from accessing the life-

changing opportunities that exist within their city. We will run events within the detention facilities where these organisations can reach out to young people as they prepare to leave detention and encourage them to enrol in their services.

By working in this way, building capacity within detention facilities and wider society to understand and respond to the needs of ex-young offenders, we will improve the life chances of many hundreds more young people than those we reach directly through this project, and for many years more to come.

With your help, we can transform a young person's life after detention. We can change stress and fear to opportunity and hope.

Please, donate today

*All quotes are verbatim from participants in the project.



Children Change Colombia on the road!

As a small NGO, we can learn a lot from others in our field, but we also have a lot of expertise to share. Over recent months our team members have travelled to Asia and Africa to do just this. (At no cost to CCC.) Now CCC is becoming better known the world over!

Juan Sebastián Londoño, Project Director, was in Cape Town, South Africa

“In October I attended an event in Cape Town run by Comic Relief, alongside our partner Tiempo de Juego (TDJ). The aim was to learn from others and to improve our work. It was a great opportunity to meet the diverse group of organizations that were running similar Comic Relief-funded projects to our own. Although our projects were all in different contexts – Bogotá, Cape Town, London, and Manchester – they had a lot in common. They all involved young women in the process of finding their place in the world, with high hopes about doing the best they can for their families, for their communities, and for themselves. As I was new to CCC, it was also a good chance for me to better understand our relationship with TDJ. One of CCC’s aims is to strengthen children’s organizations in Colombia, so it was great to see the professionalism and authority with which TDJ presented our joint project.”



Jennifer Pobi-Browne, Programmes Manager, was in Kathmandu, Nepal

“In November I went on a three-day learning retreat in Nepal with 19 civil society leaders from around the world, brought together by one of our donors. The aim of the retreat was to explore key concepts used in development such as leadership, sustainability and measuring change, and what these mean for our work in practical terms. The group was diverse both geographically, with participants from four continents, and in terms of focus, with expertise ranging from climate change to health care and, of course, children’s rights. This diversity brought real strength to all of our discussions and reminded me that however different we are, we as NGOs are also a community and we are stronger and more effective when we work together and share our knowledge and expertise.”



CCC's global social network!

We are reaching new supporters across the globe. Our social media channels are enabling us to connect with new people and build an online community of supporters from all over the world.

Facebook:

We are touched and heartened by the support we've received worldwide on Facebook. People from a whole range of countries have set up Facebook fundraisers in support of CCC for their birthdays. These countries include Germany, Italy, France, Spain, USA, Australia, Austria, Norway and Colombia.

Instagram:

We're excited to say that our Instagram following is fast growing, with followers in Colombia, USA, Spain, Brazil and the UK. Instagram allows us to engage with people far-and-wide, and create a global community of people who are inspired by our work. If you'd like to join our online community you can follow us on Instagram! [@childrenchange colombia](https://www.instagram.com/childrenchange colombia)

"Caminata" in Bogotá

We've also reached new supporters in Colombia. Last year, a "caminata" or sponsored walk was held in Bogotá in support of CCC. The event was organised by our community ambassador in Bogotá, Simon Terrington, and was a huge success with 37 participants raising over £400! If you are interested in organising your own event, like Simon did, then please do get in touch with us for tips and ideas.

We have a new partnership with Sans Matin! Sans Matin is a family run business started by cousins Charlie and Lockie Cunningham. Working with a local family run factory, they make high quality, handmade shoes in Medellín and are donating 2% of their online sales to Children Change Colombia.



Support from businesses worldwide

We're proud to say that our partnership with B1G1, a corporate giving platform, continues to flourish. Together we are helping businesses from across the world help children change Colombia! Members of B1G1 from Australia, The Netherlands, Singapore, Guatemala, Lithuania, USA, Spain, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa have raised £11,500 in the last year for CCC!



Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers who make our work possible!

Meet our Star Supporters



Yvonne Velasquez

Yvonne is one of our longest (if not the longest!) serving volunteers. Her continuous support over the last 20 years with events such as the Thames Walk and her work in the community has been invaluable. Yvonne has irrepressible enthusiasm, passion and ability to come up with fresh new ideas, such as our recent Christmas Campaign with Colombian restaurants around London. Thank you for your incredible support, Yvonne!

Caroline Moser

Caroline has recently stepped down as Chair of CCC after 6 years. As an anthropologist and leader in her field of urban development and social policy, she has been an inspiring leader to us all. The CCC team would like to welcome her successor, Carolina Giraldo, and to thank all of our fantastic board members.

Mary Collins

Mary Collins is one of our many wonderful international supporters. She has been a great friend in need to CCC for many years and her generous donations always come to the rescue whenever our partners are in need of extra funds. A big thank you to Mary whose kindness has made a huge impact on the lives of thousands of children. *"I feel like I get way more out of it than ever I've put in!"* says Mary.

Community

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in recent months through innovative fundraising events and collections: Giovanna cycled 2032km - the equivalent distance of London to Lisbon - from her living room, Javier set up a facebook fundraiser raising over £1500 for our Covid-19 appeal, David and Lyn Payne held another fantastic chilli night; Betty Encinales set up a birthday fundraiser; Colin Coulter ran a half marathon and hosted dinner parties; Felipe Bejarano ran the Lisbon Marathon; Laura Quirke cycled 1000km from Bogotá to Cartagena!

Thank you also to all the churches that have raised money, including: **The Congregation of La Retraite (Weston-Super-Mare), St. Botolph Lullingstone Parochial Church (Orpington), Alderney Quaker Meeting.**



From the left: Betty Encinales, Laura Quirke, Giovanna

Online events

Although we've had to cancel our Project Talk and Thames Walk events this year, the lockdown hasn't stopped the CCC community from finding innovative ways of coming together online. Not only have we discovered new ways of fundraising but the past few months have seen people from all over the world get involved in CCC events.

The Jumping Jacks event, organized by volunteers Ben and Jo in Bogota, went viral with over 150 volunteers of 20 nationalities taking part! The live-streamed event, which raised an amazing £2500 for our Help Colombia Covid-19 appeal, consisted of a full-on 24-hour session of non-stop jumping jacks carried out by volunteers from their homes, gardens and local parks.

We've also hosted an online Latin American Quiz night, which turned out to be a great success and which we hope to make a regular event.

Upcoming events

This year we're planning to host our 'Fiesta por Colombia', a global online party featuring performances from Colombian musicians, DJs and dancers, and cumbia and salsa dance classes with our patron Fernando Montano and Cali Salsa! Event date T.B.C

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Some of you don't know me yet. I am Ángela Carreño, the new Executive Director of Children Change Colombia. I would like to thank all the staff, partners, Board members, our patron, Fernando Montaña and supporters for the warm welcome I have received in my new position.

So to introduce myself, I have 13 years of experience working in the international development and humanitarian field and I am very pleased to be taking on this new challenge to lead the biggest UK organisation that works exclusively in Colombia, my homeland.

During the past few months, the CCC team and our local partners in Colombia have been working really hard to cope with the economic and social effects of the pandemic and the lockdown. New online methodologies have been developed so that we are able to continue working with the children, adolescents and communities of the current projects. We also went the extra mile and launched the "Help Colombia Covid-19 Campaign" to support the most affected families of the communities our partners work with, and we are very pleased to say it was a resounding success.

We had the goal of raising £8,500, yet thanks to your support we managed to raise £12,000! Overall, we're really pleased to say we've supported 2,933 people.

So far, with your support we've been able to:

- Provide housing support to keep a roof over the heads of 19 families in Bogota

- Support 170 families in Bogota and Quibdo with food and toiletries.
- Continue providing remote psychosocial support for 332 children and young people, keeping them safe from the risks that have increased as a result of the pandemic.
- 125 dignity kits including sanitary items for girls and adolescents in Quibdo.
- Personal Protective Equipment and first aid kits for 12 communities in Choco.

We have already started planning with local organisations to continue supporting the families most affected by the crisis in Colombia and adapt the future projects to be able to support children in Colombia in the new global context.

On behalf of everyone at Children Change Colombia, I would like to thank our amazing CCC community for all your support during these difficult times – we know it hasn't been easy and yet you have still managed to support us so well! I also want to reassure you that our commitment to children and young people in Colombia continues, even more so now in such troubled times.

Thank you once again for making what we do possible,

Ángela María Carreño Malaver,
Executive Director

Summer 2020



Regular Giving

Instructions to the Manager

Your account

Name of bank or building society:

Address:

Postcode:

Account No. Sort Code -

Your donation

Please pay **Children Change Colombia** (Account No.: **22052801**, Sort Code: **60-07-02**) at NatWest Bank plc, 14 High Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1AX,

The sum of £ on the day of / / 20

(This date should be at least one month from today).

And the same sum Monthly Quarterly Yearly

Your details

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Tel:

Signed:

Date: dd/mm/yy

Gift Aid Declaration

I am a UK Tax Payer and I would like Children Change Colombia to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made to them in the past 4 years as well as any future donations. I will notify them if I am no longer eligible or if I change address.

To qualify for gift aid I understand that I must have paid income / capital gains tax that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs I donate to will reclaim on my Gift Aid donations in the tax year in which they are received and that other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not count for this purpose.

Signed:

Date: dd/mm/yy

Colombian diary

Simon Terrington, a British supporter based in Colombia explains why CCC is important to him.

"I am very pleased to be supporting Children Change Colombia. Having supported one or two other charities in Colombia previously, I was looking for the opportunity to work with a reputable, well-run charity that is clear and transparent about where the donations go and how they make a difference. I like the fact that CCC have projects throughout Colombia, therefore helping different vulnerable communities. Being a dad myself, the work CCC do with children who are in terrible situations is close to my heart.

I have visited two of CCC's projects, one working to prevent gang recruitment and another that protects children from sexual exploitation. I visited the latter with Blanca from CCC's Colombia office - we met some young women who

told us about the problems they face because their neighbourhood is a 'tolerance zone' for sex work. We also listened to some children sing and took part in a band practice. Both visits were very inspiring!

I have taken on the role of Community Ambassador for CCC, based in Bogotá. Last September, Blanca and I organised a sponsored walk during Ciclovía in Bogotá - this is when the city's main roads are closed off to cars every Sunday and cyclists and pedestrians take over! There were over 30 attendees. We walked 10K and then had a great Sunday Roast at El Café Inglés (The English Café). I also helped CCC win two grants from the company I used to work for, which are helping to fund one of their projects.



My aim is to organise a couple more activities this year to continue supporting CCC. It's a fantastic charity and it's good to be able to give something back to the community."

Please donate now

Donor details (We won't share your details with anyone else.)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Tel:

Your donation

I would like to make a donation of: £5 ; £10 ; £25 ; £50 ; £100 ; Other £

Payment details

(By BACS transfer: **Children Change Colombia**; Sort code **60-07-02**; Account no. **31623212**)

Cheque (Please make cheques payable to **Children Change Colombia**)

Visa; Mastercard;

CAF Charitycard Card No.

3 digit security number (on signature strip): Expiry Date: / (mm/yy)

Signed:

Date:

Gift Aid Declaration

I am a UK Tax Payer and I would like Children Change Colombia to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made to them in the past 4 years as well as any future donations. I will notify them if I am no longer eligible or if I change address.

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Signed: _____

Date:

Yes, I require an acknowledgement (please tick or we will assume you do not; this will help us save on administration costs).

Please send me a fundraising pack

Children Change Colombia, The Green House, 244-254 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9DA.

t: 020 3559 6756 e: info@childrenchangecolombia.org w: childrenchangecolombia.org

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All photos have been taken with the children's permission and full consent has been given for their use in Children Change Colombia publications.

All names have been changed and photos carefully chosen to protect the child's identity.

Thank you!