

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Colombia Colores p. 2, Little Kangaroos p. 5, PazA la Mochila p. 6-7, Scholarship programme p. 8, Gala p. 11
www.childrenchange colombia.org



HOW TO LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Leaving a legacy donation in your will is a wonderful way to extend your dedication to transforming and supporting children and young people in Colombia. Your generous gifts allow us to continue our vital work with at-risk children and expand our projects across the country.

The process of leaving a legacy gift is simpler than you might think, and we're here to guide you every step of the way.

Prioritising Your Loved Ones

Before considering a legacy donation to an organisation like Children Change Colombia, it's crucial to ensure your loved ones are cared for and that your will accurately reflects your wishes. Additionally, choosing a trustworthy executor for your will is essential to ensure your wishes are fulfilled in your absence. Our partnership with FreeWills.co.uk provides free advice on creating legally binding documents and they can help you with all your legal queries surrounding your will.

How to Leave a Legacy

If you decide to leave a legacy to Children Change Colombia, you have three options:

1. **Pecuniary Gift:** A specific amount of money donated to CCC when your will is executed.

2. **Residuary Gift:** A share of your estate donated to CCC after your family and loved ones have been provided for. These gifts tend to have the greatest impact, as they adjust with inflation and can reduce your inheritance tax depending on how much of your estate is left to charity.
3. **Specific Gift:** Donating specific items, such as land, shares, or possessions, to Children Change Colombia.

No gift is too small; every contribution helps us ensure a brighter future for thousands of children in Colombia.

We're Here to Help

If you choose to leave a legacy gift to Children Change Colombia, although we do not offer legal advice feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about this process. Your commitment to our mission is deeply appreciated, and we are here to assist you.

For more information, visit our Legacy Giving page by scanning the QR Code where you'll find financial details and a guide to our Legacy Giving scheme.



Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of Colombia's children.



COLOMBIA COLORES

First year of 'Colombia Colores' Project

We are delighted to share the successful completion of the first year of the 'Colombia Colores' project. This initiative, aimed at bringing children from the Colombian diaspora closer to their Colombian roots, culture, traditions, and biodiversity, has been a journey filled with rich experiences, heartwarming stories, and meaningful connections. As we reach the project's conclusion, we want to reflect on our achievements, express our gratitude, and outline some final thoughts.

Project Highlights

Summer Workshops

This final cycle emphasised Colombian culture, complementing the previous focus on arts and nature. These workshops began with an exploration of the Wayuu, Muisca, and Arhuaco cultures. Initially, children delved into these cultures' creation myths, followed by lessons exploring their different languages and means of communication like ceremonial masks - serving as inspiration for the children to create their own.

Continuing this cultural journey, the children explored the tales and classic Colombian legends of La Patasola, El Mohán, Madremonte, and El Hombre Caimán. They then delved into the beloved fables of Rafael Pombo, such as "Mirringa Mirronga, la gata candonga," setting the stage for the elements of magical realism and the enchanting yellow butterflies of Gabriel García Márquez's works.

Two special sessions were held during this cycle. The first took place during our picnic on the

Thames Walk, and the second was the project's closing event, which we celebrated at an event organised by the Consulate to commemorate July 20, Colombian Independence Day.

School Workshops

As part of our process to involve more children, we partnered with Saint Gabriel's College, engaging a wider community interested in learning about Colombian and Latin American culture. During two consecutive Mondays, the team brought the Colombia Colores project to 15 students, who learnt about Muisca culture and explored the connections between Latin American countries through their indigenous heritage.

Impact and Feedback

The feedback from participants and their families has been overwhelmingly positive. Many parents expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect their children with their cultural roots, and the 136 children that attended the sessions have shown increased interest in learning more about their Colombian heritage.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the children, parents, grandparents, and volunteers who joined us in this first year. Your support, enthusiasm, and commitment were crucial to the success of Colombia Colores. Special thanks to our project team, whose dedication and hard work made this initiative possible, and to the Colombian Consulate and City Bridge Trust for their support.

If you would like to register your children for the second year project that starts with the Autumn circle please check our website.

FIELD TRIP

Angela went in May to Colombia to meet with the team and visit the different projects in the regions.



New Partnerships with Universidad del Sinú

📍 Cartagena



Peace bands from the project "Música & Armonía" with Fundación Oro Molido in rural schools

📍 Antioquia



Partnership with Universidad Reformada

📍 Barranquilla



Supporting young researchers at the research groups fair

📍 Antioquia



Leaders from the girl lead research group

📍 Minca



Strategy workshop with staff and beneficiaries

📍 Santa Marta



Peace bands from the project "Música & Armonía" with Fundación Oro Molido in rural schools

📍 Antioquia



Lili, Programmes Manager, and Angela in Fredonia

📍 Antioquia



New Project EARLY YEARS

Little Kangaroos

We are pleased to share with you our new project 'Little Kangaroo' in Cartagena. With this new initiative we want to start working in early childhood and contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of premature and low birth weight babies through the implementation of the kangaroo mother method and the use of ergonomic baby carriers.

Cartagena faces high levels of poverty and inequality, significantly affecting maternal and child health. Although there has been a reduction in the maternal mortality rate, the prevalence of low birth weight has increased.

The project will focus on working with vulnerable families and includes training primary caregivers the kangaroo mother method, which encourages skin-to-skin contact and the proper use of baby carriers, facilitating nurturing contact and strengthening the bond between mother and baby. The project also includes workshops on sexual and reproductive health, prevention of second teenage pregnancies with and prevention of gender based violence.

The aim is not only to improve the health conditions of babies and their families, but also to generate evidence on the effectiveness of babywearing in vulnerable environments, thus promoting its adoption in public policies on child health. The benefits include thermal regulation, improved breastfeeding and neurological development of the baby, as well as reducing stress and improving the physical and emotional well-being of both the baby and the parents.



Update NEW SHELTER

Emergency Project- New Shelter Update

In our last newsletter we told you about our new shelter in Chocó, we are happy to share with you the progress of our emergency project. Last May after finishing the preliminary work we started the construction of the shelter. With two levels, on the second-floor family bedrooms and communal bathrooms will be permanently available to foster displaced by emergency situations; on the other hand, the first level will be a dual space, with a communal kitchen and a big community hall will serve as transitional resting place for displaced families and a share space for collective activities, such as trainings and assemblies. We hope to complete the construction process in the upcoming months and deliver a fully operational shelter to the communities before the end of the year.

At the same time, during these months we have been able to provide support to communities in emergency situations. In June, a community in the process of returning to their community after a displacement was assisted with the delivery of food and hygiene kits to 37 families. During July, 100 kits have been delivered to families in 3 communities that are in an environmental emergency. To date, 137 families in emergency situations have been assisted, this support will continue through the rest of the year.



PazA LA MOCHILA

We are very pleased to announce that last March we launched a new project on Peace Building. PazA la Mochila is a pedagogical kit for teachers and local leaders to create education spaces with children and young people to understand the complexity of the Colombian armed conflict, assessing their impact on society and mobilising society towards peacebuilding and non-repetition. This project will impact 30 institutions and 1,500 children in the first phase.

The main objective is to facilitate the diffusion and familiarity with these resources, especially in rural areas of Colombia with limited access to digital materials. This selection and adaptation process involved the review of around 30 documents, 100 activities, and various audio-visual contents, which were classified according to pedagogical focus and methodological possibilities for different age groups.

The project also looks to generate strategic alliances to disseminate it with third parties. The goal is to promote new conversations, reflections, reparative actions, reconciliation, and peacebuilding. To this end, initial steps included two meetings with the National Ministry of Education and the Colombian Institute of

Family Welfare to identify potential connections.

Each mochila has didactical materials, games, books, offline contents, maps among others, including peace doves sewed in crochet by single head of household mothers.

The project is framed in the Truth Commission (CdV) Final Report submitted in 2022, which left behind a legacy of tools dedicated to peacebuilding, with the purpose.

The Truth Commission's pedagogical framework includes three moments:

1. Zoom in to learn: Informative activities about the armed conflict and its implications, encouraging introspection and relational connections with emotions, experiences, and thoughts as individuals and groups.
2. Articulation and social mobilisation: Connecting schools with communities to work together.
3. Create to transform: Promoting participation and change agency through artistic and cultural manifestations, both of them focus on peace building and non-repetition.



For Children Change Colombia it is important to strengthen the pedagogical skills of educational agents through the use of the PazA la Mochila kit. We have already implemented a pre pilot in 4 rural schools in the Magdalena region with teachers and children from primary and secondary levels. These workshops were an opportunity to validate the kit as a relevant material for peacebuilding.

The workshops had significant participation. Teachers acknowledged their crucial role in leading and co-creating, with an emphasis on recognizing and respecting diversity and differing opinions to achieve common goals.

The children's Pre-pilot also had a positive reception, not only corporal exercises, including relaxation and meditation, were liked and valued as novel experiences but the use of open spaces, natural materials, and new elements were validated for the groups as successful initiatives. In general, participants recognised the need for safe spaces where thoughts and feelings can be shared with classmates.

"It was an opportunity to talk about things we have never talked about - feelings and difficult situations" (Secondary student)

"Violence is being ignored for someone, peace is when you say hello and the other says it as well" (Primary student)

Finally, what are the next steps? We are working on designing and producing all of the contents and didactic materials, especially the pedagogical guide, which will be the compass to navigate this path. Our goal is to enhance sessions with a creative ambiance, encouraging exploration beyond traditional teaching methods, and creating meaningful connections between PazA la Mochila and everyday life within families and communities.

As part of our advocacy work PazA la Mochila will come to the UK in November 2024. Stay tuned to attend one of the sessions we will be giving in English and Spanish.



EDUCATION ANGELS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME UPDATE

Thank you very much! We have reached our target of 16 Angels to support our first group of rural students to study a bachelor's degree. Thanks to our alliances with Politécnico Grancolombiano and Fundación Universitaria del Area Andina, we are able to provide students with full scholarships to study bachelor's degrees. The students will also receive personal computers, an internet allowance, money to visit the university campus, and psychosocial support to help them to succeed through their five years of study.

The Angels have attended the online sessions with the scholars and received the first report of their academic and life progress. We have good news: Keiner and Gizeth, our first two scholars, who are studying Law and Psychology, got excellent academic results in their first semester at Uni. María and Andres have already started their university studies in August and we have also identified one outstanding student, Denis, who will start her studies in January 2025. Thank you very much for making all of this possible. If you would like to join our team of Angels and give to a rural or indigenous student the opportunity of their life, please send an email to info@childrenchange colombia.org



Our new scholars

María's Story

María lives in the rural region of La Sierra Nevada, on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, where she attended our 'Education, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship' project. In December 2023, she graduated from high school, where her favourite subjects were Spanish and Chemistry. She is very excited to be the first person of her family to have access to the university and has already started studying Finances and International Business at Fundación Universitaria del Area Andina.

Andrés' Story

Andrés belongs to Wiwa community, an Indigenous group from la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. He is a leader in his community and he is passionate about the mediation between Indigenous traditions and the Western world, and how we can create a balance between these two communities. He has started his professional degree on Education and Social Sciences at Fundación Universitaria del Area Andina and soon, he will start working as a teacher in an Indigenous school and will become a dad.

FUNDRAISERS

It is thanks to your support that we are able to continue impacting thousands of children in Colombia. We want to extend a special thank you to our Fundraising Champions who have taken on challenges and dedicate their efforts to supporting Children Change Colombia and our projects. Thanks to these amazing Fundraising Champions, we have been able to raise **over £10,000** so far in 2024.



Alastair and Patricia

Our long-time supporters, Alastair and Patricia, visited our project in la Sierra Nevada earlier this year and raised funds to help CCC continue to provide English classes, IT and communications workshops, and environmental awareness sessions for children in this region.



Coast-to-Coast for CCC

The '7 Amigos' took on the Coast-to-Coast Cycling Challenge and dedicated their ride and fundraising to Children Change Colombia to help us continue our work in El Choco, fighting forced recruitment of children in the region.



**Andrej Timoracky -
From the UK to Belgium**

Andrej cycled from the UK to Belgium, making every pedal count towards his fundraiser for Children Change Colombia to help us ensure every child enjoys a fulfilling childhood and bright future.



**Sebastian Fernandez - Hackney Half
2024 and The Big Half 2024**

Sebastian ran the Hackney Half 2024 and has taken on the Big Half 2024 as well, in efforts to support Children Change Colombia accomplish our goal of improving access to education for children in rural areas.

If you are feeling inspired by our amazing Fundraising Champions, we would love to have you join us! Check out our page to learn more about becoming a Fundraising Champion with Children Change Colombia <https://childrenchange colombia.org/how-to-get-involved/>.

EVENTS

Pizzaton 2024

We hosted a Fundraising event in London with Heroica Lounge, and it was an amazing time for family, friends, and the Colombian community to come together. We had salsa classes, face painting for children, a chance for a language exchange, and delicious pizza.



Thames Walk 2024

Our annual Thames Walk event was an incredible experience, bringing together so many of our supporters in the UK and the wider community on a 10-mile walk along the Thames, and enjoying traditional food, music, and dance.



Executive Director: **Ángela Carreño**, Communications Officer: **Victoria Cornelio**, Articles: **Ángela Carreño**, **Liliana Rodríguez**, **Laura Rondón**, **Patricia Montenegro**, **Victoria Cornelio**, Design: **Cathy Ulloa**, Printing House: **Tutaev Design**

Changemakers 2024

We hosted the first edition of the Colombian Changemakers Awards, an opportunity to recognise the amazing Colombians in the UK contributing to the social progress of Colombia.



Women Changing the World Awards - Angela

Ángela Carreño, our Executive Director, won the 2024 Women Changing the World Awards, in the category People's Choice women changing the nonprofit world.





GALA INVITE

Fernando Montaña & Friends: A Charity Gala for Children Change Colombia

Join us for a special evening of ballet, opera and classical music at the beautiful St John's Church in London on the 28th of September to raise funds for Children Change Colombia.

The gala will be graced by the exceptional and renowned ballet dancer, Fernando Montaña, who will lead the creative showcase of the night. Alongside him, we will be delighted by the exquisite voice of soprano Julieth Lozano accompanied by friends performing piano, violin, and contemporary dance. Together, they promise a truly unforgettable performance.

More artists will be announced soon.

Fine drinks and gourmet canapés will be provided by chef Jareth Mills.

help us continue our mission to transform the lives of vulnerable children in Colombia.

Get your tickets here:



EVENT DETAILS

Date: **28th September**

Time: **7pm – 9pm**

Venue: **St John's Church, 18 Hyde Park Cres, London W2 2QD**

Dress Code: **Formal**

Tickets: **£50 to £100**



Yes, I want to help transform the lives of children in Colombia



Title		Name	
Address			
		Postcode	
Tel		Email	

Make a single donation

Here is my gift of: **£10** **£25** **£80** **£100** **Other**

Please make cheques payable to Children Change Colombia

OR make BACS transfer to Children Change Colombia: Sort code 60-07-02, Account no. 22060111

We accept the following cards: Visa, Mastercard, CAF Charitycard.

Card no.

Expiry

3 digit security num

(on signature strip)

Make a regular gift

Donate by Direct Debit (this helps reduce our administration costs)

(please delete as appropriate)

£5 **£10** **£20** **Other** monthly/quarterly/annually

starting on 1st 15th (please delete as appropriate)

(month)

(year)

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/Building Society acc.no.

Sort Code

Signature

Date

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society: Please pay Charities Aid Foundation Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Charities Aid Foundation and, if so, will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.



Service User No 691312

Gift Aid Declaration

giftaid it

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 pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed

Date

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

☐ I would also like to receive email updates about your work protecting children's rights in Colombia, your fundraising events and campaigns, and how I can get involved.



You can change the ways you hear from us at any time using the contract details below.

You can also donate online at www.childrenchangecolombia.org/donate.

Thank you so much for your support!

T: 020 8050 2735. E: info@childrenchangecolombia.org

Please return this form to: Children Change Colombia, 5 Richbell Place, Holborn, London, WC1N 3LA



Charity number 1075037