

Rainbow of Hope for Children raises funds for the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (CIS) (Center for Exchange and Solidarity) Young Formation and Scholarship Program to support marginalized youth in Isla Espiritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo, Usulután, El Salvador. Employees with O’Kane Consultants fundraise and donate to Rainbow of Hope for Children to support this scholarship program. The following are letters to CIS and Rainbow of Hope for Children from scholarship recipients, sent August 29, 2015.

Hi everybody, how are you? I hope you are well and with your family and friends. Today I will tell you about me.

I am Carlos Eduardo Medrano Hernandez. I am a 20 years old guy. I have one brother and two grandmas, who for me are everything. Thanks to God and them, I have overcome great obstacles. In spite of the poor economic situation that we live, we have overcome.

My grandmas are strong women that in spite all the obstacles that we have faced they never gave up.

I live with one of my grandmas, she is a housewife and three of us live with her. To support me, she sells bread. Now thanks to CIS and Rainbow of Hope that are supporting me, I can go on with my studies. That is a good opportunity that has come to my life, thanks to the scholarship that they are giving me, I am overcoming in my life.

I live on La Isla El Espiritu Santo, and I make a lot of sacrifices to attend my classes. Sometimes I don’t go to the bed until midnight to do homework. I get up at 4:00am, to be ready to get the boat that leave at 6:15am to Puerto El Triunfo where I attend classes. Sometimes we are at risk during the rainy season for the storm during the trip to get the school or returning to my house. Another risk are the gangs in Puerto El Triunfo. The place where we study is very dangerous because nearby gang members are fighting between gangs, which is dangerous because we get caught in the crossfire, and we are scared of that.

Also I want to talk about my mom, she is a strong woman too, she puts forward all of her effort to be able to give me \$3 a day when she is able.

All the risks and the difficult situations do not stop me, and I will continue thanks God, CIS, Rainbow of Hope and my family, I will continue with my studies.

Without anything to say, I say good-bye, wishing you a lot of blessings in your life, and I hope you continue supporting more young people that have the desire to improve themselves.

Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad CIS and Rainbow of Hope, receive a cordial and friendly greeting. At the same time wishing you success in your everyday activities, after this short greeting, I want to tell you the following:

Through the present humble letter, I write to you to express my thanks for the unconditional support that you give to the scholarship students. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support that give to the youth. Without your support, we could not achieve our dreams, because we are people with scarce economic resources. My family and I hope God gives you strength and that you will always continue supporting us.

My name is Ingrid Margoth Samayoa, I am studying first year of General high school. I live in La Isla El Espiritu Santo, with my grandparents Marta and Juan and my younger sister Xiclaly. My grandpa is laborer and earn \$4 daily and my grandma is a housewife, therefore the economic resources are not enough for them to give me my formal education. Thanks to your support, I am studying.

I go to the bed at 9:00pm doing my homework; I get up at 5:00am to attend my classes, the boat leaves at 6:15am to Puerto El Triunfo.

My mother gives me \$3 a day during the week to have breakfast and lunch when she can, but if she can't that does not stop me to continue study.

In rainy season when there are storms or strong winds, we are afraid because the boat can sink, also because the threat of the gang members in Puerto El Triunfo.

My dream is to be a professional, I would like to study Pediatric Medicine, and I know that with God and your support, I hope to achieve my goals.

Without anything else to say, wish you many blessings.

Many thanks!!!

August 29th, 2015.

Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (CIS)
Rainbow of Hope.

I hope you have a good day, and enjoy a lot of blessings, personally, in your family and in the Organization.

My name is Maricela Catalina Cortez Coreas and I send you greetings. I am a member of the scholarship committee and a scholarship recipient. I would like to share a little bit about my story, my family, their duties, my free time, my studies, the risks and fears of each of one of the scholarship students of this program are facing on the way to get our school.

We are 4 in my family, my father, my mother, my brother, and me. I will share with you the work of each one of us and the income that my family has to pay the expenses of the house. My mother is a housewife. My father is a laborer, and with the money that he earns my mother buys the food for 15 days. My brother is a laborer too, and with his incomes he support my family to buy food too. I am studying at Instituto Nacional de Puerto El Triunfo, I am in my last year of High School.

In my free time I help my mother clean the house. I go to church, visit my friends and sometimes I like listening to music.

In my studies I put the mayor effort to get good grades, because I recognize all the effort that my parents and the scholarship program are making for me.

The risks and fears that everyday we face is when we go out the island, because in Puerto El Triunfo there are some people that they do not know us and they ask us money and sometimes we give it to them so as not to have to risk our lives. The little money that our parents give us to buy food or something else at school sometimes we give to them.

Our fears are that sometimes the gang members are fighting the other gang, because our school is in the line between the territory of one gang and the other. And it is possible we could get hurt in the crossfire. Thank God nothing like that has happened.

I want to thank you a lot. In my case I did not have the money to continue with the High School studies and thanks to your support this year a will graduate from High School, I trust in God that he will bless you a lot in your life for all the support and work that you do to help us to have a better future in our life. Thank you!!!!

Isla Espiritu Santo, Puerto El Triunfo, Usulután.

Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad
Rainbow of Hope

Receive a cordial and friendly greeting, at the same time wishing you a lot of success in your daily activities.

I write you this humble letter to thank you for the unconditional support that you are giving us to the scholarship students in La Isla El Espiritu Santo. For us is very difficult to continue studying, for the following different reason that I will explain.

I live with my grand parents. On the island there is not much work. My grandpa works on a farm as a day laborer and he earn \$4 per day. My grandma sells refreshment and Tostadas (Fried plantains) with their incomes they support me to study, sometimes they give me \$2 or \$3 daily to take to the school, sometimes that is not enough because I have to print some materials at school.

Another thing is the threat of the gang members, because I live 6 kilometers away from the school. I am going by boat and walking with the other people from the island and we are scared for that, other is because the boat can sink or suffer an assault during the trip to get Puerto El Triunfo and back, that is something that happened recently.

My name is Moises Neftali Gutierrez Martinez, I am studying second year at High School of car maintenance. I live in La Isla Espiritu Santo with my grandpa Ramon Abel and my grandma Zoila Esperanza.

My dream is to prepare for a better future, for be a better citizen of my country

My class schedule is from Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 5:00pm. I wake up at 5:00am to be at 7:00am at the school.

Thanks a lot for your support, I hope God bless you and give a lot of success in your work and health. Thanks a lot!!!!

Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad CIS
Rainbow of Hope

The reason of write this humble letter is to thank for all the unconditional support that you are giving to the scholarship students of La Isla Espiritu Santo. I am grateful for the opportunity that you are giving me of can accomplish the dream of graduate from High School, because I belong a family of scarce economical resources. My parents make a big effort to give me \$3 daily to take to the school to buy my meal when I am in the school.

My name is Jeffrey Gutierrez I am studying my last year at High School, I live in my beloved Isla Espiritu Santo, I am living with my Father Jose Atilio Gutierrez and my mother Yolanda Cruz and my sister Cecilia Gutierrez, thanks for supporting me to accomplish my dreams.

Thanks for your unconditional support and I hope God bless you always.

Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad CIS
Rainbow of Hope

Receive a cordial greeting and I hope you are well.

The reason of this letter is to thanks for the support that you are giving us to every scholarship student of the Isla Espiritu Santo, because with your support, you also support my parents.

My father is a laborer.

My name is Rosa Marilu Castro

My dream is to get a degree in Nursing.

I wake up early to attend to my classes, I am scared of the violence of the country and beside that the economic situation of my family that is not good, they give me \$2 to take to the High School to buy food.

I just want to thank you for all your support, God bless you.

Isla Espiritu Santo, August 29th, 2015

Dear people of Rainbow of Hope and Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad. I greet you affectionately, wishing you the best success in your daily activities, after this short greeting I tell you the following.

My name is: Gloria Claribel Medrano Lopez, I am 18 years old, the reason of this letter is to let you know that I am very grateful for your support. Thank you for the efforts that you are making everyday. I am almost finishing my last year at High School with a lot of effort from me personally and from my parents, my brother and you, because the scholarship is supporting me a lot, the transportation in the boat and your economical support that you give me is helping me a lot.

My parents lack economic resources,. My father is a day laborer and my mother is a housewife. They do not earn enough money to support me with the studies, but with the support of God and all of you. Thanks to God this coming November I will graduate from High School. That is very satisfactory because during these three years I have been getting up early and have made sacrifices. In spite of the violence in the Municipality but I know that it's worth it.

Nowadays I am doing my social work teaching adults to read and write and other social work in my community as a way to give back to my community the support that I am receiving from all of you. Also I want to let you know that I have planned to continue my studies at university level. I trust in God and you that this program continue going on, not just as a support to me and for the students that now we are involved, but for other people of the communities that have the desire to continue with their studies but their parents do not have the basic necessities to be able to support them.

There is nothing else to say, I say good-bye from you, very grateful, God bless you.