**Hope for the future**

My name is Gladis Rodríguez and we have lived in Cali for 21 years in Comuna 21. When he we was little, my son Steven experienced convulsions. The neurologist did not give me much hope regarding his development. He told us Steven would only reach grade 3, which hurt to hear. Steven received treatment for many years.

When I decided to register my son in Alexander school, I received much support from the coordinator, María Fernanda. Three years ago they shared with us the objective of the EDUPAZ program: to develop healthy ways to solve conflict. Steven could be a part of this program. He had destructive anger and was aggressive.

We have learned a great deal from the program. Now, Steven calmly responds to conflict, “I am not going to fight with you.” We hug each other, dialogue and say, “I love you.” I would really like to continue this program because my son has changed significantly. I am happy and now I have much more hope for the future. He is in his adolescent years so I need to continue applying what I have learned from the program.

**Enjoys:** painting and sewing

**Thankful:** Steven is off medication

**Previous home:** Bogotá

---

**News**

The high number of deaths in Comuna 21 of children and youth is troubling. As a result the people of the area have been organizing marches and protests, with signs and billboards promoting the message of peace and respect for all life. The President of the Communal Action Board confirmed that the sector has buried at least 15 youth.

**Update**

We hosted a visit of coordinators of different children’s and youth social programs among the Colombian Anabaptist churches. We shared how the school mediation program has impacted the lives of those at the Alexander School. They had the opportunity to listen to testimonies from the mediators, teachers and the families as they have witnessed positive changes.

---

**Thank you for your support**

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