

July 2015

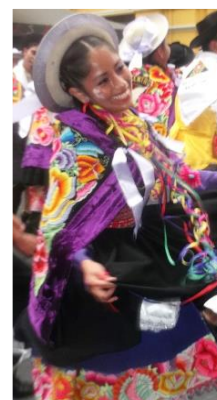
Update on: SOS Children's Village Callao

I am pleased to communicate with you again to thank you deeply for your great commitment to children and young people, as well as for your very important financial support, thanks to which the stories of Evelyn and Liz, which we will share in the following lines, will have a "happily ever after".

AN ARTIST IN THE FAMILY

"My name is Evelyn. I came to the SOS Children's Village Callao on March 7, 2005, at the age of eight, at the request of my father and sister. My mom had died some time before and my maternal aunt, who had two children and struggled with physical problems due to an accident, assumed the responsibility of taking care of me. My dad contributed with very little money, so our living conditions were not good, and our neighborhood was very dangerous. My father had a second family, and they did not accept me because I was the product of an affair. My maternal family split up when my mother died. This situation generated in me much concern for my future life, and the wound caused by the loss of my mom still hurt.

During the time I lived in the Children's village and thanks to my SOS mother, I learned to be a respectful, grateful, industrious person with values that allow me to move forward and be a role model among my family and friends. Despite all the economic and emotional challenges my father had to face, he always cared about me. It did not matter to him that my half-siblings and his wife did not accept me. He wanted me to be close to him, so that we could recover the lost time and be able to reconstruct a real relationship between father and daughter. That is why he built a mini apartment in the house of a relative, where I could live with him. With much courage and enthusiasm, I set myself the goal of being a professional. I joined the Dance School Jose Maria Arguedas to follow the career of Arts Education. I am currently attending the 4th Semester and my plan for the future is to become a dance teacher.



Evelyn dancing "Modern Huaylas" from Huancayo

It has been over a year and I still keep close contact with the Children's village, which I consider my second home. Almost every Sunday I visit my SOS Mom, with whom I have a very close relationship. We talk, we laugh, and I tell her how I am doing. I love her very much and she will always be there in everything I do, because I consider her the mother I lost time ago. My greatest desire is that my mommy will be eternal..."

OUR WORK

In the SOS Children's Callao, we support 50 children and adolescents, in 12 family houses. Through the housing option of supervised non-residents, we accompany the development process of 29 young people who are completing their technical careers or university studies and will soon become self-reliant. Regarding the family strengthening programme, 430 children of ages between 2 and 5 years benefit from the education, food and health services provided at the Social Center and at the six childminding programmes located in the areas of Pachacutec and Ventanilla.

A group of young people was granted a full scholarship in the framework of the state programme Beca 18. Juanita and Neydi will follow the career of Hotel Management, while Alexis, Lenin and Gabriel decided themselves for International Business Administration, and Kenny for Graphic Design. Edder ranked first in his architecture studies, and Melissa got her bachelor's degree in social work with her thesis on "Community Co-management to prevent child abandonment."



Time to have fun!

We organized the First Youth Meeting in order to know their needs and interests, and to monitor the progress of their Individual Development Plan. They also took part in a workshop on the topic "Life Project" aiming to encourage reflection and the setting of personal goals with the support of a therapist.

THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE AFTER LOSING A LOVED ONE



Liz with her younger sisters
Julissa and Merari

"My family is made up of my sisters María Isabel (1 year old), Merari (9 years), Julisa (11 years) and me. My name is Liz and I am 14 years old. My mom had some pain, but did not give them much importance, as she was more concerned about my youngest sister. As days passed, her pain grew and spread throughout her body until it became unbearable. One day she collapsed and had to go to hospital. She was diagnosed with renal failure and had to stay in the hospital. In less than a week, her condition worsened and she died.

It was a heavy blow for my family and me. The community helped us as much as it could, but the emptiness that my mother left behind could not be filled with anything. Life went on and all of a sudden, mine changed: I had to assume the mother role. Those first months were very hard, because I had to get up very early in the morning, make breakfast and help my sisters get ready for school.

When I came back from school I had to prepare lunch, and I no longer had time for homework, games or friends. My little sister Maria Isabel was in the care of my aunt. My dad was devoted entirely to his work as a construction car controller. Some neighbors had visited a childminding programme run by SOS Children's Villages and told them about our case. They immediately showed interest in my little family. Since then, my sisters and I go to school and then to the childminding programme, where we have lunch and do our schoolwork with the support of the teacher. In the evening, we can go home together. In the meantime, my dad, Pedro, continues working; that has been his refuge. I am confident that my sisters and I have a new opportunity thanks to the childminding programme of SOS Peru that gave us back all the things we were at risk of losing. Now we feel even closer to each other."

Thank you very much, dear sponsors, for helping to write the "happily ever after" to these stories through your unconditional support and your important financial contribution. We still have many stories to write, and we are confident that – despite all the challenges our protagonists will have to face - with your help they will also have the opportunity of a "happily ever after".

Yours sincerely,



Laura Aguirre
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator