

United for Colombia NEWSLETTER



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www.unitedforcolombia.org

"Thank you very much for all you have done for me. You gave me the opportunity to smile, walk and feel happy. The prosthesis that you gave me is perfect and I still can't believe that it looks just like a normal leg. Sometimes I cry of happiness because I can walk."

— Emilsen Tabaco, 18 years old



Emilsen's accident occurred when she was 10. Her younger brother, Ferney, brought a grenade home thinking it was a toy. When the grenade exploded, it killed her father, younger brother and sister, and left Emilsen without a left leg.

United for Colombia (UFC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that funds medical treatments for severely disabled Colombian war victims. **UFC** has made a huge impact in the lives of **169** severely disabled individuals, including **125** servicemen and **44** children.

In this issue, we are celebrating the courageous stories of our beneficiaries.

STORIES & CELEBRATIONS

- Leonardo Fabio Varón is walking today thanks to **UFC** and a group of generous partners and donors.

COMING SOON

- A well known show on RCN Televisión (Especiales Pirry) will air a documentary program on John and Wilson, two **UFC** beneficiaries that have undergone incredible recoveries.

SIX CALLS FOR HELP

- Six landmine accidents; six maimed soldiers; six calls for help. Almost every day, **UFC** gets a call for help. When we answer, we respond with the hope that our supporters and funders will jump to action.

Coming Soon on RCN



Colombian Soldiers, John and Wilson, want to celebrate their new life with the rest of the world. Their medical treatments and recoveries (from grenade accidents) are so miraculous that their stories will soon be aired internationally on RCN Televisión. Stay tuned for more to come.

Soldiers Give Interactive Presentation

Four United for Colombia beneficiaries who are receiving medical care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, gave an interactive online presentation (in English!) to students at the Ethel Walker School in Connecticut. The Skype presentation was a smashing hit. A full class of students listened intently to the detailed stories of each soldiers' landmine accident, the history of why Colombia is fighting against drugs and terrorism, and the alarming numbers of casualties of war. Colombia has an average of 2 landmine victims per day, a statistic that brought gasps from the students.



"I have my legs; I can walk; now I can be the independent person I used to be. Thank you so much!"

– Leonardo Fabio Varón



During a military operation in the northern part of Colombia (Valdivia, Antioquia), Leonardo Fabio Varón accidentally stepped on a landmine. Leonardo was immediately rushed to a clinic where both of his legs were amputated and he was treated for severe wounds on his neck, right hand and arm. Thanks to the support from **United for Colombia (UFC)**, however, Leonardo received orthopedic care and two technologically-advanced bilateral prostheses in February 2010. Leonardo is full of smiles now as he is relearning how to walk on his prosthetic legs from Otto Bock, a world-renowned prosthesis manufacture in Bogotá, Colombia. Even with his traumatic experiences, Leonardo remains inspired towards new opportunities in life. He is eager to continue his education (which was made possible by the Matamoros Foundation), and most importantly, to provide a more prosperous future for himself and his two-year-old daughter, Evelyn.

6 Landmine Accidents, 6 New Stories, 6 Calls for Help



Alexander needs 1 leg



Giovany needs 1 leg



Carlos needs 2 legs



Freddy needs 2 legs



Wilson needs 1 leg



Miguel needs 2 legs



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