

United for Colombia NEWSLETTER



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www.unitedforcolombia.org



BeLive 2009 exquisite WAYUU bags designed by world famous designers.



2009 BeLive Celebrities: Can you guess who these people are? For the answers, go to www.unitedforcolombia.org (Events: BeLive).



United for Colombia (UFC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that funds medical treatments for severely disabled Colombian war victims – including children.

We are pleased to share our most exciting and news-worthy announcements in our Jan-March 2010 Newsletter.

Here are the highlights:

BIG ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- UFC is celebrating a very successful 2009, helping **25** children and **69** soldiers with prostheses, orthopedic maintenance, and medical rehabilitation and care, costing a total of **\$1.47 million**.
- UFC raised an impressive US **\$110,000** at **BeLive 2009**. Read more on page 2.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

- UFC won GlobalGiving's online November 2009 fundraising competition and placed 6th amongst numerous worldwide nonprofit organizations.

AMAZING STORIES

- Read Onofre's truly inspirational and touching story below.
- Coming soon on primetime Caracol Televisión – John Riascos' miraculous story.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- UFC will benefit from Zona D 2010 in March 2010.

Coming Soon on Primetime News



During an anti-terrorism military operation in Colombia, John Riascos, a 28-year old

soldier, was severely wounded when a nearby grenade detonated, causing him complete facial disfigurement. After a long and arduous recovery, including over 7 facial reconstructive surgeries at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, John's miraculous story will be aired on Caracol Televisión. Stay tuned for more to come on this incredible UFC story.



Thanks to the unique partnership between United for Colombia (UFC), Otto Bock and FundaColombia, Onofre now has a state-of-the-art prosthesis and a first-class education. *"I just graduated from my nursing program in 2009 and now serve as a prominent member of my medical community in Bucaramanga, Colombia. Thank you UFC for believing in me!"*

Onofre Zafra, 22 years old

When Onofre Zafra was only 15 years old he accidentally stepped on a landmine while herding cattle in his hometown of Matanza (northern Colombia). The landmine detonated, causing severe injuries that later resulted in the amputation of his right leg. UFC has supported Onofre with all orthopedic rehabilitation and treatment since December 2006, when he received his first prosthesis. With the convincing proposal from UFC, FundaColombia offered Onofre a scholarship to cover all educational-related expenses, including tuition. Even with his misfortune in 2003, Onofre has excelled exceptionally well and has become a remarkable member of society. UFC is proud of Onofre's amazing achievements and delighted to share his triumphant story with all of you.

New Partnerships

GLOBALGIVING.CO.UK

UFC WON GlobalGiving's November 2009 Project Challenge by raising £1153 from 64 donors. UFC will now have a permanent fundraising and profile page on GlobalGiving's website where individuals can donate, learn and support UFC's well-vetted programs. UFC's presence on www.globalgiving.co.uk will be an invaluable opportunity to reach mass audiences and to receive donations from major corporate and individual donors around the world. To learn more about GlobalGiving and to visit UFC's online profile, go to <http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/pr/4100/proj4025a.html>.

Upcoming Event

UFC will benefit from **Zona D 2010**, a 2-week exhibition and design fair hosted by Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, a world-renowned Spanish designer. A percentage of proceeds raised at the event, held in Bogotá from March 3-13, 2010, will support UFC's rehabilitation programs, as well as an educational scholarship program that will offer 15 beneficiaries with a 3-year scholarship to study at the Escuela de Artes y Oficios Santo Domingo in Bogotá.

Announcements

BeLIVE 2009

On November 19, 2009, UFC participated in BeLive 2009, one of the most extravagant fundraising galas in Miami. UFC is proud to announce that it raised **US \$110,000** from its generous donors and Acción Social's matching gift program. Acción Social is a Colombian-based government agency that supports social action and international cooperation. Every cent of UFC's \$110,000 will go directly towards helping children and soldiers maimed in the war against drugs and terrorism in Colombia. For this reason, **United for Colombia** would like to thank its special BeLive donors for their outstanding contribution and support.

- Ammo-Tech and EODT
- Banco de Bogotá
- Caracol
- Codere
- CorpBanca
- Felipe Grimberg
- Jorge Castañeda
- Juan Carlos Botero
- Julián Iragorri
- K&M Group of Companies and Termovalle
- Maureen Orth
- Moris Ruben
- Sanford International
- Spanish Broadcasting System (SBS)



CARTAGENA SUMMIT

On November 29, 2009 – December 4, 2009, Colombia hosted the The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World. In total over 1,000 delegates took part in what stands as one of the largest gatherings ever of States and activists dedicated to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. The one-week Summit closed when over 120 governments adopted the Cartagena Action Plan, a 5-year plan to address a range of critical issues regarding landmines. **United for Colombia** was one of many organizations present at the Summit, attending seminars and workshops, and hosting a table equipped with pamphlets, newsletters and posters.



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