

United for Colombia NEWSLETTER



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www.unitedforcolombia.org



UNITED FOR COLOMBIA (UFC)

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to fund medical and rehabilitation treatments for severely wounded, maimed and disabled war victims, including children. Since 2005, **UFC** has helped **201** disabled patients, including **145** servicemen and **56** children. These **306** comprehensive medical treatments have totaled **US\$18.9** million.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Home Soldiers! Thanks to the support of the **U.S. Department of State** and the **Mayo Clinic**, **Jésus Andrés Garzón** and **Bladimir Guacarí Rocha** returned home to Colombia after receiving specialized medical care in the U.S.

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UFC secured a 2nd **\$500,000** grant from the U.S. Department of State to support **20** severely injured and disabled Colombian servicemen.

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Twenty-six children, all landmine victims, now have new opportunities in life after receiving state-of-the-art orthopedic care thanks to Rotary International's **\$140,000** five-year grant to UFC in 2006.

DONATE

Be a child's Lifelong hero

\$500,000 for the American Solidarity program

UFC is pleased to report that the U.S. Department of State (DOS) approved a 2nd **\$500,000** grant to support UFC's **American Solidarity program**. Since 2006, **24** Colombian servicemen – severely wounded in the war against drugs and terrorism – have received the highest quality care at U.S.-based medical facilities, including the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Through the program, servicemen are also equipped with life-skills during their medical rehabilitation and care – such as English and computer literacy – to transition into a productive and meaningful life upon their return to Colombia. Thank you DOS for investing **\$1 million** in the American Solidarity program!



Famous cartoonist Vladdo meets landmine survivor Aleida Pinillo

Vladimir Florez (also known as Vladdo) met Aleida Pinillo for the first time in May 2011. Vladdo, a well-known cartoonist in Colombia, created a famous character named Aleida in 1999. Although Vladdo's cartoon character Aleida has a different story, he was greatly inspired by the true life story of **Aleida Pinillo**. At the young age of 17, Aleida lost her left leg while she was working as a cook for the community fishermen. When Aleida went to pick up coconuts to use for lunch, she stepped on a landmine planted approximately 20 meters from the beach.



With the support of **UFC**, Aleida was able to receive a state-of-the-art left leg prosthesis from Otto Bock, a world-renowned prosthesis manufacturer and treatment center in Bogotá. **UFC** is proud to share that Aleida can now carry out many physical activities, play actively with her five-year-old daughter, and continue to work productively to support her family.

UFC and Rotary International help 26 child landmine victims

UFC and **Rotary International** are celebrating the successful five-year disbursement of a **\$140,000** grant to fund orthopedic rehabilitation for **26** child landmine victims. **Angie Paola** is an 11-year-old landmine survivor who lost her right leg when she accidentally stepped on a landmine in northern Colombia. Through UFC's **A Step to Hope** program, Angie receives annual orthopedic care and rehabilitation, including a technologically-advanced right leg prosthesis every year. This miracle has given Angie her youth back, opening new doors of hope for a better and happier future.



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Home sweet home for two Colombian servicemen

Two Colombian servicemen, Jésus Andrés Garzón (top photo) and Bladimir Guacarí Rocha (bottom photo), returned home to Colombia after receiving specialized medical care at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Mr. Guacarí was shot during a tactical operation in Meta and sustained wounds to his left leg and arm. Mr. Garzón's military vehicle was ambushed by FARC members in Chocó. He was shot in the head, face, abdomen and right thigh and suffered from facial bone fractures and the loss of his right eye. Thanks to **UFC's American Solidarity program**, both servicemen are now fully rehabilitated and equipped with life-skills to become high-achieving members in society.

