

## ♥ Project Update: Centro Social Unidad

Thanks to their continued support, the Centro Social Unidad (CSU) continues to transform lives in Los Chircales, south of Bogotá, where it was born in 1979. Our project, which serves more than a hundred children, has focused its efforts on strengthening family relationships and community values through meaningful activities.

During this semester, we have successfully continued **weekly programming** focused on key projects such as the *School of the Art of Loving*, *They Have Evicted Jesus*, and *Coloreemos la Ciudad*, including academic reinforcement and artistic activities. An important milestone has been the continuation of our **Up to Me project**:



- For children from 4 to 8 years old, **8 families have attended** sessions that seek to strengthen the relationship between parents and children, adapting content on emotions to the reality of our community with the support of a multidisciplinary team.
- Children aged 9-12 and teens aged 13-17 also attended their monthly Up to Me sessions, making a positive impact on their development.
- These *Up to Me days* conclude with a shared lunch, which has generated a greater rapprochement not only between the Social Center and the families, but also between the families of the community themselves.

In addition to these central activities, we held the celebration **of Family Day** in Tocancipá, with the attendance of **80 people**. We also continued with the university internships of

Nursing students from the Universidad El Rosario, who held workshops with children and talks with older adults. Finally, the management of our **social warehouse** on a weekly basis, through the collection of donations, has benefited the entire community with items sold at symbolic prices.



### **Samuel's Transformation: Sharing Love**

To see the impact of your generosity, we would like to share with you the experience of Samuel, an 11-year-old boy who has been attending CSU for 8 years. Samuel participates in the activities of the School of the Art of Loving, where the teaching is based on Love. He told us about an experience he had after winning a soccer game. Seeing a classmate kneeling and sad, since he was alone because his parents were working and could not hug him like others, Samuel remembered "the dice of love" and what he learned at school. He put his parents aside and went to hug his partner. The comrade, teary-eyed, returned the embrace, and soon, all the comrades joined in a great collective embrace to celebrate his triumph. This act of empathy and love, carried from the Social Center into their daily lives, is a direct result of their support.

Similarly, 8-year-old **Ariadna** applies what she learned at home. She tells us that her grandmother takes care of her, but she is very old and her feet hurt a lot. When she can't attend the Social Center, Ariadna takes advantage of her time and teaches her **the dice of love**. She rolls the dice and explains to her grandmother the meaning of the "caritas," as her teacher taught her. The most beautiful thing is that, when she does so, her grandmother smiles and forgets a little about her pain in her feet.

This kind of emotional connection and the practice of values in their families and communities is a direct result of their contribution.



Thank you for helping us sow these seeds of unity and solidarity! Their support remains vital to making stories like Samuel and Ariadne's possible.