

# Sponsor and godfather

# for a day

TOGETHER FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



## Sponsor and godfather for a day

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**Together for the right to education**

**Daniel Morales, Colombian**

**Teenager, graduated in 2021, at the Manuel J Calle Educational Unit.**

"I had the support for 6 years of the foundation, the previous school year I graduated from high school as a bachelor and for me it was an achievement and I reached it with the support of my parents and Crea Tu Espacio, I hope they continue to maintain this project."

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**Sara Valencia, Ecuadorian Colombian**

**Teenager, graduated in 2023, at the República de Chile Educational Unit.**

"It has been about 5 years that I have received support in materials to educate me and technology, I appreciate this support, it helped me to complete my school years and thus be able to be a bachelor, I am very happy, I hope this help is maintained for more children and adolescents."

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**David Bacuilima, Ecuadorian**

**Teenager, graduated in 2019, at the Daniel Córdova Toral Technical School.**

"I am happy, I received support from the first year of elementary school and now I have graduated from high school, it has been about 9 years that I have received support and this allowed me to achieve the challenge of graduating as a high school graduate, happy, I have no words, I just wish that they continue to support more children and adolescents".

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### **CURRENT CONTEXT:**

Ecuador has had a complex reality in guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, especially in the right to education, since 2020, when the isolation forced by the COVID-19 pandemic began, until 2022, there has been an increase in student dropouts. According to data from the Ministry of Education of Ecuador, about 120,000 students dropped out of school during this period. This figure is higher than the one reported by Unicef, at the beginning of 2021, when it detailed that 90,000 minors were out of the Ecuadorian school system (Diario la HORA, 2022).

The country has developed a regulatory framework that promotes the educational inclusion of the population in a situation of human mobility and currently hosts more than 64,000

children and adolescents in a situation of human mobility. However, the impact of COVID-19 reduced economic income in 84.3% of the households surveyed, increasing the risk that they will drop out of school (UNICEF, 2021).

Although the State, the family and society must guarantee the right to education for children and adolescents regardless of their migratory or ethnic situation, among others; admission and access are fulfilled, but permanence has been a determining factor for families, due to the lack of resources and supplies that allow parents to keep their children in the educational system. The main causes of school dropouts in vulnerable children and adolescents are:

1. Not having the money to pay for the required uniforms, which consist of a daily uniform and a physical education uniform, in the year 2023, the cost of the two uniforms was \$120 dollars for a single student and this value varies depending on the educational unit, the size of the student and the store (Social Report, FCTE 2023). It should be considered that in the year 2022 the Ministry of Education of Ecuador, publicly expressed that the government will suspend the delivery of uniforms and that each public educational institution will promote its own uniform; this decision increased the expense for families to keep their children in the education system.
2. The high cost of supplies to access the list of school supplies, despite the existence of a ministerial decree by the Ministry of Education of Ecuador of what should be the basic school supplies for each school year, the educational units and their respective teachers continue to issue personalized lists and send to acquire books and supplies that in many cases are not used during the school year; this is aggravated when educational institutions direct to commercial premises where books or certain supplies must be purchased, which are of very high cost (Social Report, FCTE 2023). In the year 2023 the purchase of a list of supplies for a student and a backpack was \$60 (Social Report, FCTE 2023) for the basic level, while for high school this increased to \$70 per student (Social Report, FCTE 2023).
3. Another of the difficulties that vulnerable families face in terms of education and supporting their children until the end of the school year is the lack of money for transportation, healthy food, health, school shoes, internet and access to technology (Tablets, computers, printers, among others); This lack of requirements throughout the school year is high, there is a follow-up report that a family with only one student spends between 20 to 25 dollars per month to cover transportation and food; if we contrast these values with the reality of family income, we can see that there is a deficit in the family budget, which grows when there are more than two children in the same family structure. In the technological case it is the same, since the year 2020, where the global isolation took place, FCTE delivered about 55 technological instruments, including tablets, laptops, calculators and others to ensure the educational permanence of vulnerable children and adolescents, which allowed about 47 family structures to keep their children a year in school, for the year 2023, the technological requirement was requested more for high school students. But despite this contribution and investment in the year 2020 thanks to the funds of solidarity donations through GlobalGiving could be acquired to support 94 children and

adolescents, in 2023 to be invested in the maintenance of this technology and its repair.

Unfortunately, this reality of migrant and vulnerable families in the Southern Zone of Ecuador is accompanied by xenophobia and discrimination, which is born from the same principals and teachers of the educational units and expands to parents and peers (students), generating a climate of discrimination, which in many cases culminates in school dropout or loss of year, due to this lack of empathy for the reality experienced by the families of these children and adolescents.

The inflationary situation of the country, the lack of decent employment also add to this student desertion, many of the migrant or vulnerable families have had to make new migration processes internally or internationally to meet the basic needs of their families, which also conditions the permanence of children and adolescents within the Ecuadorian education system, there is no report of the reasons for desertion but in the case of Ecuadorian children and adolescents is due to family reunification abroad, who migrate mainly to the U.S., in 2022 and 2023 increase, in the case of immigrants, due to the situation of documentation and discrimination, in 2022 and 2023 there is no report by canton but nationally 46,132 children and adolescents in Ecuador, due to the situation of documentation and discrimination, in 2022 and 2023 there is no report of the reasons for the desertion. In the case of immigrants, due to the documentation situation and discrimination, in 2022 and 2023 there is no report by canton, but nationally 46,132 children and young foreigners dropped out of school in Ecuador (PRIMICIAS, 2022).

Unfortunately this is a reality that, despite being visible, there is still much work to be done to change these cultural forms of stigmatizing people, the lack of knowledge of the situations of this population is reflected in the treatment and acts of discrimination and xenophobia that are provoked within and outside academic teaching spaces, further deepening their situation of vulnerability and risk, and that these have increased due to the pandemic and post-pandemic.

To these acts can be added the school dropout rate, which is a very high component in this population, the lack of economic resources to cover expenses related to the education process of children and adolescents in human mobility, especially in access to internet and technology, in short, it can be observed that such an important right for a person is effectively denied and violated by the simple fact of not being in the same conditions and opportunities as other human beings; Therefore the importance of working in the accompaniment, guarantee and sponsorship of children and adolescents to access and remain in the Ecuadorian educational system in an equal manner and with the same opportunities for growth and development throughout their academic process.

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## JUSTIFICATION

The *Godfather/Godmother for a day* program is an initiative that allows children and adolescents in human mobility and vulnerability to access and remain within the Ecuadorian educational system, a right that is adhered to each person and that the State, the family and society must guarantee from the age of 3 years old.

The program seeks to *sponsor a child or adolescent* so that he/she can enter and remain in the Ecuadorian educational system, a right that will allow him/her to have access to a better future of life opportunities and employability, thus breaking the poverty circles of their family structures. Education as a basis for an increasingly positive projection and development.

The program works every school year (September - July) which has 11 months of study, divided into three trimesters; where in addition to the support in requirements, tools and supplies for education, support is provided, recovery of subjects and social and psycho-emotional accompaniment, responding in this way to the requirements that are binding for the permanence within the educational classrooms in a comprehensive manner, to those who benefit from the educational program promoted by Fundación Crea Tu Espacio.

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## OBJECTIVES

- Guarantee camping and support to children and adolescents within the educational system so that they complete the school year in a satisfactory manner through the delivery of tools, supplies and educational requirements.
- Accompany the academic process to avoid possible vulnerabilities on the part of peers, parents, teachers or educational authorities through continuous social and psycho-emotional follow-up.

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## The program:

The program has been supporting children and adolescents in human mobility and vulnerability for 9 years, especially Venezuelans, Colombians and Ecuadorians in vulnerable situations (Saraguro community and children of Ecuadorians abroad).

Since 2014 about 396 children and adolescents have been supported with school supplies, books, glasses, casual and sports uniforms, casual and sports shoes, backpacks, technology and internet that has allowed them to complete their school years, there are about 7 adolescents who have completed high school with the program and 94 in progress in the school years and receive support from Crea Tu Espacio in the year 2023.

The school year September 2022 to July 2023 has been covered with the donations given by each sponsor, this new cycle that begins in September 2024 and ends in July 2025 we are



looking for your support to continue guaranteeing the right to education to children and adolescents in human mobility and vulnerability to remain within the Ecuadorian educational process, which will allow them to fulfill their goal of being high school graduates and thus have greater opportunities for growth and development.

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### **Challenges:**

Among the challenges we have:

- Maintain support in terms of supplies, technological tools and educational requirements of migrant and vulnerable children and adolescents for their permanence in the educational system.
- Collect the amount of \$10,000 for educational support.
- To continue accompanying children and adolescents in human mobility and vulnerability so that their right to education is not violated.
- Support 94 children and adolescents of Cuenca and Alausí to remain in the educational system for the new school year.
- Accompany their academic processes until the end of the school year.

Photos of supporting records:



# Godfather and Godmother for a day

A pencil can draw a perspective!





# Who is it aimed?

**Children and adolescents  
in human mobility and  
vulnerability in the cantons  
of Cuenca and Alausí.**







Provides tools and inputs for education



WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Allows access and permanence in the educational system



Social, psycho-emotional and subject recovery support



# How can you help?

*Very easy!*



Through donations on the platform Global Giving



Sponsor a boy, girl or teenager



Donate and make the difference!



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