

## **Brenda, tenacity made child communicator**

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The 200 hundred kilometers separating the community of El Ermitaño, located in Santa Barbara, Honduras from the Guatemalan Border are not a problem for Brenda. Neither is the four hours bus ride. She does not say it but it appears - judging by her active presence in the workshop held by the network of adolescents and children communicators, which took place from March 16th until March 18th, with the support of UNICEF and the Cultural Center of Hibueras.

Brenda prefers having her long hair tied up, shining over the grey cardigan identifying her as a member of the network; she confesses that it is more convenient, especially when interviewing people. Just a few words exchanged with this young lady are enough to be aware of her critical and witty thinking, as well as her commitment towards Children's Rights. "We are Children, but we know how to act in several topics. I don't like it when they decide for me; I have the right to participate, to know what is good and what is not". The two years she had spent among the network helped her realizing what her rights were, and how she could pass the info to the other kids in her country.

"Through interviews, photos, or reports, we want to show the world that we also have the right to be part of the decisions. And this is what every children should know", stated in a polite but energetic tone this 13 years old adolescent.

### **Multiplying Participation**

The Santa Barbara network is one of the seventies networks that allow children participation among the Honduran Society. It is part of a program, developed by UNICEF

with the collaboration of the local authorities- municipalities- that combines in a single initiative, adolescent participation together with the Medias.

Trough audiovisual reports on community topics, children are using their right to receive and spread information, the general objective being to encourage them to have their say in the decisions affecting them.

It all resulted in TVC Infantil, a TV program directed to children and broadcasted every Saturday via Televiscentro en Tegucigalpa.

Brenda is carefully preparing her interview with the Hibuera Multicultural Center's Director.

Whenever a doubt pops up in her head when writing them in her notepad, she would just ask. The multiplying effect of television makes it highly important to watch the content and the body of each report. You can not improvise an interview.

Brenda knows it very well. For this reason, she takes all the tips she can from the training classes UNICEF is organizing for the new members of the network. During these two days classes, young communicators are given a chance to learn about Children's Rights, as well as audiovisual techniques, by doing the presentations and interviews for the report that will be broadcasted by Canal 10 in a few weeks.

### **Dreams and Creativity**

"I am learning something not only necessary and interesting, but which is also useful to express what we have been accumulating; it helps me forgetting some of my problems", admits Brenda. She ensures, as well, that these activities are bringing creativity in her life and she is therefore motivating the children in her community to join this project and "extend their activities outside their houses or schools".

From the Unites States, where he leaves, her father helps her persevering in the network.

Her mother is proud and her little sister wants to follow in her footsteps: she wants to contribute to change in the community. Brenda, seated on the grass, sees herself as "a teacher or a journalist" in the future. Sometimes, being part of the Network also helps outlining the dreams.

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