



A Breeze of Hope



What we do

PREVENT sexual violence against children

RESTORE the lives of child sexual violence survivors

PROMOTE healthy, holistic childhood development

Since 2004 we have:



1. Provided free holistic support to 1,678 child survivors and their supportive family members.
2. Educated and trained over 91,300 people in Sexual Violence Prevention and over 13,360 in Early Childhood Development.
3. Maintained the highest conviction rate in the world in criminal trials against child sex offenders: 95%.





Maria's Story

It hurt to breathe. I hated how each morning's rising sun reminded me that I was alive. I honestly envied those who were dead.

My mother and her long-time boyfriend introduced Tommy to me as a new addition to the family. He seemed nice at first. He frequently visited my three little sisters and I at our small one-room apartment, where we lived alone about a block from my mom and her boyfriend.



One afternoon I needed to go to the pharmacy. It was too far from my apartment to walk there, so Tommy offered to take me in his car, which I thought was nice of him. So off we went, and that was the first time he sexually abused me. It

never crossed my mind that he would do that. I was terrified. I wanted to tell my mother but didn't because Tommy threatened to hurt me if I did. I felt so alone.

Tommy started showing up at my apartment more often after that horrifying trip to the pharmacy. He would force me to go to hotels with him, where he would rape me. I wanted all of it to stop, but I didn't know how to get help. I started to isolate from everyone as the fear and pain grew stronger.

I soon figured out that I was pregnant, and the shock and horror I felt made me want to die. I was just 12 years old, and I feared what others would say, so I hid my tummy for many months, until I just couldn't anymore. The principal of my school forced me to drop out. He said my pregnancy was a distraction. Eventually I told my mother everything. She didn't take it very well, and that's when I knew I had to get help.

I started asking people where I could get help with my pregnancy. One day, a nice woman told me about CUBE. The first time I went to CUBE, I just cried all day. My psychologist held me in her arms for hours. She didn't say much, but she sure made me feel safe.

The next day I met my attorney. She was so nice, and she told me she would do everything she could to protect me. A few days later she told me that Tommy was in jail. I



slept so good that night knowing that Tommy couldn't hurt me.

The staff at CUBE accompanied me throughout my pregnancy. When it came time for my son to be born, everyone from CUBE went to the hospital to be with me. They held my hand and told me I wasn't alone. I was so scared on that day, but their support helped me believe in myself. My son has given me a new reason to live.

After a month at home to rest, my son and I went back to CUBE. That's when I started my baking classes with Doña Filomena. She told me that I could make anything I set my mind to, and that someday I would run my own business. I believed her.

I went to CUBE every day after that to practice my baking. I started with empanadas, and they were good! I asked Doña Filomena if I could sell them, and she said she would be my first customer. I was scared at first to go into the other offices at CUBE to sell my empanadas, but Doña Filomena told me that my empanadas were so good that only a crazy person would turn them down. And she was right. I sold all of my empanadas that day!

It's been 11 months since I started my baking classes. Today I'm filling orders for local businesses with my pastries. The money I earn helps me take care of my son and my little sisters. I'm also going back to school this year! I feared that I'd never go back, but my social worker helped me believe that I could. She helped me find the support I need to take care of my son and continue my education.





Our Approach

A Breeze of Hope uses a three-part public health model to address Bolivia's alarming rates of sexual violence against children, which are the highest in South America (Pan American Health Organization, 2012).

Primary Prevention

eliminates the drivers of sexual violence and creates safe environments for children.

Secondary Prevention halts the progression of the short-term physical, psychological, and social consequences associated with sexual violence and brings aggressors to justice.

Tertiary Prevention reduces the likelihood of future psychosocial consequences associated with traumatic experiences and restores survivors' sense of joyful wholeness.



Our Programs

Centro Una Brisa de Esperanza (CUBE) is Bolivia's first transdisciplinary center that works to restore the lives of child survivors of sexual violence. Our trauma-informed approach focuses on six areas of healing: (1) Personal Healing, (2) Social Restoration, (3) Education, (4) Political Participation, (5) Economic Independence, and (6) Property Ownership.

To foster healing in these six areas, we use a variety of therapeutic activities, including dance movement therapy, art therapy, trauma-focused yoga therapy, mindfulness based stress reduction, trauma-focused play therapy, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, family therapies, and vocational therapies that include budget management and strategic planning. We also provide highly integrated educational support, social services, and legal advocacy, including criminal prosecution.

Comunidad Educativa para la Vida (CEV) is an innovative school that uses child-directed learning methods—including Montessori and Emmi Pikler—to promote rich cognitive development, self-agency, and fine and gross motor skills. Our learning methods also place a special emphasis on early childhood brain development.

CEV also serves as a powerful platform for sexual violence prevention. Our human rights based approach to education seeks to snuff out violence at its roots and transform families and communities with values of love, respect, gender equality, and celebration of diversity.





2017 Accomplishments!



Personal Healing

509 child and youth survivors of sexual violence participated in CUBE's wide array of group and individual therapies. These activities included art, music relaxation, mindfulness meditation, body-based therapies such as yoga and dance, trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy, trauma-focused play therapy, family systems therapy, and vocational therapies. 77% of the children and youth improved their body posture; 71% increased their ability to dream for the future; and 71% increased their self-esteem.

Pursuing Justice

285 children and youth reclaimed their voices through the pursuit of justice. Our attorneys won 26 trials this year with a 100% conviction rate in rape cases! **This is our third consecutive year with a 100% conviction rate in rape cases.** Bolivia's judicial system, however, has sunken further into collapse, and 99 of our scheduled trials were postponed.



Education

Quality education, especially for girls, reduces vulnerability to gender-based violence and helps break generational cycles of poverty. 91% of the school-aged children at our center remained in, or re-enrolled in, school. 12 survivors graduated from high school, and 20 are enrolled in college or technical programs.

Economic Independence

98 children and youth graduated from our vocational therapy program, and 39 found meaningful work or paid internships. 5 started their own small businesses, and 5 opened their own independent bank accounts. These are exciting steps toward bright futures filled with self-confidence and economic independence.





Political Participation

366 children and youth from CUBE learned about their human and civil rights, gender-based violence, the legal system, and how and where to get help. They used this knowledge to conduct similar trainings at their schools and to raise awareness about issues of sexual violence. The National Child and Adolescent Network Against Sexual Violence, created by girls at CUBE, coordinated this year's August 9th Annual March Against Sexual Violence. The Network also participated in news interviews and advocated for children's rights before Bolivia's Department of Justice. These amazing youth also gave new hope to other survivors and shared with them the joy of truly empowering trauma recovery.



Property Ownership

Of 274 children and youth that actively participated in therapy at CUBE, 100% articulated their dreams to own property in the future and developed long-term plans for how to reach their dreams, including education, employment, and savings. It is our hope that one day the girls from our center will own property and thus continue challenging the male dominant norms that are so deeply entrenched in Bolivia's culture.

Sexual Violence Prevention

More than 10,000 people participated in the August 9th Annual Walk Against Sexual Violence. We also provided 88 workshops and trainings with a total of 2,623 attendees, including teachers, mothers, fathers, children, youth, government officials, attorneys, judges and other professionals. Additionally, we held 4 educational fairs to raise awareness about sexual violence and to inform the community about CUBE's services. These events reached over 700 people.



Early Childhood Development

182 children received high quality education at our school. Additionally, 348 parents and 3,012 community members, including medical staff, government officials and other professionals, received training in comprehensive early childhood development. With our holistic learning model, we successfully promoted gender-equality, nonviolence, self-agency and healthy nutrition as fundamental components of each child's development.



2017 Publications

Manual of Criminal Procedure and Psychosocial Intervention in Cases of Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents (Manual de la Ruta Jurídica y Psicosocial de Atención en Delitos de Violencia Sexual Hacia Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes), 2017.



Dancing From the Womb to My Arms: A Critical Biographical Review of the Implications of Dance Movement Therapy for Secure Emotional Attachment During the Prenatal and Perinatal Periods (La Danza Desde el Vientre Hasta Mis Brazos: Una revisión crítica de la bibliografía y las implicaciones de la Danza/Movimiento Terapia para promover un apego seguro durante el periodo prenatal y perinatal), 2017.



Parental Competencies for Healthy and Holistic Early Infancy Development (Competencias Parentales para el Desarrollo Integral de la Infancia Temprana), 2017.



More Accomplishments!

Organization of American States

We continued our advocacy before the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights at the Organization of American States. We presented our 3rd Thematic Hearing before the Commission, emphasizing the need to remedy the Bolivian judicial system's egregious treatment of adolescent girl victims of sexual violence. The Commission also granted admissibility to Brisa's individual petition.

SVRI Conference – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In September 2017, our Founder and CEO, Brisa De Angulo, was honored as a Keynote Speaker at the opening plenary session of the Sexual Violence Research Institute Conference, a global forum for research and best practices in the field of sexual violence prevention. Her speech on the importance of involving survivors in research moved the crowd to tears and received a standing ovation!



Thanks to our Volunteers and Partners

22 volunteers came in the summer to experience and contribute to the work we are doing in Bolivia and to be part of the communities we serve.



Jon and Megan Heinly came to serve in our programs in Bolivia, supporting us in non-violent communication, family counseling, self-care for CUBE staff, trauma informed practices, and resource development. We are grateful for their dedication.



Kevin Sullivan, a resident from the University of Minnesota Medical School, came to provide free pediatric care to impoverished families and to encourage healthy-parenting skills.



85 High School Volunteers from *HEFY* came to build a refuge home for women and girls fleeing sexual violence, revictimization, and intimidation.



THANK YOU DONORS!

Children's Champions (\$2,500-\$9,999)

- Hodge- Fernandez Family
- Daniela Ligiero & Joao Augusto De Castro Neves
- Ostojic Family
- David & Alecia Pittinsky
- Ursula Daniles
- Mary Ellsberg
- Anne Van Werven

Children's Advocates (\$1,000-\$2,499)

- William and Elizabeth Longnecker
- Gail & Jim Schroder
- Steven Zimmerman
- James & Marsha Wallace
- Norman & Jaklin Goldberger
- Barbara Freedman

Children's Friends (\$500 - \$999)

- Beth Stephens
- Laura Bomberger
- Harriet Katz
- AnnaSophia Robb

Children's Supporters (\$250-\$499)

- Emily Moody
- Caroline Garriot
- Lymar Sola
- Kirstin Walker
- Donna Lyman

Institutional Supporters

- NoVo Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Equality Now
- Oak Foundation
- With & For Girls
- Light My Fire
- All People Be Happy Foundation
- Harrington High School
- Rigby High School
- Central Baptist Church
- Storehouse Church
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Save The Children
- Kinder Not Hilfe
- Tierre de Hommes Germany
- Global Fund for Children
- Comic Relief



History

As survivors of childhood sexual violence, Brisa De Angulo and Parker Palmer created A Breeze of Hope Foundation to build a world in which all children grow up in safe, loving environments and to help other survivors regain the joy of living.

Support Our Work

Your donations to A Breeze of Hope Foundation are tax deductible. **DONATE TODAY** at www.abreezeofhope.org/donate

A Breeze of Hope
P.O. Box 148
Essington, PA 19029

www.abreezeofhope.org
brisadeangulo@abreezeofhope.org
484-494-6598

