



# A Breeze Of Hope



## History

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



## What we do

### PREVENT

sexual violence against children

### RESTORE

the lives of childhood sexual violence survivors

### PROMOTE

healthy, holistic childhood development

## Since 2004

Since 2004, we have:

- 1. Provided free holistic support to over 1,570 child survivors and their supportive family members.**
- 2. Educated and trained over 88,000 people in Sexual Violence Prevention and over 10,000 in Early Childhood Development.**
- 3. Maintained the highest conviction rate in the world in criminal trials against child sex offenders: 95%.**

## Support Our Work

*Your donations to A Breeze of Hope Foundation are tax deductible. DONATE TODAY at [www.abreezeofhope.org/donate](http://www.abreezeofhope.org/donate)*



## Karina's Story

My life changed completely when I was in first grade. That's when I was sexually molested for the first time. It confused me and scared me. I lived with this sick feeling in my stomach that made it hard to eat and impossible to play. I felt dirty and different from all the other kids at school.

As I got older my aggressor started raping me. The confusion and fear that I felt grew into darkness and terror. I felt paralyzed, as though a bullet had pierced my soul, the soul of an innocent girl. My aggressor murdered the child I was, and all that remained of me was an empty shell. I just survived from one day to the next.



For years I lived in silence, secrecy, and seclusion. Over time I began to believe that I would live in darkness and silence for eternity. But deep within a little flame flickered and pushed me to do something, anything. So I started reliving in my mind all the horrors of years of molestation and rape. After a few days, I felt like I couldn't think about it anymore. But God somehow gave me strength and I continued remembering all the painful memories. The I first came to CUBE, I realized that what I feared most was not my aggressor, but the silence. So with all my might and courage—which God miraculously supplied—I **BROKE THE SILENCE!**



Breaking the silence felt like a river of light that rushed over me, carrying away the darkness and fear. I felt a freedom that inspired me to build a new life for myself. But my problem was that I had forgotten how to dream after so many years of living in constant fear. Survival and seclusion had become my close friends, so the ideas of living and dreaming seemed like scary and unpredictable strangers.

During my first months at CUBE I kept to myself. I didn't talk to anyone, and I was sure that no one understood what I had been through. It didn't take long for the other girls there to prove me wrong. With their love and kindness they showed me that they understood, and they reassured me that I wasn't alone. Their examples helped me see that I could learn to dream again and that it was okay for me to feel happy.

The girls and professionals at CUBE have walked with me every step of the way in this amazing transition from silent survival to vibrant living. I look back on the years before I came to CUBE and see only disaster. I look ahead and see a beautifully open horizon, an unknown future that I get to build. Living and dreaming aren't so scary any more. Now they're like my new best friends.



I know that the future will bring new joys and new fears. I still have a long way to go, but I also have a lot of life left to enjoy the sweet fruit of healing, new friendships, and supportive community. As a start, I just graduated from high school and I'm enjoying my position as President of the Children and Adolescents' National Network Against Sexual Violence. One day help I will help many other girls like the girls here in CUBE have helped me. Thanks to God and my new family at CUBE, I have a new life!



## Our Approach

Bolivia has the highest rate of sexual violence against children in South America. To address this severe problem, A Breeze of Hope uses a three-part public health approach.

### **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 of sexual violence in survivors and brings aggressors to justice.

### **Tertiary Prevention**

reduces the likelihood of future psycho-social consequences associated with traumatic experience 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 child-directed services focus 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 cognitive therapy; trauma focused play therapy; family therapies; and vocational training/therapy including 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 a school that uses child-directed learning methods—including Montessori and Emmi Pikler—to promote rich cognitive development, self-agency, and motor skills. Our learning environments place a special emphasis on early childhood brain development.

CEV also serves as a powerful platform to promote healthy childhood development and 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, and celebration of diversity.



## 2016 Accomplishments!!!

### Personal Healing

284 child survivors were able to participate in various therapeutic healing activities, including: Dance; art; music; trauma-focused yoga; meditation & mindfulness; trauma focused play therapy; trauma focused cognitive therapy, and family therapies.

### Pursuing Justice

This year, 381 girls reclaimed their voices and engaged in the pursuit of justice. Our attorneys provided them excellent legal support and maintained a **100%** conviction rate in criminal trials. **Of the 47 rape cases that reached trials, we had 47 convictions!** We also worked closely with the Organization of American States to challenge discriminatory judicial practices and to reform Bolivia's penal code.

### Education

Education is vital to children's self-empowerment and political participation. Thus we worked with each child to help him/her remain in school and pursue higher education. We're proud that **98%** of the school-aged children at our center remained or re-enrolled in school; **11** survivors graduated from high school; and **48** are studying in the University.

### Economic Independence

This year **100** adolescent girls graduated from our vocational training program. They developed the confidence, skills, and knowledge they need to lead economically independent lives and to break the cycle of dependency on abusive relationships. **21** found meaningful jobs and **4** opened their own businesses. Also, **5** adolescent girls opened their own bank accounts, which challenged traditional Bolivian banking practices that don't allow adolescents to open private accounts.





## Political Participation

**553** children participated in workshop series that focused on developing human rights knowledge and advocacy strategies. They used their knowledge to challenge human rights violations at school and raise awareness among their peers. Also, the older girls created the *Children and Adolescents National Network Against Sexual Violence*, Bolivia's first youth-run sexual violence prevention platform! The network is engaging in TV and radio interviews, and is organizing walks and information fairs.



## Property Ownership

In Bolivia, women traditionally are not property owners. It is our hope that one day the girls at our center can own property. Although this concept seemed foreign and laughable, **100%** of the girls are dreaming and planning to own property. They made a 15-year projection of the steps they must take to reach their goals. These steps included earning a technical or college degree, learning budget management, opening a bank account, among others.



## Early Childhood Development

This year 128 children received excellent education at our school, CEV. The children at our school were able to play and grow in an environment that promotes gender equality, non-violence, and self-agency. We also provided workshops on healthy infant development to **1,099** people in various countries, including Bolivia, Mexico, Peru, United States, & Ecuador.



## Prevention

As part of our prevention activities, we organized the *August 9<sup>th</sup> Annual March Against sexual violence*. This year there were 10 simultaneous marches throughout Cochabamba and other States, each with thousands of participants. We engaged in weekly information campaigns, using television, radio, social media, and press. And we provided workshops to students, professionals, and government officials, reaching over **8,000** people.





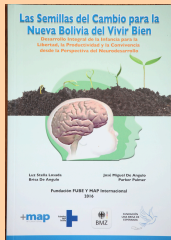
## 2016 Publications



*Rediscovering the Marvelous and Transcendent Experience of Birth and Meaningful Pregnancy (Redescubriendo la Maravillosa y Trascendente Experiencia del Parto y de un Embarazo Significativo), 2016.*



*The Holistic Development of Infants: Neuroscience shows us the fascinating world of the infants' brains and how we can contribute to their full development (El Desarrollo Integral de los Infantes: La neurociencia nos muestra el fascinante mundo del cerebro del infante y como contribuir a su pleno desarrollo), 2016.*



*The Seeds of Change for the New Bolivia of Good Living (Las Semillas del Cambio Para la Nueva Bolivia del Vivir Bien), 2016. – Bolivia.*

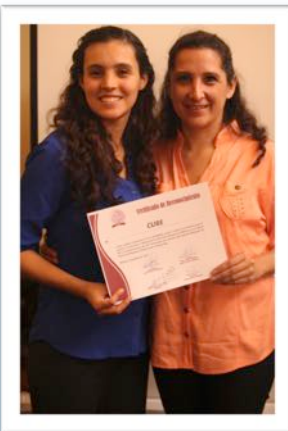


*The Seeds of Change for the Country of Good Living (Las Semillas del Cambio Para el Pais del Vivir Bien), 2016 – Peru.*

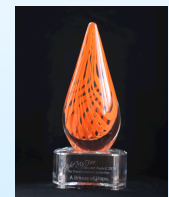
## More Accomplishments

1. Developed, published and implemented a *Uniform Case Intervention Guide* for government officials, including judges, police, prosecutors, and forensic physicians and psychologists.
2. Developed and Implemented sexual violence prevention and child protection policies in school districts in Cochabamba.
3. Provided Post-graduate education and conferred accredited post-graduate degrees to professionals and government officials in Cochabamba, Tarija, and Potosí. Courses focused on (a) child abuse prevention and comprehensive case management and (b) comprehensive early childhood

## 2016 Awards



- \* 16 Hero: Breaking the Cycle of Violence
- \* With and For Girls Global Award
- \* Vidanta Award, first prize
- \* Women of Peace Global Award
- \* Light My Fire Impact Award
- \* AQUINAS Human Rights Award
- \* Bolivian Human Rights Defense Award





## Thanks to the Volunteers and Partners

**15 Rutgers University Nursing Students** provided well-child check ups to 420 children to detect physical/sexual abuse, malnutrition, dental problems, and common illnesses. The nurses also vaccinated stray dogs against rabies to make Chilimarca safer for children who walk to school each day.



**19 Volunteers** came in the summer to assist with every aspect of our programs. Their activities ranged from construction and accounting to helping child survivors of sexual violence and shadowing teachers in the school.

**3 Medical Residents** came from the University of Minnesota Medical School to provide free pediatric care to impoverished families and to encourage health-parenting skills.



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

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

**A Breeze of Hope would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support in FY 2016 and for making our work possible!**

### Children's Angels (\$10,000 and above)

Ursula Daniles

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

Mary Ellsberg  
Butin Family  
Hodge-Fernandez Family  
Paul Courtney

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

Cecellia Rudisill  
Gail Longenecker  
Steven Zimmerman  
David & Alecia Pittinsky

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

James McFaul  
Judy Hodge  
Chloe Crosby  
Jill Payne-Hurst  
Paul Vanderwerken

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

Beth Stephens  
Elizabeth McFaul  
Joan Shibla Lynch  
Anne Freedman  
Katelyn Rediger  
Jane Divinski  
Drew Jacobs  
Amy & David Estes  
April Ernisse  
Caroline Garriott  
Janda Solazzo  
Kristin Walker  
Lymar Sola  
Nancy Powell  
Alex Opperman  
Michael Perez

### Institutional Supporters

Vidanta Foundation  
Novo Foundation  
Dining for Women  
Tides Foundation  
Equality Now  
Save the Children  
Kinder Not Hilfe  
Terre de Hommes Germany  
Light My Fire  
Women's Peacepower Foundation  
New Illusions  
Adelphi Friends Meeting  
Global Fund For Children  
Faith Christian Fellowship  
Central Baptist Church  
Storehouse Church  
Rotary Interact of Rigby High School



# *A Breeze Of Hope*

Ending childhood sexual violence and building a world where children develop in safe, healthy environments!



A Breeze of Hope

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