



SALIDAS

QUE

ALIENTAN

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" - John 15:12*

# THE BACKGROUND STORY

On our last Newsletter, we told you about “Historias que Sanan“, a workshop we did in April where we teamed up with **Brio**, to lead the older kids of Casa Victoria into emotional healing, through storytelling. To find out more about it, please click on the link below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBPV1uB9A4g>



# SALIDAS QUE ALIENTAN

We got to partner once again with **Brio** to create the second part of the workshop. This time we called it “Salidas que alientan” or “*Outings that Encourage*” in English.

As we all know, the lockdown we went through last year was really hard on everybody. Imagine how hard it must have been for teenagers! Part of the idea of this workshop was for the the kids to be able to go out, change the scenery for a bit and breath fresh air.

The mission was to *encourage* the kids to radically change the way they think about their future. We wanted to *encourage* them to dream BIG DREAMS, and to have them understand the importance of knowing their value, their values, and how one very bad decision can change the course of your life forever. We also wanted them to know how important they are to us at Casa Victoria. In a society where people live for themselves and these kids lack support both physically and emotionally, it is important for us that they know we are here for them.

**"When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset" Exodus 17:12**

# THE FIRST DAY

## OUR STARTING POINT

For the first day of the workshop we decided to stay at Casa Victoria.

We started with team building activities and then moved onto our **time machine!** We traveled back 5 years in time, and it was very shocking for the kids to see the difference in their lives, in their families and even in their houses in just 5 years. They understood the importance that the decisions they make in a single moment can change the course of their lives.





# CASA VICTORIA



# THE FIRST OUTING

DREAMS, GOALS, HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

For the first outing we went to Yunguilla! We were able to walk on ancient paths in the middle of the cloud forest, breathe fresh air, and deepen our bond.





# YUNGUILLA

On this outing we talked about our dreams for the future, and the different unexpected paths that life takes us. We also talked about the importance of having God and a good group of friends close, so we can be lifted up when our spirits are down and viceversa.





# THE SECOND OUTING

## VALUES, CHALLENGES & BARRIERS TO MY DREAMS

For our third day we ended up going to the Guayllabamba Zoo. The kids were happy to learn about animals they had never seen.





# THE GUAYLLABAMBA ZOO

On this week, the kids were impacted by the reality of several barriers they may face when trying to reach these dreams. Each kid added a challenge to their dream, and shared with others how this barrier may affect or even destroy their dream or goal.





# THE THIRD OUTING

## MY FUTURE PATH FORWARD

This was the day to bring everything to the finish line... Before moving to our "future path", we decided to go deeper on the subject of sexuality. It was of monumental importance that we did so, because in the indigenous community, parents do not speak with their children about sex in depth, or at all. Besides, boys and girls are expected to marry and start a family at a very young age. Our goal was for them to understand the serious physical and spiritual consequences that extra marital sex can have, specially at such a young age. The moderators shared their own testimonies, and the kids were moved to tears and learnt a handful of very valuable lessons.





# EL PANECILLO

Afterwards, we talked about their future, we got to build kites and take them to the Panecillo to make them fly. The moderators had everything planned to put weight on the kites and represent what happens with our dreams when we add challenges... Well, it started to rain very hard and we had to go back to the foundation! Some of the kites were damaged. But we knew God had a plan. Upon arriving at the foundation, we had one of the most powerful conversations of the entire month. We weren't just talking about challenges and broken plans, we were actually experiencing them together. This gave the kids perspective, and as they told their testimonies later, we would find out it was one of the most impactful lessons they learnt during the workshop.

We ended the day with big smiles and sharing s'mores.



# TESTIMONIES

“We have been talking about dreams and one of my dreams came true when we went to the Zoo. I had always wanted to go with my family, and even though I didn’t go with them, I grew up here at Casa Victoria so I take that with me as a dream come true with my family.” - D.S. 15yo.

“Thank you for sharing your testimonies with me. My parents have never done it and they actually didn’t wait to have sex and had my sister at a very young age. That is why we have never had a good life. Now when I have to make a decision, I will remember you and what we have talked about here.” E.M. - 17yo

“What struck me the most was when you told us that things don’t always go as planned. I thought that I created my own destiny and that I planned and things happened, but I now understand that’s not how it goes. The paths of life are not what we thought. We need to prepare and fight for our dreams“ F.M. 15yo.

**“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6**



# THANK YOU

First and foremost we need to thank the Lord for allowing us to be a part of His plan. For the wisdom and accompaniment throughout this process. All glory be to Him.

We also want to thank **Brio** for having the initiative to create this workshop, and for the months of meetings and planning it took to carry it out. Thank you for your love and support.

Thanks to a dear friend of ours who has been walking with Casa Victoria for many years. Without his valuable financial contribution, we would not have been able to carry out this workshop for our children.

And thank you all of you who are reading this Newsletter. Thank YOU, the one who read until here. Without your constant support through the years, Casa Victoria would not be the same. We would not be the same.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.