

DEFENSORES DE LA FAMILIA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 11

COMPLETED
MARCH 2011



In the steep hillsides of Pamplona Alta, a simple concrete staircase can change lives. Families living in the area have no access to running water and instead are forced to haul buckets back and forth to their houses from large plastic containers filled daily by passing trucks.

This task is not only time consuming but incredibly dangerous as the damp winter

climate transforms the roads and pathways into slippery, eroding descents. Adults and children alike are slowed down by the downward climb on their way to school and work, and fall-related injuries are common and costly. By building stairs, MEDLIFE is able to make the cumbersome daily journey easier, safer, and faster.

MEDLIFE traveled to the small community of Defensores de la Familia in April of 2011 to build such a staircase after meeting an inspiring family three years ago. Jaqueline Soliz Cahuana and her seven-year-old daughter, Elin Fernanda, relocated to the area for financial reasons and recounted for us an all too common story. While working as a nightly cleaning crew member for the local government, Jaqueline slipped and fell as she was edging her way down the hillside.



The fall was severe enough to break Jaqueline's ankle, the treatment for which she was unable to afford, leaving her pained and unable to work.

While eventually Jaqueline was able to raise money from her family for the surgery, MEDLIFE hopes that by building stairs we can help to avoid injuries like these from happening.

Jaqueline is now able to navigate the terrain more easily while carrying heavy buckets and does not worry endlessly about her daughter slipping on her way to school. She reports happily:

"I'm so thankful for the staircase that MEDLIFE helped build because now all of my neighbors can access their houses and avoid the type of injury I suffered."