



FUNDACIÓN CAMINO DE EMAÚS

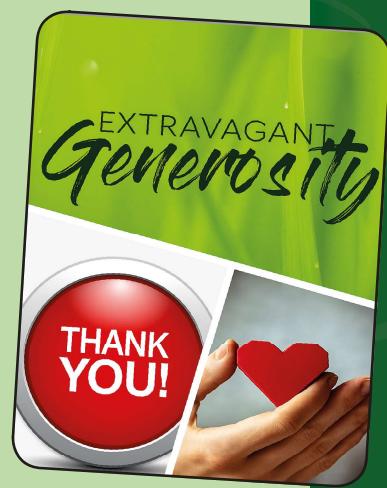
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLOMBIA

**FUNDACIÓN
Camino Emaús**

**2025
Annual
Report**



***Generosity
Leadership
Education***





Beloved friends in mission:

As we come to the end of this year 2025, our hearts are filled with profound gratitude for you. Because of you, families and communities were blessed, enriched and discovered their own strengths and giftedness. As you will see in this 2025 Annual Report, your generosity accomplished significant mission outcomes.

Because of you, gifted children and youth were blessed with formal education. Because of you, parents and students learned life skills, elementary and Elementary Lutheran Schools strengthened their formative capacities. Because of you, the Youth, Senior and Evangelism National Ministries were also blessed. We celebrate the many ways God has blessed and multiplied your generosity!

2025 marks significant events for us as Fundacion Camino de Emaus. This includes our 2021-2025 strategic planning, the completion of a three-year education project sponsored by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) and the election of the Rev. John Rojas as the new Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. At the present time, we are working with the newly elected leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia in developing our Annual Plan for 2026 and a new strategic plan for the years 2026-2030.

With renewed joy and thanksgiving, we wish you blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons!

Stella Lizarazo - Executive Director



We share our 2025 Annual Report with heartfelt gratitude and joy. Our gratitude to you for making it possible ongoing stories of hope, resilience, leadership and sustainable futures here in Colombia!

*** Formal Education Scholarship Program:** 283 students, ranging from elementary school to university, achieved their formal education goals. Of this number, 39 elementary and high school students graduated. 2 female university students graduated with professional degrees as an Accountant and as a Lawyer.

*** Training Seminars on Life Skills:** 14 university students and their parents engaged in training seminars on self-knowledge, emotional intelligence, assertive communication, interpersonal relationships and decision making. These seminars strengthened leadership skills, one of our new logo's core values.

*** Support to Ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia:** as Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, we work jointly and strategically to maximize and multiply resources. This year 2025, the ripple effects of your generosity blessed the National Evangelism Ministry, National Senior Ministry and the Annual Youth Ministry Retreat. At this Retreat, Fundacion Camino de Emaus led a leadership seminar with 103 youths in attendance. In support of the National Ministry of Education, financial resources blessed the CELCO Lutheran School in El Cocuy and the National Sunday School Teachers Retreat.

*** Children's Protection Policy:** Working collaboratively with key leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, our Children's Protection Policy was updated and will be ready next year to continue its implementation throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and the CELCO Lutheran Schools.

*** Bilingual Communication - Good Shepherd Senior Center.** Thanks to the generosity of the Synod of Alberta & the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, 40 vulnerable seniors in Soacha enjoy holistic services such as nutrition, recreation, home visits and spiritual accompaniment. Fundacion Camino de Emaus facilitates bilingual communication between the Lutheran Church of Colombia, the USA and Canada.



*** Global Voices Celebration:** This virtual celebration brings together voices from Colombia, the United States and Canada. Through music, prayer, testimonials and storytelling, together we uplift and amplify the transformative power of mission relationship and generosity.



*** Growing National Generosity:** October is the month when our National Campaign “Ora y Colabora” (Pray & Give Campaign) takes place. The goal is to socialize the work of the Foundation and invite generosity from congregations, former scholarship recipients, organizations and friends in Colombia. Thanks to the generosity of this campaign, 17 elementary school students will be blessed with scholarships in 2026.

* **Casa Emaus:** Located at the headquarters of the Lutheran Church of Colombia, Casa Emaus serves as welcoming home and place of hospitality for national and international groups. Casa Emaus is a shared project between the Lutheran Church of Colombia and Fundacion Camino de Emaus. Revenues from Casa Emaus further support our shared ministries.

*** Endowment for Formal Education in Colombia:** We are grateful to IELCO-Finland Scholarship Program for its foundational gifts to this growing endowment in Colombia. Thanks to this endowment, 5 students who are living in the countryside are being blessed with scholarships. We are passionate and committed to further growing the seeds of sustainability of this endowment.

*** LIZWAN Endowment in the USA:** Thanks to the generosity of the Lizarazo Wangsness and the Okerson families, this growing endowment ensures long term sustainability for the holistic mission of Fundacion Camino de Emaus. This endowment is administered by the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest and welcomes gifts of any amount and at any time.

If giving by check, make it payable to Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest and mail it in care of Natanael Lizarazo at 2281 Olive Hill Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78130. Secured and tax-deductible online giving is available at our website www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en by selecting LIZWAN Endowment.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I am Pastor John Rojas, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. I greet you with joy and express our deep gratitude for your generous support of Fundacion Camino de Emaus. Because of your generosity, hundreds of children and young people are accomplishing their educational dreams and building sustainable futures. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of formal education and Christian leadership! Thank you for being instruments of hope and abundant blessing in the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia we celebrate our historical commitment to formal education. Building upon this fruitful history and commitment, we are currently carrying out a strategic planning process to strengthen Fundacion Camino de Emaus and to multiply its missional impact and potential. As integral part of our holistic mission, we know that education will continue to make significant contributions to the transformation of the social realities of Colombia. Convinced that God will give us new opportunities to continue serving, we thank you for your prayers, your visits, and your generosity. We will keep you informed of the progress of this process.



“Gratitude is the memory of the heart,” someone has said. Our gratitude to the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), to the foundation’s network of supporters in the United States, to our Companion Synods, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, The South Carolina Synod and of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories in Canada. Echoing the Apostle Paul, we pray that “in all things you may be made rich, and that your generosity may always abound in many reasons for gratitude to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11. ***From our home to yours, Blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons!***

Rev. John Henry Rojas Torres - Presiding Bishop IELCO



As human beings we are hardwired for stories! Beyond facts and numbers, important as they are, stories embody our values, evoke deep emotions, inspire action and engage our compassion. Deisy story is such an inspiring example. Deisy is an energetic young woman who grew up amidst realities of economic poverty and lack of opportunities, the very realities that are the daily bread for people who live in dusty slums of Southern Bogota.

Despite unsurmountable social challenges, Deisy's persistent dream of education started when she was a child. Powerful family transformations began to germinate and grow when her family joined San Pablo Lutheran Church in Southern Bogota. By joining San Pablo Lutheran Church, Deisy became part of a larger Christian community, a beloved community that is passionate about formal education, Christian leadership, and generosity. Thanks to the generosity of this beloved community in Colombia, the United States, Canada and Finland, Deisy accomplished elementary, high school, and university education. Thanks to opportunities for scholarships and Christian leadership formation, Deisy's

life and the lives of her entire family forever changed.

Today Deisy is a competent and proud professional with a Degree in International Businesses. Currently, Deisy is completing a Certified International Leadership Program through the Maxwell Academy and joyfully serves on the Board of Directors for Fundacion Camino de Emaus. Stories like Deisy's are always possible when we invest hope and financial resources to secure education and Christian leadership formation among economically vulnerable families. Education has the transforming power to change entire families and communities. Thanks be to God!

Reflecting on the gift of formal education, Deisy writes: "Joyful greetings! I join this broadcast of Global Voices to express profound gratitude to everyone whose generosity make reality our dreams of education and Christian leadership. Your generosity has changed our entire family and given us the inspiration and leadership skills to serve our community, the Lutheran Church of Colombia and Colombia herself. Thank you in the name of Christ!"



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FUNDACIÓN CAMINO DE EMAÚS
Calle 75 No. 20c-54
Bogotá, Colombia
Cellular Phone (+57) 313 249 8921
www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org
e-mail: contacto@fundacioncaminoemaus.org

FUNDACIÓN CAMINO DE EMAÚS
U.S.A.
Cellular Phone 512 484 5167
www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en
e-mail: presidencia@fundacioncaminoemaus.org