

Helping vulnerable mothers and babies in Bogota

In 2016 a social assistant working in Colombia was moved by the plight of the young girls she met through her work who were pregnant, or with a young child, and who were vulnerable and alone. Many of them had been rejected by their families. In most cases they had no training, and no prospect of employment.

Like so many unsung heroines whom our Association brings us into contact with, Maria de Pilar Suarez decided to do something about the situation.



By August 2018 she was ready: she founded the Fundacion Pilar y Gracia, which was recognized by the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, and established a residence for young women and their babies in Bogota,. The residence has a maximum capacity of 44 (girls and babies) and when FdE became involved in 2019 it was housing 21 girls and 16 babies. It is managed by its founder.



The Residence organizes

- Daily feeding (six meals each day)
- Psychological and social support for the girls, who are frequently traumatized by their experiences before arriving at the Residence
- Schooling
- Art, baking, knitting and sewing practical workshops
- Support for medical appointments and clinical follow-up.

The objective is to provide a secure and stimulating environment where the young women can care for their babies and at the same time have the possibility to learn a trade so that they can become economically self-sufficient.



The Fundacion gets government support for its basic expenses, but must seek donors for any other costs. It lacked the financial resources to carry out essential repairs and obtain equipment for the kitchen, including a freezer to ensure better food conservation; it also needed three computers, a projector and a printer for educational purposes; and the “baby stimulation room” required renovation of the floor to meet government health regulations.



Our Association was able to meet all these needs. It is heart-warming to be able to help such a worthwhile organization, and one which so well corresponds to our objectives!

*Maeve Schiratti Doran
Projects Committee*