

Changing  
THE WAY WE  
care™

# NEWSLETTER



## Empowering families and transforming communities

The CTWWC team in the Western Highlands is making significant strides in its mission to empower families and catalyze the transformation of family-centered care for children

From February 21-23, 2023, 27 people participated in a workshop hosted by Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) and the Secretariat for Social Welfare (SBS). The workshop was a training for participants to become facilitators and able to deliver content on positive parenting.

Equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and tools, participants are now poised to deliver positive parenting programs and integrate



family-strengthening elements within their own communities.

In late March 2023, CTWWC and SBS launched a facilitators guide entitled [“Educating in Family.”](#) The guide is designed to promote reintegration into family care and the provision of targeted social service support aimed at ensuring safe and nurturing care. The guide will be used by 45 Integral Care Centers across the country. The

end goal is to amplify its impact and increase resilience and better care amongst targeted families.

To increase coordination, accessibility, and use of social services, CTWWC formally presented the results of a comprehensive Social Service Mapping exercise in the department of Zacapa. Participants included key stakeholders from government ministries, municipal offices,

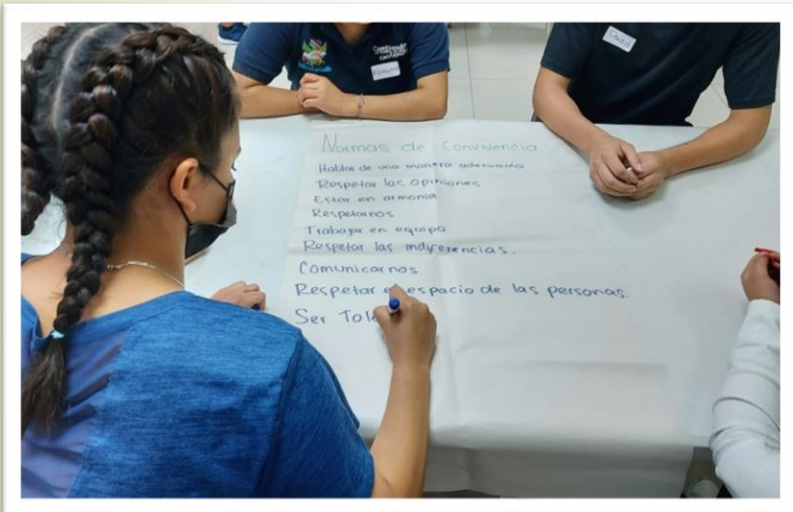
universities, and community leaders.

All these activities contribute to stronger coordination amongst key actors and increased understanding and use of critical social services by children and families, including positive parenting interventions.

The result is strong families living in supportive communities.

# Unidos por el Cambio: empowering youth who have experience with the care system

As part of their annual workplan and priority activities, *Unidos por el Cambio (United for Change)*, provided 10 adolescents in the process of transitioning from residential care to independent living with the delivery of "Basic Tools for Job Search." The five-day training provided useful information, designed by young people who have experienced care, about life skills, housing and how to search for a job. The experience has already raised the interest of authorities and the National Adoption Council (CNA) has started to refer more young people nearing their exit from public and private homes to *Unidos por el Cambio* as a means of fostering peer support and information exchange.



Recognizing its success, the National Adoption Council (CNA) has started referring young people from private and public homes to United for Change.



In Guatemala, transitioning from residential care to independent living can often be daunting, CTWWC believes that no one is better positioned to support this process than young people who have experienced the care system.

As part of CTWWC's commitment to promote the meaningful participation of people with lived experience, a group of young people have formed the group, *Unidos por el Cambio*, with support from CTWWC.

This group is for youth and led by youth. It's mission is to provide young people currently in or recently out of alternative care with peer support, life skills and information to help support their transition. Through training, engagement and advocacy, members of *Unidos por el Cambio* want to foster resilience and provide inspiration to others that a brighter future is possible.

*"The existence of the group Unidos por el Cambio is good news. They are young people like us and with similar experiences. This inspires me to be braver every day. For me, it is an example that it is possible to move on."* – Adolescent in transition to independent living.

# Driving positive changes >>>

CTWWC Guatemala (GT) strengthens communities that promote family care. Most recently, they have supported the establishment of Family Care Commissions in Panillá, municipality of Malacatancito, department of Huehuetenango in collaboration with the Malacatancito Migration Office. This Commission provides information about and refers families to vital social services, including positive parenting.

Additionally, CTWWC GT successfully concluded a digital communication campaign targeting faith-based audiences and emphasizing the importance of family care and the right to live in a family. **The campaign reached an impressive 3,060,881 users through strategic messaging on social networks.**



CTWWC GT's dedication to driving positive change and **empowering families transforms lives, fosters resilience, and builds stronger communities.**



**Need to know more?** Contact *Changing the Way We Care* at, [info@ctwwc.org](mailto:info@ctwwc.org) or visit [changingthewaywecare.org](http://changingthewaywecare.org)

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