



At 8:30 am, Samuel Arango runs after a ball that he just lost by his teammate and training rival. Sebastian Arango is working on the last Math homework exercise, that, although he still doesn't know it, will appear on the professor's surprise exam. Sara Arango chats with her friends in class while they wait for the bell to ring to take a break, and their mother, Isabel finishes counting the number of t-shirts that she needs for the clothing store where she works. But, if something else had happened, if Samuel hadn't gone to training, if Sebastian had refused to get out of bed, if Sarah

## Support a child

The Street Children Medellín foundation makes it possible to support a child. This can be done through a contribution which helps the child and makes it possible to know more about the child's background come and have contact.

Below the story of Samuel y Sebastián Arango

## Moving Towards a Collision



had said that she already has taken the classes or if Isabel had lied to her boss about an unbearable headache, one of the four would have seen the tiny spark that was lit by the T.V. wire and, with the absence of anyone there, ended up becoming a raging fire. Luck doesn't exist when life is moving toward a collision.

*"Dear, dear"* said a scared voice when Isabel answered the phone *"your house is burning"*

"What?" Isabel couldn't believe what she was hearing.

"Your house is burning down, dear" the person screamed.

"Ok, I'll take care of it." Answered Isabel

Isabel didn't do anything. She didn't believe it. She continued to count the t-shirts that she needed to bring to the market stores. Again the cell phone. It was the owner of the house and Isabel's neighbor.

"Isa, come right now. Your house burned down.

Samuel is outside."

It was 11 am. Isabel took a taxi that, like always, got caught in the Medellin traffic three times before going up to the hills of Carambolas. At one in the afternoon, she saw her son sitting on the stairs in front of the house, the fire was out behind him, from the door and windows of the house, an immense cloud of smoke was drifting out. The in street, burned, incinerated, were the beds, the clothes, all of the kitchen appliances, the washing machine and the two televisions that they're still paying for in installments.

"I cried like I had never cried before in my life"

remembers Isabel. Samuel was the first to arrive.

The field in Carambolas where the Fundacion Caminos' football team trains, 'La Naranja Mecánica', was nearby. With his blackened hands, he wiped the tears from his face. The only thing left that remained of his things was what he was wearing: his soccer uniform.

The four family members and some friends cleaned the house that day. They scrubbed the walls, which were burned, until dawn. "It was like cleaning an oven." said Sarah while she threw water in what remained of the living room. What came later can be explained only with mentioning the strong support of Colombians: the business where she was working and her coworkers donated a washer and fridge, the children's father's family paid for the beds, the father who never appeared, the food and the new clothing was part of a collection that the trainers and administration team from Fundacion Caminos carried out.

The firefighters didn't help put out the fire. The streets in Carambolas are very narrow and the truck took a long time to arrive. When it did, the neighbors had already stopped the flames and send them away.



## Biography

**Name:** Sebastián Arango  
**Grade:** Seventh  
**Activity:** Naranja Mecánica  
**Birthday:** 15 January 2006  
**Family composition:** Mother: Isabel  
Father: Jorge  
Sister: Sara (15)

**Future dream:** Football player

**Name:** Samuel Arango  
**Grade:** Sixth  
**Activity:** Naranja Mecánica  
**Birthday:** 15 October 2008  
**Future dream:** Football player

In less than a month, although there are some exceptions, Isabel and her children have gotten back their old life. Sebastian has lost his soccer shoes but this doesn't get him down. He trains in tennis shoes or with some soccer shoes that his friends lend him. *"I've never seen him worsen. The only thing he lost was control of the ball because he was getting used to his new shoes. He's a very good boy."* comments Diego Benitez, the trainer.

During the tragedy, her ex-husband Jorge's sisters suggested that she go back to him. To alleviate the crisis. *"No way"* said Isabel.

During their marriage, Jorge came home drunk every weekend. He constantly monitored her and, although there was never physical abuse, living together was agony. He refused to let her use white jeans, revealing clothing and any other clothing item that he didn't approve of. Near the end of their marriage, she once felt that someone was watching her while she was walking. A premonition. She turned her head to look, but there was nothing out of the ordinary. Finally, before entering the metro station, she saw her husband trying to hide behind a tree.

*"Are you crazy, Jorge?"* asked Isabel

*"No, but you can see everything with these jeans. This is why you wanted to come, isn't it?"* he answered and became enraged.

Some time later, Sara, her oldest daughter, can't understand how a couple could have a screaming fight in the street.

The straw that broke the camel's back came four months before the birth of Samuel. Upon turning on the tap to bathe, the water didn't come out and the light didn't turn on either. They had been turned off by the companies. *"He swore that he paid them,"* cursed Isabel. With shame and embarrassment, she went out in a towel to ask the neighbor for water. And even though this wasn't the first time that this had happened, she wasn't going to tolerate it anymore.

She packed her things and those of her two children. At that time she didn't know that she was pregnant. She went to her mother's house and then to work. Jorge, on drugs, visited her. They argued with raised voices and he treated her very badly in front of her boss. It would be the last time that he did. Isabel not only left her house, she was also fired from her job.

A year later, she ended up in Carambolas with her children. Sebastian and Samuel are part of the football project at Fundacion Caminos. They've grown as beneficiaries, football players and people:

*"The foundation supports us a lot. We don't have any resources. And my sons are happy at the soccer practices. Especially in the community because of the lack of opportunities,"* confesses Isabel.

In January of this year, Isabel's work contract ended. She sent some resumes and went to job interviews in February. Without being able to pay the rent of the house that they rebuilt after the fire, she went to live with a friend close to the Carambolas football field.

They live in a room with three mattresses for four people. There's no space for anything else. She only needs to worry about food, but, when she was about to get a job, the Coronavirus came. The mandatory quarantine kept her from working. *"It seems I'm jinxed"* laughs Isabel and arranges an activity for her children. The help of Fundacion Caminos in this moment is all they have

Isabel is 35 years old, Sara 17, Sebastian 13 and Samuel 11. They all laugh, they're optimists. Her sons want to be professional soccer players and Sara a doctor. There is nothing stronger than sheer willpower.

