

Carlos Helped Save My Life A Teacher's Testimonial

If I could just write a check to pay for all Carlos' tuition myself, I would without hesitation. Carlos is one of those rare gems with tremendous potential. I've taught a lot of bright and sweet kids, and I love all of my former students dearly. But every so often, there's one that blows you away – Carlos is that one.

On a more personal note, I would like to share this story that is indicative of Carlos' maturity and character. There are events in each of our lives that really stick out. Some are big, and some small, but there are those events that change your perceptions and make you appreciate your life. One of those events was when I found out what Carlos and his family did upon hearing that I was close to dying of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever in a remote part of Honduras. Carlos received a call late at night from my best friend, Amanda, his other teacher. He and his family had just pulled into their driveway at home after a long trip back from the city. When Carlos heard that Amanda was able to get me out of the wilderness and to a hospital, and that the doctors were saying I might not make it through the night, without hesitation, Carlos said, "we've got to turn around and go help them right now." So, the family left to drive back down the dangerous mountainous roads in the dark to help us. Carlos, only a 17-year-old boy at the time, was right by Amanda's side in the ICU, helping translate, supporting her while she supported me, praying together with her for me for many hours, and mobilizing his family to help. Carlos and Amanda watched and prayed as the doctors performed a life-saving and dangerous heart procedure to keep me alive. When the staff eventually told him he had to leave the room, Carlos slept right outside the door on the floor in case Amanda needed him.

It's amazing to me that a teenager, first, would be able to comprehend how difficult it might be for foreigners to deal with a crisis, and second, to drop everything to help a former teacher. He could have justified staying home and thought "I'm too tired" or "Gosh, that's too bad" or "There wouldn't be much I can do" or "I have to go to work in the morning" or "My favorite TV show is on." I'm not a member of his family, I'm not one of his close buddies, and yet, he jumped into action to help another human being. I've seen him tutor his classmates for free, visit and pray with the sick and elderly, encourage others to reach their potential, helping his family, all while maintaining perfect grades.

I really hope you take a minute to click "*MAKE A GIFT*" and make a contribution. Think of it as what you'd pay for a soda or a coffee when you're out. After college, he plans on working hard to make the world a better place, and he will help others as he has consistently done in the past. For those of us who grew up in first-world countries and have had privileges that most people in the world only dream of, this is our chance to pay it forward... if anyone has ever helped you, please pay it forward now.

**Sincerely,
Maria Messner**