

## VERA CHAUCA FAMILY

Fredesvinda Chauca was born in Chimbote, she is a single mother aged 55 and has 4 children; 3 of her children are over 18 and have their own families, and Fredesvinda lives with her son Gian Piero Varas, aged 15 who studies in a public high school in Chimbote city center. As they do not have electricity at home, Gian Piero goes to his aunt's house to be able to participate in his virtual classes. This family has lived in the Lomas del Cono Norte neighborhood since they invaded 6 years ago.



Fredesvinda takes care of two of her grandchildren, aged 5 and 9 years old, the children of her penultimate daughter who is also a single mother and is currently not in Chimbote while she searches for work. Fredesvinda is unable work – she suffered an accident which left her with painful knees, and she has no money to start a small business because she lost absolutely everything in the fire on April 14<sup>th</sup> which destroyed more than 60 homes. Fredesvinda currently lives with her son and grandchildren in a tent provided by the civil defense. This whole family sleeps on an old mattress on the floor and has some blankets and plates which Fredesvinda's sisters and neighbors gave to her.

As Fredesvinda told us her story, we imagined how hard it must be for a person in her condition to have to take care of her son and grandchildren with no stable income. She told us that before the pandemic she had a small house made of estera and from there she sold some cosmetics, quilts and clothes, using it as a small store. She also told us that she made and sold breakfast to be able to maintain her family. Now she lives off the generosity of her sisters who take turns providing food, and will do this until she has recovered and has enough money to start again.

With tears in her eyes, Fredesvinda only asks that God heals her and allows her to start again – she does not want to have to depend on her sisters; Fredesvinda wants to provide for herself and her family. ACAF heard her story and we will help Fredesvinda on her way to reinvent herself, to begin again, as she never lost her faith or hope. We will build a new house for her family and we hope to bear witness to their success in the future. We thank the benefactors who contribute to change the hard lives of families who have lost everything, and we will continue to live out our faith and help those who need us most.

## BENAVIDES AGUILAR FAMILY

Juliana Aguilar was born in Santiago de Chuco, she is 45 years old and is separated from her partner. She has 4 children, two of them live with their father and the other two live with Juliana. They are Jean Carlos (aged 13) and Brigitte (aged 22) who is also a single mother to a one year old daughter.

Juliana arrived in Chimbote from the highlands in 2016, with nowhere to go she searched for a plot of land in various parts of Chimbote and then decided to invade in Lomas del Cono Norte. There she built a small estera house where she lived with her family. Since then she has suffered through many difficult circumstances but she thanks God that she was always able to put food on the table and a roof over her family's head. They even managed to stay safe during the pandemic and not catch Covid-19. However, on the fateful day of March 14<sup>th</sup>, her home was burnt down. There was nothing that Juliana could do, she was working at the fish factory and her children were out. As soon as Juliana heard she rushed back but only found ashes where her home had stood.

With only the clothes on their backs, Juliana and her children had nowhere to go and nobody to turn to; thankfully they received help from neighbors and some good-hearted people who gave them blankets and food, and of course ACAF also helped after the disastrous fire.

Juliana is a courageous woman, although she has cried and lamented what happened, she remains hopeful that the difficulties she is living through will soon pass. Juliana and her children try to support themselves and we are sure that they will achieve this. ACAF will also contribute to the transformation of this determined family; we will build a new home for them and we hope that this will be a story of transformation, of faith, hope and success, thanks to the help of God and our benefactors.



## OTINIANO TIMANÁ FAMILY

Katherine Timaná is a young, single mother aged 24 years old and has three children: Elías, 9 years old, Kahory, 7 years old and Nemias, 5 years old. All of the children are studying remotely and go to one of their aunt's houses to access their classes because they do not have a television at home. Katherine separated from the father of her children three years ago, and he is currently serving a jail sentence therefore Katherine only receives some financial support from her sisters and the job she works washing clothes three times a week.



This family has lived in the Lomas del Cono Norte neighbourhood for 5 years, but sadly their house was one of those burnt down in the fire on 14<sup>th</sup> April and they lost everything. Now they suffer from the cold as they sleep on a mattress on the floor with only some plastic sheets to shelter them from the weather. Even in the face of scarcity, the children are always seen to be smiling, playing and running in the sand; seeing this certainly gives us hope for a better future.

Katherine tells us that ACAF has previously helped her with some belongings and has always been attentive to her family's needs and provided essential items. She is grateful to our organization and tells us that her greatest dream is to provide a better future for her children, to put a safe roof over their head and ensure they study to have a bright future.

ACAF knew of Katherine's story before the fire and now we want to help in their transformation with the support of our benefactors. Therefore we will accompany them and hope that their story will be a success; we have faith and hope that it will be.

## MORALES YNCHAUSTEGUI FAMILY

Tatiana Ynchaustegui is 32 years old and has two children: Diego who is 9 years old and a one month old baby girl. The father of her children abandoned them after the fire, leaving Tatiana alone with a child and a high risk pregnancy – she required complete bed rest for several months as her life was in danger due to the complications.

Tatiana lost everything in the tragic fire on April 14<sup>th</sup> – her prefabricated house was left in ashes. Anguished, she told us that she was left with nothing and only received some support from her mother who is elderly. Tatiana used to work making and selling breakfasts, as well as selling cosmetics and other items which allowed her to provide for her family. Now she is being tested, you only need to look at her to know that she is suffering from depression.

Tatiana is temporarily living with her mother as she is ill and does not want to expose her new-born daughter to the harsh weather of a tent and a mattress on the floor. All that Tatiana wants is to be able to start again, to provide for her children and to have a safe home.

ACAF has been moved by this story and we want to help to contribute in alleviating the profound sadness that Tatiana is facing; we hope to offer Tatiana faith and hope of starting again and show her that although life can be hard there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to our benefactors we can offer a new life to Tatiana and her family.

