



FIGHTING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY

It takes Ana Ávila an hour and half to travel from her home in Choloma, Honduras to her job in San Pedro Sula. Each day, she leaves her five-year-old daughter behind and sets out to fight for their hopes and dreams. Thanks to Ana's positive attitude, her new skills, and her willingness to build a future for her family, Ana now works in customer service in Power Chicken, a Honduran fast food chain.

Ana is a 23-year-old mother who dropped out of school after the sixth grade. She started her Empleado Futuros training in the Lopez Arrellano community of Choloma, one of the most violent communities in Honduras, located just north of San Pedro Sula. Residents of Ana's community are stigmatized because of Choloma's large gang presence, and employers are often unwilling to hire people from her area. Despite these obstacles, Ana persisted in her determination to find a job, which led her to Empleado Futuros.

In Empleado Futuros' community-based training, Ana learned life skills and basic labor competencies, and received sessions on cognitive behavioral therapy. Later, she completed 3.5 months of technical training in foods sales, including customer service training.



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“You’ve got to take advantage of the opportunity given to youth by Empleado Futuros, because it is a very good project. You can’t stop believing that these types of opportunities exist for Honduran youth, because USAID and Empleado Futuros comes through.”

– Ana Ávila



Ana at work.

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Ana is now a Restaurant Operator at Power Chicken Restaurant!

At the end of her training, Ana was given the opportunity to complete a practicum at Power Chicken, which quickly turned into a job. Ana says that her experience at Power Chicken has improved her life skills, teaching her how to work as a member of a team and communicate effectively. She is using her basic labor competencies skills now as she trains to be a cashier. According to Ana, she has never had a bad experience with a client. She welcomes everyone with a smile and tries to give them the best service possible. She loves her job and her colleagues love working with her.

Power Chicken plans to open a new restaurant in Choloma soon, and Ana hopes to transfer there so that she can cut her daily commute. But for now, Ana is an example of the sacrifices people sometimes make to have a job and provide for their families in Honduras. One day soon, she hopes to build a new home for herself and her daughter.

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