

Carlos A. Larach

Keynote speech for first graders

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Hello, good afternoon my name is Carlos Larach I am a 12th grade student and also the president and founder of Fundacion Esperanza por Honduras. I've been invited here today to talk to you about leadership. Since I was a little boy I have always felt the satisfaction on helping others not only the ones in need but also around the house I loved running around helping with the cleaning and moving. Sometimes I stayed after school, helping my teacher tidy up the room, I couldn't say NO. When I was in 5th grade I remember that my mom took me to "Festival del Niño" from Fudacion Ruth Paz I helped out all day and since then I have helped every year. Later on I started to love helping others so I started helping with my formation group "Club Nauta" we went to a lot of orphanages and poor schools but I still felt I could do more so I joined The Charity Club in 7th & 8th grade and was president one year. But when i entered high school i stopped for some time until one day Andrea Chahin came up to me and she had just started Caminando Con Amor and she invited me to help in one of her shoe drops. I was amazed how a young popular girl, involved in all these activities, made me realize that I could do something too; something to help others without depending on other groups or people. So I decided to start Fundacion Esperanza Por Honduras (FEH) I really liked how it sounded and decided that the young people were the hope of Honduras. So that's how Fundacion Esperanza por Honduras came to help poor children achieved their education in the hope of making Honduras a better country. FEH has reached over 2,500 people basically we help poor schools and we fix their infrastructure, we prepare the children with book bags and we celebrate important events like children's day.

I have always admired both my parents and without their support I could not have done this but there are three fantastic women who made me change my way of thinking and who I admire greatly these are Andrea Chahin, her Mother Ms. Vivian Chahin and Ms. Mary Ann Kafati. They served as inspiration to help other people and show me that I can do whatever I want to do. For me, being a leader is having the ability to stand out and encourage other people to do what they think is right and help influence others along the way. So think about this and remember. “The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.” Albert Einstein

(I know you are first graders and you might not need these advice right now but believe me you are going to need it later on.)

Some advice:

- **We can all do more than what we think we can do it is all up to you and your imagination.** (These means that all of you have the power to do whatever you wan't it is all up to you. For example when I started the foundation I just imagined myself helping others and now look at me 2 years later helping you become leaders.)
- **Be yourself, and act in line with your core values and personality. People *will* notice if you're trying to be someone other than who you really are.** (Please these is very important Be Yourself don't try and act as something you don't want to be just act yourself with your own value and personality people will value that.)
- **Remember Leaders show commitment and and interest in their work.** (If you wan't to lead people and encourage them to do what it is right you have to show commitment to your cause.)

- **Willingness to take risks on new ideas may put you “out there” for criticism and blame... but it also carries the reward of bringing new ideas to fruition.** (This is the advice that I think is the most important. Whenever you have an idea throw it out there maybe you will get laughed at or bullied but you will never know when an idea is good. Look at me right before I started the foundation I was afraid. I was afraid that people would laugh at me and people talking behind my back I was afraid of telling my parents my idea, I didn't want to make the foundation public on Facebook and the website but imagine I haven't done that that day The foundation would not be what it is now and I would not have helped that many people. So whenever you have an idea let the world know! One of my ideologies is “El No lo tenes seguro” for example right now for my college applications one of my universities said no so I sent an appeal letter (explain) and people were like don't do that universities don't like that and so on and so forth but you know what i said El no lo tengo seguro so what if they say no again? at least i tried.)

Thank you all for listening to me today and I hope that my story helps you discover the leader in you..

APROX: 10 Mins