



Stanford eCorner

A Perspective for Life

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2950/A-Perspective-for-Life>

StorWatts Founder and CEO Elizabeth Samara-Rubio shares an experience from childhood that forever altered her understanding of what it means to work with limited resources.



Transcript

When I was nine years old, my family took us back to Colombia for a visit. And we were able to visit a national monument called Esfuerzo. And after a morning tour we were taken to the patio deck for a lunch. And as we were seated and waited for our lunch, we chit-chatted and then our lunch was served, it was Sancocho and if anyone knows what Sancocho is I want to talk you afterwards. It's a traditional stew. As it was served, I notice the boy off to my right. He was approaching us, young and maybe 10 or 11 years old, a white shirt, white pants and no shoes. As he approached us, I just kind of looked at him and looked at my mom and he got about four feet away from me and then he lowered himself to the ground. So I have my food and he is staring at me, so I kind of not knowing what to do, and I ask mom why is he there? Why is he staring? And she says, she explained, he is waiting to see what you will leave behind. I looked at my mom, I looked at the boy and I just put down my spoon and gave the Sancocho to him.

That experience left me with a perspective for life. And what I mean by that, that was a paradox in disguise. Back in the United States, my family had limited financial resources, but in Colombia we had enough to go out and to share. At that point, I began to understand that small acts can have big impact, regardless of how many resources we have. And I think that's a key piece right here, not only for just an entrepreneur venture in of itself, but for what we're trying to do at StorWatts.