

# 'I AM WHAT I AM THANKS TO COPA'

**YARAIKY FELIZ, COPA  
alumnus, tells us what COPA  
means to her and where it  
has taken her since graduation. Translated by Alisha  
Ekers**

I studied at the COPA school in La Hoya from the age of 4, starting in preschool. It was the best school because it was the beginning of my education. When I was in COPA I always liked the assemblies every Friday, with dramas, songs and more. At school, I never had to buy school books, notebooks and pencils because thanks to my sponsors I had all of that and enjoyed many privileges. After I left COPA I went to the high

school and thankfully I kept receiving help from my sponsors and thanks to them I was able to study in one of the best academic centres in Barahona.

I've always said: what would have been my life, the life of my brothers and sisters, and the lives of children and youth of La Hoya, if God had not blessed us with COPA? My family and I and the people of the village have been blessed by COPA.

After I finished high school, I started college, I worked from 2012-2015 as a volunteer in COPA leading the assemblies and I was responsible for teaching children Christian education.

Today I am 24 years old and I am finishing college career in clinical psychology. I continued getting help from COPA and my sponsors. God has blessed me THROUGH COPA, I think of all the privileges I have had thanks to COPA. It is more than an organization, COPA has become part of my life. It's like a family !!! The people of the village of La Hoya and Bombita have been privileged, blessed, lucky, there are so many

nice words I can say. Thanks to God and to COPA.

Today I am also a leader in the evangelical church alongside Pastora Connie Dileo, which was another blessing that she has spent so many years working in La Hoya and preaching in the church. I am teaching dance, working with young people and children. I've always said these words: I am what I am thanks to God, my parents and COPA.



Yaraiky with a group of COPA students