

Martha Angulo

LOCATION

José Rafael Revenga, Aragua, Venezuela

SCHOOL

Unidad Educativa Nacional (UEN)

Bolivariana Comunitaria

"Don Simón Rodríguez"

BIO

Currently director of the Unidad Educativa Nacional Bolivariana Comunitaria "Don Simón Rodríguez" school and an advisor to the national teacher training program. Married with a son and daughter. She is 46 years old.

Why did you become a teacher?

When I was 14, I began teaching what little I knew to youngsters in the neighborhood where I grew up. I started with just three students, and within two months, I was teaching 48 children. I worked at this level of unpaid teaching for 17 years until I got the opportunity to enter formal education as a teacher in rural primary schools. But it was those years of working at the community level, with no set schedule, that formed my character as an educator. When my neighbors called me "teacher," I felt great pride. Being a teacher is not just telling people what they must learn, but helping them learn.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school system?

Ensuring that the children of our district have the tools they need to understand the world and the role they must play in helping solve the many problems we face. This is an essential goal of Bolivarian education, which sets projects appropriate for each grade and emphasizes the formation of values. We have already achieved good results in changing student attitudes. Our district has demonstrated that through the triad of family, school and community, everything is possible.


What was your most inspiring experience?

We have an excellent resource in *Aprendiendo a querer* (Learning to love). The program allows us to reflect and confront ourselves to improve communication among everyone we work with. I appreciate the opportunity that it has given me to understand the work of teaching in communities to contribute to the development of better human beings and a better planet.



Martha Angulo at the rural school she directs, approximately 50 miles from Caracas.

Photographed by Gabriel Osorio/Polaris on September 1, 2010.

A woman with shoulder-length brown hair and sunglasses on her head is looking out a window with white blinds. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved blouse with a buttoned placket and floral embroidery. Her hands are resting on the window sill. The background is a plain wall with a blue poster.

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