

It's every parent's nightmare: Imagine your baby starts to have a seizure in your arms. You call 911 for help, but you can't communicate what's happening to the person on the line.

Karla Nuñez experienced this with her beautiful baby boy, Jose Armando.

She recalls that the paramedics came, and took Jose away in the ambulance. Desperate for answers, she had to wait. **Karla didn't speak English, and couldn't ask what was happening to her son.** At the hospital she could not understand what the doctors were telling her.

Jose spent the next three months in a coma. Doctors said that Jose would never recover, and that she and her husband should consider end-of-life care. Karla's despair could only be communicated through an interpreter.

But she was determined to advocate for her son's life, in her own words.

Tens of surgeries, hundreds of doctor visits, and thousands of hours of compassionate care later, Jose has spent the last sixteen years at home, with his family. Faced with Jose's diagnosis of cerebral palsy, Karla has dedicated herself to being able to communicate with his doctors and caretakers, in English.

Five years ago, Karla began English classes with Intercambio in her home, so that she could stay with Jose while she learned.

She continues her classes today. Now, when she goes to appointments with him, she advocates for him directly, using her own voice. "I understand more when I go to the hospital, and I can get the prescriptions my son needs myself. I don't need interpretation help anymore," she said.

You can ensure that those who need to learn English have the opportunity to do so.

75% of Intercambio students care for children, and your contribution allows them to be the best advocates for their health, education, and wellbeing in the community.

Intercambio's curriculum is specifically designed to focus on relevant English language skills for students – making sure each class covers the topics that are important to them. With 52,000 Boulder County residents who speak a language other than English at home, there are many more people to reach.

Make your donation to Intercambio today. There are two ways to give:

1. Use the enclosed envelope to mail a check or donate by credit card.
2. Donate online at www.intercambioweb.org/donate.

Thank you for supporting students like Karla. Your continued generosity is appreciated by all— students, volunteers, and the many people in the community who benefit when people are able to communicate.



Lee Shainis

P.S. Can you give this year to ensure that local mothers like Karla have the opportunity to learn the English they need to advocate for their children?



Karla (left) uses English to advocate for her children's wellbeing and health.