

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/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 too 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...