

CARP USA Newsletter: Becoming the Person I Was Always Meant to Be

Jinil Fleischman
November 18, 2022



Becoming the Person I Was Always Meant to Be



Happy November! As the days get closer to Thanksgiving and Giving Tuesday, we would like to share stories of how CARP has made an impact. Meet Maria, CARP Bay Area leader and Aerospace Engineering major at Chabot College!

Despite what she experienced and was taught in her upbringing, CARP allowed her to completely change her outlook on life and love.

"The Divine Principle gave me an outline of what love is and how it's formed, how true heavenly families are made, and helped me finally get closer to God. I had so much resentment and fear thinking that love included conditions and abuse and that this was a reality I'd just have to accept. But I learned that there is another way and that love is unconditional and ever-growing and definitely does not include any sort of abuse. It impacted my whole view of life; it's like everyone in CARP handmade a pair of love-glasses and gave them to me."

[Read her story](#)

Hearing stories like Maria's reminds us that this is why we do CARP. Sometimes, in the midst of all the hard work, stress, putting together events, we can forget that it may be those very moments where lives are being transformed.

If you would like to make a contribution to support students like Maria, consider donating to our end of the year campaign. All proceeds will go to the growth of our students and chapters.

[Donate here](#)

As always, thank you for your support!





Becoming the Person I Was Always Meant to Be

November 17, 2022 - student-spotlight

Search



Hi! My name is María Elena Barragan. I'm currently studying at Chabot College seeking to transfer to a four-year school, and my major is Aerospace Engineering. Besides that, I'm working full-time as a security guard at Pinterest and doing CARP part-time. I love studying about space and the universe, singing, going to the movies or the beach, and blogging online. I have three beautiful sisters who are my best friends :)

Before I met [CARP Bay Area](#), I was lost and had no sense of what love truly is. I grew up in a very abusive/toxic household. My parents got divorced when I was six years old and I have been receiving therapy since then. I spent my early years surviving and keeping myself in a bubble for my own safety. Despite this, I always tried to find a way out and stayed strong and resilient and utilized all the resources at my schools through a specialized education program. I was basically raised by my sisters, counselors/therapists at school, and case managers. I knew in my heart that there was a Heavenly Parent because after my dad separated from my mom, he would take me to church; however, I was still hesitant, hurt, and very far from Him.

When I started college, I met Youngg Joo Scharf and Karen Ishiguro and they introduced me to what CARP stands for and invited me to attend club meetings, Ignites and Unification Principle Seminars. All the lectures just connected to me in a way that my church from my childhood never did. When I first heard about the Fall (Chapter 2 of the [Divine Principle](#)), so many dots connected for me. I analyzed all the relationships I grew up with, especially my parents'. The Divine Principle gave me an outline of what love is and how it's formed, how true heavenly families are made, and helped me finally get closer to God. I had so much resentment and fear thinking that love included conditions and abuse and that this was a reality I'd just have to accept. But I learned that there is another way and that love is unconditional and ever-growing and definitely does not include any sort of abuse. It impacted my whole view of life; it's like everyone in CARP handmade a pair of love-glasses and gave them to me.



Stories

STUDENT STORIES

ALUMNI STORIES

Archive

By Month

Year in Review

2021

2018

2017

International Trips

2018

2017



Now, I'm living in the CARP house and learning a lot more about the Divine Principle. I'm changing the trajectory of my lineage by healing all the generational traumas passed onto me and breaking the chain of pain and mental health illnesses within my family. I'm learning how to mature and heal myself. In my first CARP club meeting, everyone came up and greeted me and hugged me and physical touch scared the heck out of me!! I did not understand it. But now I'm hugging my sisters and learning how to love and be loved. From taking on small leadership roles here and there in seminars/retreats, to continuing to listen to lectures and having meaningful conversations with my CARP brothers and sisters—I am slowly becoming the person I've always wanted to be, the stable adult I've always longed to be, and growing to be the loving, caregiving daughter of God I was always meant to be.

Tagged: student leadership, student spotlight, student, carp bay area, CARP Life, power of the principle, live for the sake of others

♥ 1 Likes ↩ Share

Comments (0)

Newest First

PreviewPOST COMMENT...

[Older Post](#)

[Impacting the Culture of Love, Marriage, and Family through Education and Partnerships](#)

Sign Up for the CARP Newsletter!

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email Address *

[SIGN UP](#)

[RESEARCH](#) [SEMESTER AWARDS](#) [SHARE YOUR STORY](#) [CONTACT US](#)

CARP America

(212) 575-5091



Help CARP transform the lives of students in 2023!

Choose amount 🔒 ● ○ ○ ○ ○ →

One-time Monthly Annually

\$150
Gift: pen

\$300
Gift: mug

\$500
Gift: journal

\$1,000
Gift: journal, pen & mug

\$2,000
Gift: fleece

\$ Custom Amount
Enter custom amount

Write us a comment

[Next →](#)

Powered by Donorbox

Be assured that CARP members across the country, like **Alicia** and **Maria**, will continue to work hard as principled voices on their campuses. But for maximum impact, these students rely on the generous support of donors that fund their **leadership training, curriculum development, promotional materials, and internships**. Please be our valuable catalyst in the ongoing development of student leaders and a principled campus culture. Donate now to fund 2023 CARP programs!

And receive a free gift with your donation!

With a qualifying donation before the end of the year, we will send you **the latest CARP gear**. Just make the corresponding one-time donation or set up the equivalent monthly recurring donations through 2023. Proudly show the CARP brand and share the message with friends!

\$150 Pen



\$300 Mug



\$500 Journal & pen



\$1000 Journal, pen & mug



\$2000 Fleece jacket



No Fee Donation Options

PAYPAL GIVING FUND

Click this button to make a fee-less donation to CARP, courtesy of PayPal

CHECKS, make payable to "CARP" and send to:

CARP
481 8th Ave. Box A6
New York, NY 10001

Sign Up for the CARP Newsletter!

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email Address *

SIGN UP

[RESEARCH](#) [SEMESTER AWARDS](#) [SHARE YOUR STORY](#) [CONTACT US](#)

CARP America

(212) 575-5091
admin@carplife.org

© CARP America 2022