Dear friend,

On August 12th, 2017, FXB honors International Youth Day! Whether through vocational training programs in South Africa, community-led theater in Myanmar or recreation programs in Colombia, FXB empowers youth to reach their full potential. On this International Youth Day, we share a reflection written by Marina Zoullas, a high school student who interns with FXB and recently travelled to Colombia to meet youth participating in the FXBVillage and youth programs.

"It was a hot, Colombian night in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Barranquilla, and I was very fortunate to be able to see the first presentation of Escándalo Urbano, FXB’s
Colombian youth program’s exhibition. The whole neighborhood came down to the fields to enjoy the performances of its participants. There were rappers, break dancers, DJs, and graffiti artists displaying their talents. The excitement was palpable and everyone was curious to see what these pelaos (young boys and girls) have been working on for the past month while attending the FXB youth program. The enthusiasm of the talented performers was paired with loud music, bright lights, and a lively crowd full of supportive families and friends.

As one group of young rappers, consisting of four boys and one girl, approached the stage, the crowd roared with excitement. One by one each rapper started to join in on the song, performing their solos with more and more confidence as the song continued. One of the members, a boy around 17 years old with disabilities, froze during his performance and forgot his part. All of a sudden, the rest of the group jumped in to not only help him, but also encourage him to continue. The camaraderie and respect that I witnessed during this performance between these kids, who a few
months earlier dealt with drugs and gangs in their day-to-day lives, was overwhelming and beautiful.

That moment made me realize that sometimes having an opportunity to follow another path could be transformative. Thank you FXB for seeing the potential in everyone of us, the youth.

Go Escándalo Urbano!"

Learn more about FXB Colombia's recreation program for at-risk youth and donate today!

**About Marina Zoullas:** Marina Zoullas is a high school student in New York City who is passionate about empowering women living in extreme poverty around the world. In addition to interning at FXB USA, she has been involved in supporting microfinance initiatives in Ghana and started a women's collective, Give and Gain, that supports women through the fair trade and handmade products they produce.