

Celebrate with the little you have ♡

With the passage of the hurricane on September 16th, I had to leave my house due to flooding in the area and pass the hurricane at my grandparent's house in another municipality. After the hurricane, there were several days in which the sun didn't rise. After three days, we were able to go out into the street only to find out that my house could not yet be reached, since there was no way to go through. All the trees and vegetation were left without any leaves, and the grass looked brown due to the strong gusts of the hurricane.

My family and I spent three months without electricity and with water from the cistern. Food was scarce, even in supermarkets. My family and neighbors shared resources every day. This led to having better communication and making new friends. On September 29th was my grandmother's 68th birthday. This was an event that we all forgot, even herself, due to the struggles we were facing. When we finally remembered it later that day, we cried a lot.

Classes at the university resumed on October 23rd, with schedules no later than 4 P.M. There was still no electricity on more than half of the island and it wasn't safe to be on the street at night. Academically, many projects were reduced to be able to finish the fall semester in time for the next one in January.

For my 21st birthday on November 24th we still didn't have electricity. With great affection, the neighbors all cooperated to throw me a birthday party. We celebrated my grandmother's birthday and mine together. The electricity returned to my house in the middle of December. Hurricane Maria taught me to value what one has, even if it isn't much. That is what this poster represents: as we were in darkness, unity and celebration illuminated us every day.

Suggestions:

- To the volunteers to be prepared mentally and physically.
- For the universities to function as a refuge to support the existing shelters.
- The creation of an act, similar to the one that the Pontifical Catholic University carried out, in which the distribution of food was emphasized. This could be applied to other universities.
- That agencies dedicated to help the victims have a better management of supplies, since in several cases many people suffered from hunger and lack of basic needs and help never came.



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