

## **Fundación Cepsa and ASPRODESORDOS, toward equal opportunities by developing social skills**

- **The Association of Families of Deaf Persons of Huelva continues in summer, supporting young people with hearing impairments and their families**
- **The project “Taller de competencias y habilidades sociales para jóvenes con discapacidad (Social skills and competencies workshop for young people with disabilities)” was recognized by the 2019 Social Value Awards**

Fundación Cepsa visited the ASPRODESORDOS center in the capital of Huelva to continue in direct contact with the supervisors of the institution and its families, and to learn more in this way about the progress of the winning project of the 2019 Social Value Awards “Taller de competencias y habilidades sociales para jóvenes con discapacidad (Social skills and competencies workshop for young people with disabilities)” presented by the Association of Families of Deaf Persons of Huelva.

Ever since the award ceremony, the energy and chemical company’s Fundación has maintained contact with the winning organizations from each year, taking interest in the implementation of the winning projects in particular and the work of the winning institutions in general. On this occasion, the head of the Fundación Cepsa in Huelva, Teresa Millán, had the opportunity to have breakfast with young people benefiting from the projects and some of their closest family members.

The ASPRODESORDOS Association is a non-profit, provincial-level institution created in 1977 through a group of fathers and mothers with children with hearing disabilities coming together to watch over and protect the rights of their children. Its primary objective is to represent and manage the requests and needs of people with hearing disabilities and their families.

The awarded project “Taller de competencias y habilidades sociales para jóvenes con discapacidad (Social skills and competencies workshop for young people with disabilities)” is intended for people with functional diversity, particularly teenagers with severe and profound hearing impairment, most of whom have cochlear implants, including both members and nonmembers of the institution, but who have learned of the project through its publicity campaign and fit the profile of beneficiaries.

Its aim is to meet the needs of the group of young people with hearing impairments and hearing prosthetics (hearing aids and cochlear implants) to promote their comprehensive development and thereby drive their social-occupational inclusion. Their social-personal skills are assessed individually to provide education in the areas most lacking and with

social skills focused on personal independence and employment, while also advising families so they can support their deaf children's development towards an adult life. Additionally, work is done to improve self-esteem that will later enhance their social-occupational inclusion.

For Teresa Millán, "this project promotes equal opportunities, nondiscrimination, and universal accessibility, particularly for people with disabilities, who are a priority in the social policies of Cepsa and its Fundación."

For Belén Segura, manager of ASPRODESORDOS, "the priority goal of the institution is to promote the comprehensive development of young people with hearing impairments to promote their social and occupational inclusion. It is important to note the work to bring about development in oral expression and comprehension that helps them to advance in the personal and social fields, taking into account that this is a group with very special educational needs."

In visiting this association, the Fundación Cepsa continues its cycle of meetings with the winning institutions of the 2019 Social Value Awards, during which more is learned about the groups benefiting from each winning project and the real needs for social inclusion and integration are confirmed in first person.

### **Social Value Awards**

The Awards for Contributions to Society started in Huelva in 2005. They were well received, resulting in the other Cepsa centers joining the initiative in subsequent years, which was the case with Tenerife, the Autonomous Community of Madrid, Campo de Gibraltar, Portugal, Colombia and Brazil.

These Awards are one of the stand-out initiatives of Fundación Cepsa. The aim of these awards is to help the most disadvantaged people, groups and sectors of society, nurture charitable values and promote educational and cultural development with the help of Cepsa staff, given that all of the programs, projects or activities entering the competition must have been nominated by a Cepsa employee, who thus becomes a "charity sponsor" for the project.

The period for submitting entries to the 2020 competition will open in September.

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