

The effort of an Ultraman athlete to create a unique space for hospitalized children

LOCATION: Jaén

DURATION: 1'49"

SUMMARY: Juanma Gutiérrez is one of the 40 sportsman from all over the world, and the first Andalusian, who competed in the Ultraman World Championship 2016. What motivated him was not only his passion for this sport, but also his desire to raise awareness about a good cause: 'El jardín de los sueños' (or 'The garden of dreams'). It is a space promoted by the ALES Association and that has been built within the Maternity and Child Hospital of Jaén, where hospitalized children can play. It is the first hospital recreation room in Spain that combines open air and covered spaces, what allows children to use it all year round.

VTR:

Sport is one of the pillars of the life of Juanma Gutiérrez. In the beginning he practised duathlon, but now he competes in ultraman trials, in which in three days he faces 10 kilometres of swimming, 420 of cycling and two marathons, a 84 kilometres race. All that requires physical and mental preparation.

JUANMA GUTIÉRREZ
Ultraman athlete

"It requires many hours of training and the daily sacrifice of finding time to combine work, family and training sessions. We could say that my life is like a Tetris game."

In 2012 his son was admitted into the Maternity and Child Hospital of Jaén. Then he thought that apart from dedication, he also needed a good cause.

JUANMA GUTIÉRREZ
Ultraman athlete

"You are there, walking down the aisles, watching children and think that you are an adult who has been there for only two days and you feel that it took forever, so, for a child who has spent months there, even years, it must be devastating."

YOLANDA MONTORO
ALES Vice-President

"They are away from treatments, white coats, and they start to think that they are in an open space, in a park... and it's very good for them at a psychological level, because they will think that they really are outside the hospital."

That's how they created a space, the first in Spain, which has both open air and covered areas, so it can be used all year round. The association of families of children with cancer ALES and Juanma Gutiérrez have reached their goal in record time.

JUANMA GUTIÉRREZ
Ultramán

"In the end life has an expiration date. We don't know what it is, but it's there. So, the time we have left, we must fully enjoy it."

Following this philosophy, this Ultraman athlete has been one of the 40 sportspeople from around the world who has competed in the Ultraman World Championship held in Hawaii in November of 2016, always running towards the same goal, the Garden of Dreams.

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