Welcome to the Phoenix projects
Welcome to the team

Hi there. I would like to tell you a little more about our projects across Central and South America. I wanted you to be the first to know a bit more about what the future holds for the Phoenix projects across all countries and look at ways you could support us in the future. We have 11 projects across five countries; Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Perú. Each project follows our aims of a sustainable free education and nutrition to the poorest families.

Firstly, I would also like to say a huge thank you for your interest in our work. We are very proud of the work we do and I am very flattered that you would like to get involved; welcome to the team!

We have so many plans to take our projects into the future and I would love to give you the opportunity of being involved. As a member of our team we would be able to offer you a free visit and an update on your project throughout the year. It would be wonderful to keep you in the loop so please have a look at what you can do for us. Thank you.

How did it start?

Myself and my wife Doreen started these projects. After gaining a degree from the University of Northumbria, United Kingdom, I spent four years investigating, researching and travelling South America, finally settling for Guatemala where I have lived since 2000.

Doreen is born and bred Guatemaltecan, hailing from Guatemala City, where she earned a degree in Marketing and International Business from Rafael Landivar University; she decided to set up projects to help her country, its people and its visitors.

We set up our first project in San Andrés Itzapa, Guatemala in 2003 with 25 children and we now have around 250 children coming into school every day. A year later we set up a project in Santa Maria with 15 children and we now have 250 children coming in every day there too. Across all of the projects we are supporting 1,000 children and 750 families.
Our vision for the future

We want to continue providing two basic human rights through sustainable programmes; free education and food to indigenous and marginalised communities in each project we open.

We want every child to have the opportunity to further their education as far as they like. To finish college, to graduate from university and have the start in life they deserve. Children like José Luis.

We are creating a sustainable model as we believe that education and nutrition combined can allow communities to grow out of poverty over time.

José Luis

José Luis joined our school in 2003 as a very intelligent student. He progressed through our primary school so fast and always dreamed of being a teacher. José Luis was always involved in the school and he loved drawing and singing the most. He used to draw pictures for all the teachers and give them out as little presents; he was so thoughtful. He was also a great performer, he loved to sing and he would often delight us with a song at school parties; it was always followed by a round of applause!

Once he had finished in the primary school we were so pleased that he wanted to continue his education. And continue he did, through secondary school and teaching college. We paid for this as it was what he wanted to do and he graduated in 2008 with flying colours.

Fours years on and José Luis is the Director of a Rural Community school in Itzapa and is an inspiration to many children “If it wasn’t for Phoenix I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to learn, to graduate and to fulfill my dream of teaching; I would still be working in the fields with my father.”

And an inspiration he is as we have so many more students training to be teachers. Once they have trained they have an opportunity to work in our school as we the students to be proud and to run their own sustainable school in the future. As José says “Education is so important, for everyone. I love my job as I get to give back to the community that supported me for so long, I am very proud of what I have achieved.” And we are proud of him too!
Our plans for the future

We have some very exciting plans for 2012 in Itzapa and Santa Maria. In Itzapa we have gained national, legal status as a school (something we aim to do in Santa Maria by 2014) which means national teachers! In Santa Maria we want to give every child the chance to go to national school and take their exams.

Nationalisation means the children can come to us all day, every day for a consistent education meaning more time to learn, they can pass our exams with us and they will have more time to have fun!!! For Santa Maria, it means a chance for every child to pass their exams and continue to work for a bright future.

This is going to be an incredibly exciting year and we are very proud of our achievements. But, here is something we don’t shout about so much; what we need to do to get to this point. A national school is expensive and so are scholarships to national school. Our projects in Guatemala cost $139,000 (plus sustainable plans) a year to run and are solely funded through volunteer contributions through Fly the Phoenix, our registered charity in England and Wales #1148531 which we use to cover the following aspects of our work.

- A daily piece of fruit and breakfast ($40 per child for a year) $20,000
- Fresh drinking water ($2 per child for a year) $1,000
- Cultural celebrations, including birthdays ($12 per child for a year) $6,000
- Educational materials ($20 per child for a year) $10,000
- Priceless teachers ($90 per child for a year) $45,000
- Plan Ancianos for the elderly ($60 per person for a year) $15,000
- Plan Fertilizante for the fathers ($40 per family for the year) $10,000
- School maintenance $2,000
- Plan Vivero (planting 25,000 a year) $5,000
- Sustainable plans like Plan Moo and Abeja China (mange tout) $80,000
- Plans in case of a natural disaster $10,000
- The projects would be nothing with Phoenix Staff $15,000

A total cost of $139,000
Making a major donation

Becoming a major donor is an opportunity for you to fund specific projects in our school. Major donations allow us to plan ahead to meet our long term goals. We would love to talk to you about how you can donate to our school so that we can continue to educate the children into the future.

Please email Sarah sarah@thephoenixprojects.org or call her on 01905 570792 to discuss the best way for you to support us. We can tailor a donation package to meet your objectives and fit your budget. Have a look at the ideas we have below to see if there is something of interest for you; from fruit to a teacher’s salary you can make a difference to these children’s futures.

You can choose to make a one-off donation from $150 to $25,000, or provide funding over a number of years. You can donate to us on your own or in a group with family, friends or colleagues.

How your donation could make a difference

$153.85 will give five children a nutritious breakfast and daily piece of fruit. Many of the children in our schools don’t get enough food and certainly not enough nutrition. With a breakfast and piece of fruit we have seen children be released from malnurishment and grow into young adults.

$303.60 will pay for a national teacher like José Luis to join us in Itzapa for a whole year ensuring we follow strict national regulations and teach a consistent curriculum throughout the year
$385.49
will pay for a student to go to secondary school for the full three years of education, and come to our school for extra English support all the way through to graduation.

$800
We want to buy each family a cow which over time will provide enough milk to fund a child to go to secondary school. This will therefore remove the need for yearly scholarships and make the project sustainable – keep the cow happy and you stay in school!!! A good milk cow costs $800 which means for $800 you can guarantee a child gets through their education – simple!

$2,569.99
will pay for a class of 20 secondary school students to go through a year of national school and our extra English support, preparing them for their future.

$8,031.23
will pay for 250 children in our school in Santa Maria to go to national school so they can pass their exams as well as our school for reinforcement for a whole year.
$10,000 will provide enough fertilizer for our 500 school children and their families for the whole year. Ensuring that the well used land is given enough nutrition to provide the crops desperately needed for to feed the families!!

$15,000 will provide 300 grandparents in Itzapa and Santa Maria with food and medicinal plants for a whole year, a privilege only earned by those kids who attend school every day

$76,000 will keep the school running for the year and provide enough education 650 children to pass the year and continue onto a better education and a better future. That includes scholarships, food and fruit, local salaries to run the school, educational materials ans school maintenance. For just $76,000 you can rewrite the future of 650 children.

Thank you