

Starfish Spotlight:

Meet some of our Starfish Scholars:



"I hope, one day, that we can do something to help The Starfish Foundation, just like they have helped us." - Arelisa, Starfish Scholar, age 13

"I am so grateful...Starfish has given me uniforms; they have given me everything that I haven't had, or haven't had on time." - Pamela, Starfish Scholar, age 16



"I have to keep studying more for the future because when I grow up I want to be a police officer." - Steve, Starfish Scholar, age 13

"I like to study medicine because I would like to help low-income families who sometimes can't get medical attention because of their economic situation." -Betsabeth, Starfish Scholar, age 18



Meet the Co-Founders!

The Starfish Foundation, Inc. developed after co-founders Beth Awalt and Jenn Zocco volunteered for a year in Ecuador. During that year, they saw the struggle that many of their neighbors and friends faced in order to continue studying. Though public schools in Ecuador are free, families are often challenged to provide all the necessary materials, such as uniforms and books while living on minimum wage and trying to feed a whole family. For many families, it is easier to take the kids out of school and send them to work. Thus, The Starfish Foundation, Inc. was founded to provide scholarships, tutoring and leadership development to students in financial need who have the motivation to continue their studies.



How Can You Help?

\$25 provides one month of support for a Starfish Scholar, while \$300 supports a student for an entire year.



Donate via mail:

Check, cash, or money order contributions made payable to "The Starfish Foundation, Inc." can be mailed to:



The Starfish Foundation, Inc.
1133 Dulaney Gate Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Donate online at:

<http://www.thestarfishchange.org/donate.html>

Volunteer:

We are always looking for volunteers, both in the U.S. (from various locations) and in Guayaquil, Ecuador. If you have skills or ideas that you think would be helpful to Starfish, contact us and we can set your ideas into action!

The Starfish Foundation, Inc.

1133 Dulaney Gate Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030 (410) 628-1063
Email address:
thestarfishchange@gmail.com

For more information, visit us at:
www.thestarfishchange.org

The Starfish Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Starfish Foundation, Inc.





Our Mission

To be a premier means for at-risk Ecuadorian youth to achieve a post-secondary education.

Our Vision

Our vision is a community where underprivileged Latin American youth are empowered to create a better future for themselves through continuing education.

Starfish Results

-100% of 2012-2013 Scholars and 98% of all 2013-2014 Starfish participants stayed in school and are enrolled for the 2013-2014 academic year

-30% more students achieved at least a B-average during our second year of tutoring.

-Tutoring attendance rates rose 27% to 89% in our second year of programming.

-Starfish staff now includes 12 part-time Ecuadorian employees.



Our Values

Community – The Starfish family encompasses students, families, volunteers, staff, donors and supporters. We strive to make decisions for the best of the entire community by spending time together, fostering positive relationships and encouraging others in the community to reach their fullest potential.

Life-long learning – We value continued education. Learning occurs inside and outside the classroom. We encourage the Starfish family to seek knowledge in academics, social justice and personal development.

Determination – Our students are determined to overcome life's challenges with positivity and strength, and the rest of the Starfish community follows that example. We accompany each other through these challenges, pressing on with the hope of a better situation in the end.

Excellence – The Starfish family aims for success in all aspects of life: our students' achievement of their goals, honesty and integrity from families and employees, and the highest measure of transparency for donors. We respect each other and the global community in all our actions.

What Do We Do?

The Starfish Foundation works with a total of 55 students in Flor de Bastión and Guasmo Sur in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Of these students, over 40 have earned a scholarship to support and encourage their educational success. The foundation runs three programs for Starfish Scholars:

Scholarships: We provide the Starfish Scholars with uniforms, books and other school supplies required by the school.

Tutoring Programs: Starfish Scholars are required to come to tutoring sessions three times a week. During tutoring they receive academic help from fellow students and Starfish employees. Students who are not Scholars are invited to attend tutoring to raise their grades and have the chance to earn a scholarship for the next school year.

Leadership Development: Students participate in workshops and community service throughout the year so that they can continue to develop as leaders in their homes, schools and communities. Since the students never have to pay for their scholarship, they give back to their communities through leadership.

The Statistics:

- The families of our Scholars live on an average of \$1.44 per person per day.
- According to the World Bank, *extreme poverty* means living on less than \$1.50 per person per day (2011).
- The adult literacy rate in Ecuador is 84% (2005-2010).
- School enrollment rates in Ecuador drop from 97% in primary school to 60% in secondary school.