



Callejón del Emperador No. 5, San Pedro El Panorama
La Antigua, Sacatepéquez 03001
+ (502) 77913112
www.casasito.org

Fund a teacher and support the education of more than 250 Guatemalan students

Summary

Remember when life was about the morning bell, who was your favourite teacher and who sat next to you? A good teacher can be the one who inspires you, who supports academic success, who cares about your outcomes, who listens carefully and the one who you are still thankful for today.

One fundamental piece that is missing in the Guatemalan school system is the quality education of teachers. Most teachers are poorly educated and underpaid and the curricula and teaching methods are outdated. Teachers often lack familiarity with basic teaching skills, variety of innovative subjects, techniques, and methodologies that would leave behind traditional teaching and could positively transform the education system of the country.

Challenge

The literacy rate of Guatemalans over the age of 15 years is just about 75%, a product of the country's failing education system. Despite the compulsory schooling, the enrollment rate especially for secondary education is quite low (about 48%). Outlays for enrollment fees, school supplies and uniforms can exceed a month's salary per child/per year for an average manual laborer. By having few economic resources, many children have no choice but to enter the workforce at an early age and leave their studies behind. But the Guatemalan society can only develop peacefully and participate in the modern world through better educational standards.

Despite the high percentage of young people with the potential to implement changes in their communities, only few participate in decision-making. The school system does not cultivate basic skills of critical thinking, creating a positive change in their communities. In addition, only few classrooms meet minimum standards for classroom space, teaching materials, and classroom equipment. Another factor contributing to the low quality of teaching is the lack of resources to teach a unified curriculum. The Guatemalan Ministry of Education has developed a K-12 curriculum however, many teachers do not have access to the curriculum, nor do they have teaching materials to actually teach the curriculum in their classrooms. Many teachers teach the way they were taught with primary methods of instruction being lecture or having students copy information from a blackboard. There is little evidence of research-based educational methodologies or of any understanding of the recent research on how the brain learns most effectively.



Callejón del Emperador No. 5, San Pedro El Panorama
La Antigua, Sacatepéquez 03001
+ (502) 77913112
www.casasito.org

Solution

At CasaSito, education is a tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. The association is a small grassroots organization whose mission is to transform the future of Guatemalan youth, so they can reach their academic, personal, and professional potential, and thereby generate change in themselves and their communities. In order to attack the roots of the low quality of education and create more impact on the Guatemalan society, CasaSito is currently working on a pilot program that will offer scholarships to teachers of private and public schools who often don't have the necessary funds to finish their academic career.

Through this new program, not only individual scholars that receive a scholarship from the association, but also selected teachers and their students will be able to take advantage of the program focused on higher education of teachers. The holistic program covers partial scholarships, personal development workshops and activities directed to the teachers' students that aim to awaken their spirit of critical thinking, leadership, and change. The Program aims to expand academic, professional, and personal opportunities for teachers, supporting them to become successful change-makers within their schools.

Long-term impact

During the first year 18 teachers participating in the program will be able to improve their academic and personal skills and have the necessary tools to implement innovative teaching methods to effectively teach the basic curriculum and public speaking and critical thinking within their classrooms.

Teachers will be more confident, motivated and passionate about what they do and improve the quality of education within their classrooms. That in turn will have a positive influence not only on the students (approximately 45 students per classroom) of the teachers participating in the program but also on other students of the school and cultivate basic skills and critical thinking that would make young people more motivated, influential and active in creating positive change. More than 800 students from public and private schools will directly benefit from the program and more than 3,000 students indirectly, each year.

Project budget

The total estimated project budget for one year amounts to **USD 35,161**. This cost will cover partial scholarships for 18 teachers, the cost of a Project Coordinator, Theatre, Debate and Math Teacher, the cost of 18 enrichment clubs for more than 200 students, the cost of three final presentations/festivals of the enrichment clubs and project related admin costs.