

NICOLÁS
FUND FOR *Education*

REPORT TO DONORS

for year 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT



This is another significant year to be part of the Nicolas Fund for Education (NFE). We celebrate the conclusion of our seventh year working with the children in the Ixil to help them break the cycle of poverty through education.

It is exciting to see the growing momentum of the impact we are seeing and will ultimately see as a result of your investments in our students.

Pedro David is a great example of the impact we are seeing as a result of our program. He was part of the original 13 students we provided scholarships for in 2012. After graduating from the Nicolas Christian School, he is now enrolled in San Carlos University with a major in education. He is now giving back as a tutor at the Nicolas Christian School in Villa Hortencia. In fact, he has become a competent English speaker and translated for the July team while visiting the village school. He has a

bright future in front of him.

I feel privileged to be a part of such a significant and impactful mission. One of the lessons I have learned is the importance of participating in a mission project over a long period of time to see true transformation. I hope you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our team and continue to support our work as we strive toward the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty for the next generation of Ixil village students.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Lopus'.

Al Lopus
Board Chairman and President

CELEBRATING SIX YEARS

Nicolás Fund for Education has consistently focused on improving the quality of education for all Ixil region students. Starting in 2012, we provided scholarships for 13 students. Nicolás Fund for Education has helped 21 Ixil students graduate from high school and 35 students graduate from junior high school within the past three years!

Nicolás Fund for Education believes that education is the most effective way to combat poverty. Ours is a social justice mission to help an indigenous population. The Ixil people face discrimination through a lack of funding for the most basic resources in elementary school and a lack of financial access to secondary school.

Unfortunately, most parents of our students are illiterate because they never had the opportunity to attend school during the 36-year civil war in Guatemala (1960-1996). The Ixil population was targeted for genocide during the war. Families lived on the run in the woods to avoid detection, and faced untold hardships such as extreme hunger, homelessness and constant danger. Because of illiteracy, these parents are now unable to ask local officials for needed road repairs nor can they fully understand business contracts and financial transactions. Literacy in Spanish is critical to equality in Guatemala.

"I am grateful to NFE because it gives me hope to continue climbing. My gratitude [goes out to] to the partners in the ministry because of their good wishes towards me and my companions. At each visit they fill me and my family with hope. Thanks also for your prayers for me, my family, and our communities and villages." -Pedro David



MISSION, VISION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

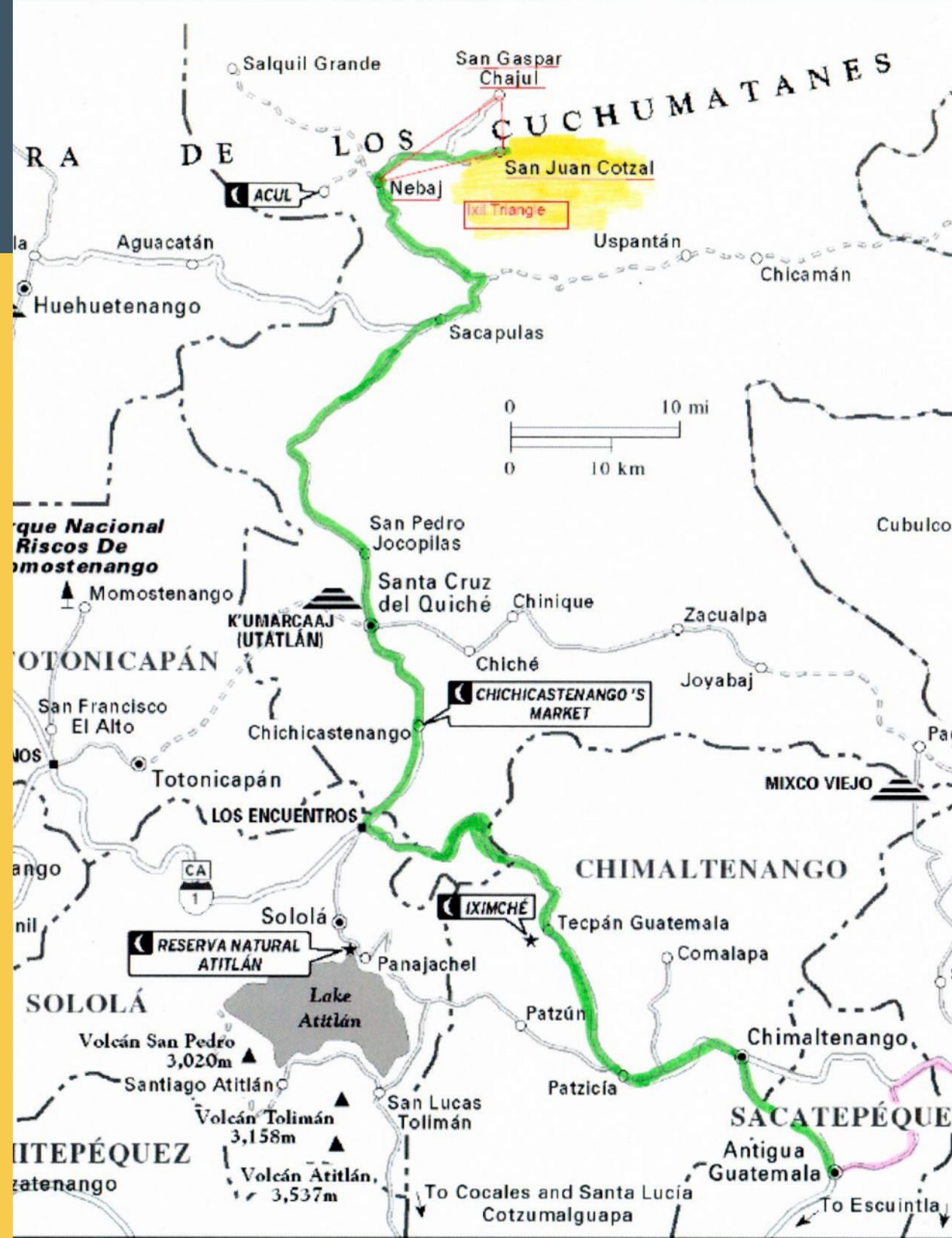
The mission of Nicolás Fund for Education is to equip the future generation of leaders in Guatemala through Christ-centered education that transforms their families, villages and the entire Ixil region.

OUR VISION

To see the Ixil region flourish through Christ-centered education.

OUR VALUES

- Christian faith lived out in community
- Hope
- Respect
- Integrity
- Stewardship
- Transformation



BOARD MEMBERS 2017/2018



Al Lopus
Chair



Becci Merritt
Vice Chair
(2019 Chair Elect)



Lane Lopus
Secretary



Lolo Levy
Treasurer



Kathy Riper
Donor Relations



Bill Safstrom
Academic Chair
(2019 Vice-Chair Elect)



Mary Young
Finance & Governance Committee



Michael Reynolds
Resource Development Committee



Heidi Linch Reynolds
Program Committee

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS

Nicolás Fund for Education (NFE) is beginning to really see the fruit of our labors. With God's provision and your support and partnership, Nicolás Fund for Education was able to accomplish the following in 2018:

- In 2012, NFE provided scholarships for 13 students. In 2018, the number of students served increased from 77 in 2017 to 107 students in 2019.
- Launched three new village partnerships to include San Nicolás, El Paraiso and Los Angeles. San Nicolás is an indigenous Quiche village so we are now serving a second indigenous Mayan population.
- Increased the number of village tutors helping 5th and 6th grade students to better prepare for secondary school to 5.
- 7 students graduated from high school in 2017 and 6 in 2018. For many families, this is the first member to ever graduate from high school.
- Improved student reading scores through use of e-books on tablets. The Guatemalan Ministry of Education National Standard for reading in 6th grade is 90 words per minute for the private sector, but for the public sector it is only 40 wpm. Nicolas Christian School (NCS) had newly enrolled 7th graders that did not even know how to read and write. In spite of the obstacles, NCS's reading goal is higher than the Ministry of Education's at 100 wpm by the end of 7th grade.
- Six NCS students (9th-11th grade) achieved a level of fluency in English that allows them to have conversations in English.
- NCS installed a computer lab with a server and work stations for 30 students.
- Obtained a grant for an Early Education/ Preschool pilot program. Initial plans are under development for a village preschool pilot program in San Nicolás. Introduced and promoted Infant Stimulation and Early Childhood toddler activities using wordless books to promote a culture of reading.
- Obtained funding for and secured the purchase of property for a new NCS site.
- Initiated Education with a Village (eWAVE) program. eWAVE supporters fund education projects empowering Ixil youth and form long-lasting connections with villages transforming lives and impacting whole communities through Christ-centered teamwork.
- Teacher Professional Development Workshop attendance increased to 150 regional teachers!
- NCS hosted the first Global Leadership Summit in Nebaj in 2017! In 2018, NCS sent 50 staff and students to the conference. We are influencing more children and building relationships with local churches through the Global Leadership Summit.
- NCS students built all the desks and chairs for our school in the carpentry shop, topped with fabric woven by VH1 students, and sealed with protective resin.
- Hired a Guidance Counselor to assist students with applying for college scholarships and providing emotional support.
- The 10 Talents program increased the number of students attending University from 10 to 14 in 2018. Anticipate seven of our first University graduates in Autumn 2019.
- In 2018, students at NCS led daily devotions. Additionally, a praise band and school choir were formed.



GOALS FOR 2019

Nicolas Fund for Education has identified the following goals for 2019. The goals address each of our core areas: Finance and Governance, Programs (Education), Communications and Resource Development.

- Design a new school that will accommodate 150 students to be placed on our new land.
- Launch a capital campaign to fund our new school with a target opening in 2021.
- Initiate a preschool program pilot program for ten students in San Nicolás.
- Host the Global Leadership Summit over a day and a half in 2019 and set an attendance goal of 225 people.
- Expand our University students from 13 to 19 through our Ten Talents Program (Matthew 25:14-30) at University of San Carlos (Nebaj) and other technical school scholarships.
- Achieve targets for reading speed and comprehension. Nicolás Christian School has a reading comprehension goal of 90% at 100 words per minute for our 7th graders (starting goal).
- Improve our trip experience for Impact Team Members, villagers and Nicolás Christian School. We want trips to be spiritually nourishing and promote enduring relationships between students, staff, families, and Impact Team members.
- Add US volunteers to help us keep our fundraising and operational costs as low as possible, so that donated dollars benefit our students.
- Build relationships with Guatemalan churches, eWAVE partners and donors by making our website and other promotional information bilingual.
- Come alongside our South Sound eWAVE partners as they raise funds to buy building materials for a new 10th-grade classroom for Villa Hortencia Uno.



Incoming students are reading for the first time in their lives on tablets at NCS Winter School that helps new 7th-graders succeed. School starts in mid-January 2019! Please keep our students in your prayers!



How Your Donations Are Spent

PERSONNEL
(IN COUNTRY)

27.4%

PROGRAM
SUPPORT
(IN COUNTRY)

20.7%

15%

TRANSPORTATION
(IN COUNTRY)

13.1%

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
(IN COUNTRY)

11.7%

DISTANCE LEARNING

MANAGEMENT &
ADMINISTRATIVE

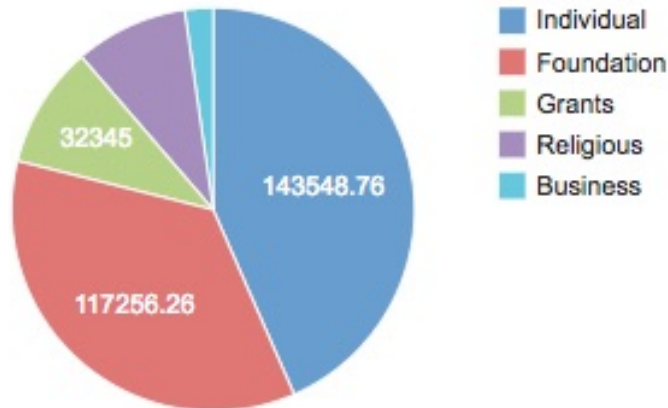
6.3%

FUNDRAISING

5.9%

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

2018 Donations by Type



- Our IRS Form 990 is posted on our updated website at nicolasfund.org.
- Nicolás Fund for Education continues to earn the GuideStar gold-seal of transparency for non-profits. GuideStar USA, Inc. is an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies. In 2016, its database provided information on 2.5 million organizations. Nicolás Fund for Education budget is too small to qualify to be rated on Charity Navigator or EFCA.
- This 2018 Annual Report for Donors is posted at nicolasfund.org, should you wish to share this information with friends.

Who Are Our Donors

Individual	\$ 143,549
Foundation	117,256
Grants	32,345
Religious	29,987
Business	7,516
Total Received	330,653

Where Your Donations Are Spent

Personnel (In Country)	\$ 58,892
Program Support (In Country)	44,450
Transportation (In Country)	32,146
Equipment and Supplies (In Country)	28,029
Distance Learning	25,041
Management and Administrative	13,436
Fundraising	12,672
Total Spending through October	214,666

The teachers at Nicolás Christian School so greatly believe in the mission of Nicolás Fund for Education that they are collectively sponsoring a scholarship for a student to attend NCS!



"I am thankful that I have reached a high academic level, and for what we do as tutors to support the little ones that follow us. Thank you for the support that you have given me for years. Together, we will transform more lives!" - Eber Rodríguez

Nicolás Fund for Education Annual Report 2018

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