

Use the enclosed envelope
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to gift a future of
opportunities!



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.

The vision of Nicolás Fund for Education is to see the Ixil Region flourish through Christ-centered education.

The values of Nicolás Fund for Education are Christian faith lived out in community, hope, respect, integrity, stewardship and transformation.

The Problem

Rates of primary-school completion and literacy for young people in Guatemala remain among the lowest in Latin America. Problems such as late entry, grade repetition, and early dropout persist. Indigenous (Mayan) adults have less than half the level of schooling of non-indigenous (Ladino) adults in Guatemala. At age 16 only 25% of Mayan girls and about 50% of Mayan boys are enrolled in school. The primary reason for non-enrollment is financial. Together we transform lives and impact communities!



NICOLÁS
FUND FOR *Education*

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

nicolasfund.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT



others volunteered as tutors for fifth and sixth graders in village primary schools. They will graduate having had practical experience in their field that will serve them well. Some of our graduates from university majoring in education may choose to continue their education to obtain advanced licensure that will permit them to teach high school or to be principals in schools. Others will be looking for employment as local primary school teachers.

Your donations are changing lives, and there has never been better proof of those changes than in 2019! This November, nine Nicolás Fund for Education students graduated from university and many will be certified to teach primary school and junior high. Who could have ever imagined the day when the toddlers we played with during our Agros "Journey with a Village" days would become university-educated professionals?

It is especially thrilling to see the accomplishments of our university students majoring in education. During the year, some have had one to two years of as teachers and

One student, Pedro David, was hired to professionally translate a video documentary into English for Agros International for their annual fundraising event!

A Nicolás Fund for Education preschool opened in the village of San Nicolás in July 2019 and is allowing Quiché toddlers and preschoolers to learn Spanish for the first time. Studies show that the easiest time to acquire another language is between infancy and age 7, but traditionally Spanish is not taught in the local primary schools until third grade. We know from our own junior and

senior high school program that the lack of Spanish fluency is a major barrier to reading comprehension and understanding mathematical questions posed in a story problem.

These young students will start primary school already speaking some Spanish and that will allow them to be more successful in their academic careers. The preschool also helps children to learn classroom behavior, how to cooperate with others and other important social skills. They pray and sing about God's love daily. The Preschool is such a great place to visit because it is full of laughter and fun and the excitement to learn.

I have often said that being a Board member of Nicolás Fund for Education is like being on the best roller coaster ride you can imagine!

Watching God execute his plan to lift the next generation of Ixil out of poverty is thrilling, fascinating and awe-inspiring. Just when you think something is impossible, God makes the impossible happen! It is our privilege to come alongside God in His work in the world. Won't you jump on the roller coaster ride of your life by contributing to Nicolás Fund for Education?

2019 BOARD MEMBERS



Becci Merritt
Chair



Bill Safstrom
Vice-Chair



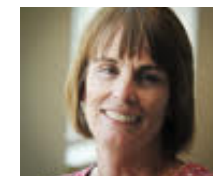
Lolo Levy
Treasurer



Lane Lopus
Secretary



Kathy Riper
Donor Relations



Mary Young
Finance & Governance



Heidi Reynolds
Programs Committee

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

Where Your Donations Are Spent

Personnel (In Country)	\$60,295
Program Support (In Country)	\$49,274
Transportation (In Country)	\$30,499
Tutoring & Village Costs	\$27,714
Equipment and Supplies (In Country)	\$27,040
Fundraising	\$22,466
Management and Administrative	\$11,940
Program Expenses (In Country)	\$8,038

We accomplished so much in 2019...

- NFE now works with 2 different indigenous Mayan people groups: the Ixil and the Quiché.
- NFE scholarships served 91 junior & senior high school students from 8 different villages. 100% of NCS seniors graduated on time.
- 44% of NCS's 2019 student body were female.
- 6 university students receiving NFE "Ten Talents" scholarships volunteered as tutors working with 5th & 6th grade students in 8 villages to help prepare them for successful entry to 7th grade at NCS.
- 10 students graduated from high school (called bachillerato).
- 17 students graduated from junior high school this year.
- 67 students in 4th, 5th and 6th grade are being tutored in 6 different villages. Tutoring includes math, language, social studies, natural science, technology, engineering and citizenship. Tutors are encouraged to create "learning by doing" experiences for students to reinforce material taught. 56% of tutoring students are girls.
- Through our tutoring alone, tutored students increased their words per minute reading an average of 15%!
- Tutoring is also taking place at NCS to help prepare seniors to apply for specialized university programs.
- NFE opened a bilingual Early Childhood Education Center & Preschool in the San Nicolás village serving 32 children. These Quiché-speaking children are learning Spanish! Expanding access to bilingual education programs in the early grades reduces grade repetition and dropout among Mayan primary-school students. Currently, only 1/3 of rural children in Guatemala have access to such programs.
- Our annual Teacher Professional Development workshop in July served 150 regional teachers and is becoming a much-anticipated event for networking and new teaching concepts. We also added a December workshop for teachers!

2020 Nicolás Fund Education Goals

- Improve students' Spanish language fluency and literacy
- Develop a plan to assess and address possible learning disabilities in our students.
- Develop comprehensive strategies for sustainability at Nicolás Christian School
- Continue our work to design, build and fundraise for a new school with capacity for up to 300 indigenous Mayan students

