

ACTIVITY PLAN 2011

Foundation Los Niños



Introduction

"Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world"
(Nelson Mandela)

Los Niños Foundation (www.losninos.info) is an official Dutch foundation established in 2002 and is locally run by Ana-Maria Ackermans, with the assistance of Virginie Roussel, Christel Tinselboer and many enthusiastic volunteers, to support local projects in the region Sacatepéquez (around Antigua) and Chimaltenango. Governance in the Netherlands ensures the proper legal functioning of the Foundation and the necessary funds in conjunction with a group of former volunteers. The foundation is recognized by the tax authorities as a public interest institution (ANBI).



The foundation focuses on education and increasing the autonomy and empowerment of the poorest children and their families, who are not involved in any of the programs of large organizations.

In practice this involves building and expanding schools, improving infrastructure, guiding management, paying teachers, securing scholarships, providing educational materials, family workshops, snacks and some financial aid in emergencies.

In this way, Los Niños contributes to five of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and mainly to number 2. "achieve universal primary education".

This year we hope to continue to expand and improve our educational projects. To attend school seems so ordinary but for many it is extra-ordinary. With our staff in Guatemala and the help of all our friends who live in the Netherlands we have the opportunity to change lives in Guatemala. We can realize this together. Thanks for your continued interest!

School Projects

Los Niños Foundation supports various school projects in a structural way with financial resources and the assistance of volunteers. The projects have to be initiated, managed and supported by the local community. That means that we never finance projects 100%.

1 Bendición de Dios, Alotenango

Since July 2003 Los Niños Foundation has supported the primary school Bendición de Dios (www.bendiciondedios.org) in Alotenango and its community, where many families live in extreme poverty.



In 2011 about 220 children will receive daily primary education at “Centro Educativo Melanjoco”. Los Niños contribution has been reduced to 90% of the operating costs.

In order to stimulate a growing professionalism, efficiency and financial independence, Los Niños established a new cooperation agreement which will be focusing on paying extra attention to regular communication, quarterly financial reviews, management with structure and transparent administration of the project. For the next 3 years **Foundation Child Project Guatemala** (SKG), will cover half of the operating costs and is a constructive thinking partner when it comes to education improvements.

1.1. Primary education

The hard-working teachers, directors and cooking mothers (in total 6.5 salaries), together with volunteers, keep the elementary school running with much



enthusiasm and heart for the children. This year we have 3 new teachers (2 male and 1 female) as the replacement of 9 classes between grades 1 to 5. Main goals are reading, writing and math. Every day the children get a healthy and nutritive snack and good hygiene manners are taught, for instance by brushing their teeth and washing their hands.

1.2. The carpentry workshop (carpintería)

The carpentry is an independent workshop for students of Bendición de Dios and as well as other young people of the community of Alotenango. 2011 Is a pilot year for director Suzan Eleveld. Jeroen Lans, a Dutch carpenter, was born in Guatemala, will help her with supervision and the formalizing and structuring of the workshop this year. With a new local instructor, they are preparing for the independence of this project.



1.3. Family progress



In giving separate workshops to the families, Los Niños is giving the parents ideas and tools as to how to create a positive social environment for themselves and their kids. Main values are love, authority, understanding and humour. The goal for 2011 is to reach about 40 new families. Julio’s daughter Paola, psychologist, will lead this program with help of Los Niños.

2 Instituto de Telesecundaria, Chimachoy



Since 2004 Los Niños Foundation supports the public junior high school (Básico) at Instituto de Telesecundaria Chimachoy situated in a high altitude mountain village. The school is directed by Laura Vasquez de Back. The Básico offers video-based education including English- and computer classes to 70-75 students in 2011. Laura wants to repeat last year's increase in girls attending the first grade, in order to contribute to

Millennium Goal 3 (gender equality and empower women).

Los Niños covers about 35% of the costs by paying 2 salaries, maintenance of building and computers, school materials and office expenses. This year, they will also buy music instruments to form a school band.

3 Semilla de Esperanza y Amor, San Mateo Milpas Altas

The education project in San Mateo is run by Lys Flores, a progressive and enthusiastic Guatemalan woman. Both school and non-school-going children (about 100) come for assistance with homework, English, computer and typing classes, as well as for sports and art. Motivated parents receive literacy, sewing, computer and/or cooking classes. Everything is taught with individual attention and love.



Beginning in 2011, Los Niños will care of about 50% of the operating costs and the furniture for the new building.

4 El Plan Infinito, Santiago Zamora



This year we adopted a new alternative educational project in the rural village Santiago Zamora, run by our partner CasaSito and the Belgian Director Chris Van de Vijver. The Vision of **El Plan Infinito** is to develop and support, for both children and adults, all those activities that discover artistic and athletic skills and widen the educational horizons through programs that encourage active learning. The afternoon program will include classes and workshops in English, computer classes, music, swimming, art, reading and health. For more information contact silke@casasito.org. Los Niños contributes with 30% of the total costs.

Scholarship Fund

Foundation Los Niños goes further than primary education only. To ensure a profession, higher education is a must. Los Niños provides scholarships to students who finished one of the above-mentioned school projects, is related to our partner CasaSito (www.casasito.org) or to one of our sponsored families. The scholarship is calculated on the socio-economical situation of the family and motivation of the student, but we always ask a small financial participation and an grade average of 70%.

For 2011, we are supporting 36 students:

	primary	junior high	teacher	computer science	technician	secretary	household	university
Alotenango			2					
Chimachoy			6	2	3	1		
CasaSito		15						1
Families	2	1			1		1	1

Direct small aid

Direct aid concerns medical expenses for the children, families and members of the different projects we sponsor. In 2011 we will continue this **Medical Fund** with financial support for surgeries, medicines, treatments, or funerals and expand it with some psychological therapies where necessary.

For the **homeless project**, taken over by Por Eso (www.poreso.org), Los Niños occasionally helps in case of an emergency and provide volunteers.

Finally, we keep an **Emergency Fund** for unforeseen needs and problems, e.g. hurricanes, earthquakes or volcano eruptions.

Volunteers



For above-mentioned projects, we provide volunteers to work for a period of 2 months to 1 year. Spanish intermediate level is required before a volunteer may begin to volunteer. If you want to participate in one of our educational projects in a wonderful country where you can explore culture and nature, please contact us at info@losninos.info.

MUCHAS GRACIAS – DANKUWEL – THANK YOU