

**YEARLY REPORT**  
**Association Los Niños**  
**2011**



## **Accountability by the Board**

The Board of Foundation Los Niños wants to show through this annual report which activities the Association in Guatemala carried out during the year to benefit a large number of poor children so that with this help they are able to get a good education.

Epecially, with this report, the Board also wants to be accountable for our activities and to our sponsors.

The beginning of the year was on one hand fertile and on the other hand it was difficult:

- It's great that there were around 500 disadvantaged children who had the opportunity to go to school in a country where an education isn't taken for granted. Development work has however difficult sides.

It is not at all self-evident to Guatemalan non-profit organizations that they must show accountability for money invested in their projects.

Although it goes very well with most projects, the Guatemalan Director of the Centro Educativo Los Niños Melanjoco, that was build together with the children's Foundation (SKG), didn't seem to take accountability seriously and there were a lot of difficulties. In the middle of the reporting year, the board of Los Niños, the board of SKG and the Guatemalan director had a meeting. It was made clear what consequences it might have by refusing presenting the accountability for the invested money.

As a result, the accountability became better and also the cooperation. This cooperation was written down by a notary in an agreement. As well the rental agreement for the school. Every year we will see if the rent can be free of charge and who will be responsible for the maintenance and who will arrange that.

- A concern of the Board is that the costs of the various projects grow faster than the revenue. The ability of money of the Association seems sufficient to maintain our projects, but if we need to reduce our activities for whatever reason the board wants to be able to fulfill the commitments we have with our partners and participants and therefore we made a plan for the future. created a plan to address this. .

- The board also noticed that a number of things should be legalized and that we need advice from local lawyers.

- The board wants to make clear that all costs made by the Association are only used for the purpose of the projects. The board receives no remuneration for their activities.

The board has met five times in the year 2011. They took important decisions about the budget and the policy of the association.

In addition, the board also decided to establish in Guatemala our own legal association "Asociación Los Niños". This association, written down in a legal notarial agreement, is desirable in Guatemala. There is an agreement about the relationship between the Association in Guatemala and the foundation in Holland with all the obligations they have.

-Another important decision the board has taken after a long discussion is the participation in Association CasaSito's Volunteerhouse. This American/Guatemalan association has been active for many years in Guatemala and they work with the same goals as our association. Los Niños will have their own office in the volunteer house and both organizations will give each other management support.

This year two changes have occurred with the staff in Guatemala and the board in Holland. In the beginning of this year, the Association said goodbye to Virginie Roussel who returned to Belgium. Virginie worked outstandingly for a number of years for the association. Christel Tinselboer replaced her.

In the board in Holland we said goodbye to Els van Rossen. She was responsible for the connection between the DOE-group, the group of volunteers who are active in Holland for the association, and the board of directors. H  l  ne Verrest took her place.

Since 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2011, the board consists of the following persons:

Mr J.A.C. Jongerius, president  
Mrs. Mr E.L.E. Lips-Reijn, secretary  
Mr. H.G. Dix, R.A. treasurer  
Mrs. J.M.C. Ackermans, member  
Mrs. M. Hoitink-Janssen, member  
Mrs. H.E.B.M. Verrest, member

The board wants to say thanks to all the sponsors of the association who made all the activities possible. Of course we want to thank the volunteers and member of the DOE-group for their involvement and the management team for their commitment. Finally, we are much indebted

to SKG who still contributes half of the costs in the education project in Alotenango.

Tilburg, april 2012,  
Jan Jongerius, president

## Report of the management team in Guatemala

### Introduction

Association Los Niños was able to achieve a lot in 2011 thanks to the trust of many donors.

What did we achieve?

In education in local projects:



- primary education to 223 children of 'Bendicion de Dios' in Alotenango (€ 180 per child per year)
- high school education to 75 children of 'Telesecundaria' in Chimachoy (€100 per child per year)
- homework coaching for about 100 children in San Mateo (€ 140 per child per year)

In education through partial or full scholarships:

- 3 scholarships for private primary school (between 700 and 1000 euro per child per year)



- 17 scholarships for high school of partner organization CasaSito (between 65 and 1200 euros per student per year)
  - 10 scholarships for a profession (between 100 and 900 euro per student per year)
  - 2 scholarships to university (between 900 and 1500 euro per year)
- incl. 1 of partner organization CasaSito

In the socio-cultural:

- donation to the music-art and sports festivals of CasaSito
- medical aid to students and families of our projects



- medical aid for the homeless in Antigua, supported by Foundation Por Eso
- donation for emergency aid to 50 families in the Department of Quetzaltenango

In this annual report, Los Niños support for these different projects will be discussed quantitatively and qualitatively.

## **Education through local school projects**

The most important item for Los Niños is education through local controlled projects. The structural support given to these projects consists of financial resources and volunteers.

### **1. (Primary)education, Alotenango**

#### **1.1. Primary education, Bendicion de Dios**

Along with Foundation Children's Projects Guatemala (SKG), Los Niños supports the elementary school Bendición de Dios of Alotenango (for their other programs, see [www.bendiciondedios.org](http://www.bendiciondedios.org)).

In the beautiful "Centro Educativo Guate-Niños Melanjoco", more than 223 pupils have successfully finished the school year.



Education clearly brings positive changes: they teach the children to be more independent and what it is to be self-reliant. They use different kind of education techniques which make the kids curious about the lesson material.

There were 3 new teachers. In the course of the year one of the new staff members was fired because she couldn't work within the educational system. She was replaced by a new primary teacher.

The communication between Bendición de Dios and Los Niños was better this year. There were regular meetings, where clear rules were made. Different things still need to be completed in an acceptable way.

In 2011, Los Niños has contributed to:

- ❖ The Salary Of The Teachers Of The Elementary School,
- ❖ Major Maintenance Of The New Building,
- ❖ A Nutritious Breakfast With Fruit For One Day A Week,
- ❖ Learning Resources,
- ❖ Events Like Mother's Day, Father's Day And Christmas
- ❖ Cleaning Products.

And all this was made possible with the help of our fantastic volunteers.



## **1.2. Carpentry workshop, Alotenango**



At the beginning of the year the location of the carpentry workshop atelier changed to a large practice room and a separate section was established for theory and painting lessons and an office.

Working in a team of 3 persons (founder Suzan Eleveld, carpenter Jeroen Lans and the Guatemalan instructor Saul Velasquez) was a new experience for all.

In 2011, a lot of time was spent getting everything documented for first grade classroom:

- all theory and technical drawings classes
  - exercises
  - descriptions of the work pieces were documented.
- They decided to work with kids aged 11 years and older.



In November and December, former students made several pieces and got paid for them. They got additional training and compensation for their hard work.

At the end of 2011, the team started promoting the carpentry in San Juan Alotenango. The team is independent. They will arrange their own inscriptions and they already created a contract that students and parents must sign if they want to participate in the workshops.



The carpentry workshop cannot be held responsible for any injury the students cause to themselves or others.

In 2012, they count on a minimum of 38 pupils for the first grade.

### 1.3 Family program, Bendición de Dios, Alotenango

In 2011, the family program "Fuerza Familiar" continued for 20 families of Bendición de Dios.

In a series of workshops both parents and children received some basic techniques to make family life easier through: education, communication, relationship between parents, relationships between parents and kids etc. Great importance was given to self-esteem, love, authority, respect, and humor.

Halfway through the year, the psychologist Paola Garcia took over the program and will continue it in 2012.

She found enough funds to continue the program.

## 2. Highschool 'Telesecundaria' of Chimachoy

In 2011, the Telesecundaria secondary school in Chimachoy counted with 75 students, an increase of nearly 10% compared with the previous year.

In addition of the video classes the students receive English, computer, and music lessons.

Unfortunately, only 9 of the 33 students from the first year were girls. But Laura Vasquez continues to work to make this change. Girls also must continue studying.



With respect for the culture, the language and with an eye on the importance of agriculture in this region they are trying, together with other teachers, to convince young people and their parents to continue studying for a better future.

In November, 18 students graduated of which 5 girls.

Thanks to Laura's insistence of the Government for financial support they only need one third of their total budget of Los Niños.

### **3. Semilla de Esperanza y Amor, San Mateo Milpas Altas**

In January 2011, the project in San Mateo, where 100 children receive homework help, opened their new building with attendance from the children and parents, other people from Guatemala and others from abroad.

The children receive English, literacy, and computer classes from heartwarming teachers and great volunteers and engage in sports and recreational games



Thanks to a donation they now have a computer room with 15 new computers and a computer teacher that teaches there daily.

On a large piece of land that is next to the project, the children take responsibility of a garden and grow their own vegetables. They learn how to work as a team and take care of the gardening tools. And they develop their concentration skill too!

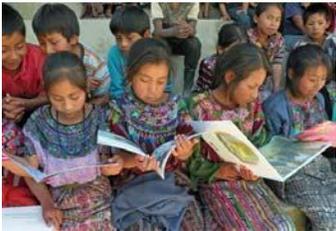
Los Niños has contributed, in 2011, to the salary of 3 staff member as well as for teaching materials, a daily nutritious food and beverage, and cleaning supplies

Partner organizations donated the cost of lunch and the salaries of the other staff members.

**4. El Plan Infinito, Santiago Zamora**

In the new educational center, El Plan Infinito (the infinite plan) opened in January 2011. There young people and adults from the village of Santiago Zamora are able to receive computer, English, reading and writing, swimming, other sports, and music lessons as well as homework guidance. They can also make use of the library.

Los Niños in 2011 has contributed to the construction and purchase of different learning materials.



**Scholarships**

In addition to the support given to the local educational projects, Los Niños also provides scholarships to children who are unable to pay for further education. In 2011, 32 students got a part of a scholarship or a full scholarship.

		Primary	junior high	teacher	computer science	Technical drawing	Secretary	technician	household	university
2	Alotenango			2						
6	Chimachoy			1	1	1	1	2		
18	CasaSito		17							1
6	Families	3						1	1	1

There were several diploma ceremonies in 2011.



Two students, Juana and Emilsa, supported for 6 years by Los Niños, graduated as a primary schoolteachers.

Esteban who studied industrial design with expertise in digital electronics and microprocessors graduated and is looking for a job.

On another note, but just as important, Erick Dubon finished middle school and goes to high school in 2012.

Like his brother and sister, he is sponsored by the Foundation Join! forKids and they will continue in 2012. Our appreciation to them is enormous.



Info about them: go to [www.joinforkids.org](http://www.joinforkids.org).

### **Socio-cultural, medical and unforeseen support**

Los Niños also gives socio-cultural and medical support to the various educational projects and to our partner organizations.



We supported the music, sports and art festivals for CasaSito ([www.casasito.org](http://www.casasito.org)) with nice prices. Por Eso Foundation

([www.poreso.org](http://www.poreso.org)) received a donation for the homeless people in Antigua, for nutrition.

From the Medical Fund, Los Niños has contributed financially to an uterine surgery, eye surgery, milk and vitamins for a weak baby, doctors visit for a number of children of the project SEA, medicines and financial support for funeral costs.

After Hurricane Agatha, we helped several families from our projects in San Mateo and Alotenango with food and furniture purchases with a donation of 12,000 euros,. In Ciudad Vieja, San Pedro and San Miguel Escobar, we supported the project EducArte by sponsoring a psychologist. This psychologist worked with the affected families. In Panajachel and Solola, we have helped through CasaSito with the reconstruction of houses and food issues.

The healthy center in Alotenango didn't have enough staff and materials so that's why Los Niños again paid the salary of nurse Miriam. Unfortunately, at the beginning of 2011 Miriam was hit by a bus and died and left her 5 children en 2 grandchildren behind. Because of several fantastic donations we bought a piece of land for the children of Miriam. In 2012, we will be build a very simple house for them.



Cooperation with Association CasaSito

CasaSito is, like Los Niños, an association. They also provide education support to the poorest children in Guatemala with the help of volunteers.

CasaSito has a board in the United States and in Guatemala and it is led by Alice Lee.



Los Niños and CasaSito are regularly working together. Especially, CasaSito's experience with regard to the allocation and monitoring of scholarships is very useful for Los Niños.

CasaSito was working from a very functional volunteer house where they had their office and where volunteers lived. They needed to leave the house because the owner had other plans with it. A better house was available and CasaSito wanted to buy this house. The payment was a little problem that's why Los Niños supported them financially with a strict agreement between CasaSito and Los Niños.

**Gracias!**

Thanks to everyone who helped this year with Los Niños projects by providing financial and moral support, volunteering, and/or with the governance of the organization.