

Request for Funding

Guatemala Literacy Project Global Grant #2124415
2021-2022 Rotary year

Host and International Clubs for GG#2124415

Host Club: Guatemala de la Asunción (D-4250) / Maria Marta Ramos,
mariamarta.ramos@gmail.com

International Club: Yorba Linda Sunrise, CA (D-6400) / Don Fox, rotarianfox@yahoo.com

Contribution Request

A typical club contribution is \$1,000-\$2,000 but **any amount is welcome.*** We also encourage you to contact us for help obtaining a DDF (District Designated Funds) match to **help your contribution multiply up to 2.8 times!**

Grant Timeline

Funds Requested: Now through September 15, 2021

Global Grant application submission to TRF: Late November, 2021

Anticipated Approval from TRF: April 2022

Project Implementation: 2022-2023 Rotary year

Issue Funds in USD to:

Guatemala Literacy Project
2300 Montana Avenue, Suite 401
Cincinnati, OH 45211 U.S.A.

Canadian Clubs Issue Funds to:

Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland
PO Box 23043, 3100 Howard Avenue
Windsor, ON N8X 5B5

Note: Contributions sent directly to the project at this address will not be subject to the 5% extra support fee levied by The Rotary Foundation. If your club requires funds be remitted directly to TRF, **please notify the GLP and add 5% to your pledge. Thank you.*

Project Tours to Guatemala

We invite Rotarians in your club to join us in Guatemala, **Feb. 6-14** or **Feb. 23-28, 2022** (there are also trip opportunities in July 2022)! For more information and to register, visit www.guatemalaliteracy.org. Seats fill fast, so sign up today!

Resources for your club

The GLP has a number of resources to introduce the project to your club, including a PowerPoint presentation and brochures. Visit www.guatemalaliteracy.org or email info@guatemalaliteracy.org to request an informational packet.

What is the GLP?

- A network of Rotarians and the non-profit organization, Cooperative for Education (CoEd), that improves education for underserved students in Guatemala.
- One of the largest grassroots multi-club, multi-district opportunities in Rotary; over 700 Rotary clubs have participated in the GLP since 1997. Approximately 175 clubs and 25 districts will support this year's Global Grant to benefit the GLP.
- *"If you want to look for a project that meets the characteristics of Rotary, the GLP is the gold standard."* —2017-2018 RI President Ian Riseley

Questions?

Contact Caroline Phelps with the Guatemala Literacy Project, at info@guatemalaliteracy.org or Don Fox, Rotary Club of Yorba Linda Sunrise, CA, at rotarianfox@yahoo.com.

GLP Global Grant Summary

(This is an excerpt from the Global Grant application.)

1. Project Title: 2022-2024 Guatemala Literacy Project

2. Host and International Clubs for GG#2124415

Host Club: Guatemala de la Asunción (D-4250) / Maria Marta Ramos, mariamarta.ramos@gmail.com

International Club: Yorba Linda Sunrise, CA (D-6400) / Don Fox, rotarianfox@yahoo.com

3. Community Needs:

- a. **Who are the beneficiaries?** Our project serves the indigenous peoples in the Western Highlands of Guatemala, where you find one of the lowest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere. Each year, potential communities that could benefit from our projects are identified by GLP leaders in Guatemala, with help from partner organization Cooperative for Education and the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. See 4 “c” and “d” to learn how the communities are selected, and how the parents must “buy into” the project.
- b. **What needs have been identified?** The targeted communities in Guatemala’s Western Highlands suffer from low literacy due to:
 - *Ineffective teaching methods:* Most of the instruction in primary schools is rote memorization and copying from the blackboard. Students learn to recognize words, never developing comprehension or independent reading skills.
 - *Lack of books:* Another significant contributing factor to the low rates of literacy (40% among rural adults) is the lack of textbooks in grades 7-9. Approximately 90% of these schools have no books.
 - *Lack of computers:* In the Western Highlands, having technological literacy is also critical for getting out of poverty; approximately 60% of entry-level jobs in Guatemala now require computer skills. The majority of schools in this area have no computers and therefore no way to prepare their graduates for these jobs. Young people leaving school are condemned to a life of subsistence farming or illegal migration. The cycle of poverty continues.
 - *Pressure from peers and family to drop out:* 90% of Guatemalan children living in poverty never graduate from high school. But we know that it takes 12 years of education for youth in Guatemala to break out of poverty. Many factors cause youth to drop out, including gangs, teen pregnancy, and even low expectations from their own families, who believe that there’s no reason to send their kids to school past sixth grade. In some areas where we work, girls are especially disadvantaged and there is great gender disparity in education, with 1.5 boys in school for every girl. UNESCO estimates that the impact of the pandemic will be greatly felt in this arena, with 24 million *additional* children around the world dropping out of school due to COVID-19.
- c. **How are these needs currently being addressed?** The school systems are under-resourced and typically neglected by the government support structures. There are many NGOs working in Guatemala; however, the need is far greater than current NGOs and the

government can effectively serve on their own. Thus, the current educational needs of the community are not being addressed.

4. Activity Description:

a. Summarize the proposed activities to be conducted with this grant.

The GLP Global Grant consists of 4 parts: (1) providing literacy training to teachers and quality children's literature; (2) implementing literacy-strengthening textbook projects; (3) establishing a computer center in a rural middle school; and (4) a youth development program that keeps students in school.

- **Spark Reading Program:** 220 elementary teachers in 20 schools will receive intensive literacy training, along with basic supplies and children's literature appropriate for each grade level. **The primary literacy program will benefit approximately 5,500 students.**
- **Textbook Project:** The textbook project for middle school students will provide textbooks in core subjects like science, Spanish, social studies and math in 4 schools. Teachers in the program are trained in integrating textbooks into their daily teaching. Approximately **264 students will receive textbooks** through the program.
- **Computer Center Project:** A computer center will be set up in one middle school. The center will train students in the use of standard business software. The course of study consists of 100 lessons over a 3-year period. **The computer center project will increase technological literacy among approximately 240 Guatemalan youth** each year.
- **Rise Youth Development Program:** Approximately 750 indigenous young people in 16 communities will benefit from Rotarian mentorship and career development through the youth development program.

b. What other Rotary Club/s or organizations are involved?

This past Rotary year, 189 clubs and 28 Districts contributed to the GLP Global Grant. We are currently in discussion to renew each club's commitment, as well as find more club and district partners.

Our other partners include our Host and International Sponsor Clubs of Guatemala de la Asunción and Yorba Linda Sunrise, CA, and the cooperating organization, the nonprofit Cooperative for Education (CoEd).

c. How has the benefiting community been involved in planning this project?

Candidates for the programs attend a "town meeting" session to express their needs and consider whether the GLP is a good fit. Communities that are ready to start one of the literacy programs invite our local representative to do a site visit to better understand the specific needs. Students who will participate in the Rise Youth Development Program suggest themes that they would like to learn about in the programs workshops in the upcoming year. Needs assessments are conducted by the partner organization CoEd with support from members of the La Asunción Rotary Club.

d. How will the benefiting community be involved in implementation?

The key to the sustainability and community involvement in the Textbook and Computer projects is an innovative "revolving fund" model: the community at large will assure that small fees are paid for the use of the books and technology equipment; the fees go into a fund used to cover ongoing program expenses and to replace materials and equipment as it wears out. Thus, once the initial investment is made, the projects

are financially self-sufficient in perpetuity. By investing in the projects—both financially and emotionally—the local people experience the pride, confidence and dignity that come from helping themselves. The revolving fund model has been used successfully in previous matching grants and global grants since 1997.

Communities benefiting from the Spark Reading Program are involved through principals, teachers, and parent boards who are part of needs assessments with the Guatemala Literacy Project. They also help communicate the benefits of the project to (and ensure buy-in from) other teachers and parents in the community who were not part of those meetings.

Students who participate in the Rise Youth Development Program suggest particular aspects or details of the program's themes that they would like to learn about in the program's professional development workshops during the upcoming year.

e. How will the benefits of the project be sustained beyond the grant funding?

In three ways:

- a. The Textbook and Computer projects will result in higher levels of literacy and computer skills in the community, which will increase individuals' ability to secure living-wage jobs. Computer skills are especially important in enabling rural Guatemalans to compete for higher-wage, non-farm jobs. The projects will teach members of the local community how to establish and maintain self-sustaining book and computer cooperatives; it will educate them on the importance of sustainability and saving for the future; it will build their capacity to maintain complex projects, like a computer center, including diagnosing technical problems, teaching with a planned curriculum, and saving for future replacement of the hardware. Since the teachers trained as part of the project come from the area, the knowledge and skills they gain resides in their local communities. By being involved in every step of each program, the parents, teachers, children, and administrators earn the pride, confidence, and dignity that come from helping themselves.
- b. The Spark Reading Program achieves sustainability by building local capacity for reading instruction. Supporting teachers in their professional development and working within the rural school system to promote literacy creates permanent and lasting change in program communities. The teachers who participate in Spark increase their skills, share their knowledge and best practices with teachers in other schools, and promote literacy in their classrooms. The children who benefit from the program take their improved reading abilities, as well as actual books they have authored at school, and share them with their families, friends, and neighbors. They become vital links in the chain for promoting a lifelong culture of reading in their homes, their schools, and their communities.
- c. The Rise Youth Development Program achieves sustainability by transforming the lives of indigenous young people who then contribute to the development of their entire country. Currently, 53% of program graduates are helping to pay for their younger siblings' education—breaking the cycle of poverty for more young people in their own generation.

5. Area of Focus: With which Rotary area/s of focus is the proposed project aligned?

Basic education and literacy

6. Project Outcomes: Describe the immediate and long-term outcomes of the proposed project, and how these outcomes will be measured?

The literacy training program is expected to improve reading and writing abilities, which will help indigenous children achieve more in school, continue their education longer, and overcome the challenges and struggles caused by low literacy. We will measure impact through testing (students), and program certification records (teachers).

The textbook portion of the project is expected to lead teachers to use more effective teaching methods, decreasing dictation and copying while improving students' analysis skills and level of understanding of course content. We will measure impact through teacher training rosters.

The computer portion of the project is expected to train new students each year with marketable technical skills that will allow them to get better jobs, improving their economic situation and that of their families and communities. We will measure program impact via unit tests (students) and technical certification (teacher).

The youth development portion of the project is expected to keep students in school, help them envision a brighter future for themselves, and prepare them with the tools to achieve it. We will measure impact through direct observation of activities as well as grant records and reports.

7. Proposed Budget:

#	Category	Description	Supplier	Cost in USD
1	Signage	Rotary Signage for All Programs	Proveedores Varios	750
2	Project management	Program Manager for All Programs	Asociación COED	24485
3	Equipment	Textbooks and Supplemental Materials for Textbook Program	Santillana SA; Anaja, SA; José Obdul Castillo; IMEQMO, S.A.	25971
4	Training	Textbook Training and Coaching for Textbook Program (2 trainers)	Asociación COED	69230
5	Training	Training Expenses for Textbook Program	Libreria Progreso, SA; Alma Choc; Grupo RB, S.A.; Proveedores Varios	12717
6	Equipment	Reading Books and Materials for Primary Reading Program	Proveedores Varios	114200
7	Supplies	School Supplies for Primary Reading Program	Proveedores Varios	25300
8	Monitoring/evaluation	Evaluations and Measurable Outcomes for Primary Reading Program	Universidad Del Valle de Guatemala, S.A.	32000
9	Training	Trainers for Primary Reading Program (6 trainers)	Asociación COED	101657
10	Training	Training Expenses for Primary Reading Program	Proveedores Varios	19829
11	Equipment	Computer Systems and Software for Computer Centers	Sega, S.A.; Tecnasa, S.A.; IMEQMO; Kremlin Saul Castellanos, Grupo RAF	20269
12	Equipment	Center Installation and Furnishings for Computer Center	Hector Rafael Poncio/Alarmas Universales; Maynor Bonilla; Sega SA; PriceSmart, CIPRO, S.A.; Novex, S.A.; Tecnasa, S.A.	8183

13	Training	Training for Computer Center	Proveedores Varios	450
14	Training	Meals and Transportation for Student Field Trips in Youth Development Program	Proveedores Varios	1000
15	Training	Trainers for Youth Development (9 trainers)	Asociación COED	68819
16	Equipment	Projector Equipment, Supplemental Educational Materials	IMEQMO, S.A.	2100
17	Equipment	School Furnishings and Supplies, Supplemental Educational Materials	ABSA, S.A.; Carpintería Hernández	1200
			Total budget:	528160