

WHAT IS THE GUATEMALA LITERACY PROJECT?



The Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) promotes lifelong reading and writing skills in Guatemala by providing badly-needed textbooks, reading materials, and computers to impoverished schools. Our goal is to ensure that no child in Guatemala grows up without the gift of both traditional and technological literacy.



WHY GUATEMALA?

Guatemala has one of the lowest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere. In some regions, nearly two out of every three adults cannot read or write. A contributing factor to Guatemala's literacy crisis is the near-absence of reading materials. Over 90% of schools lack textbooks and library books; most have no computers. Guatemalan schoolchildren graduate without the skills needed to get good jobs and break the cycle of poverty.

HOW THE PROJECT WORKS

The Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) matches Rotary clubs in North America with needy schools in Guatemala. These clubs raise funds to purchase textbooks, reading materials and/or computers. One hundred percent of GLP donations goes directly to supporting the project. Zero percent goes to administration or fundraising.

TEXTBOOKS

Studies show that the use of books in the classroom improves grades by up to 30% and comprehension and interest in subject matter by over 70%. These books, printed in Guatemala, are in the four core subjects of math, science, language, and social studies.



100% SELF-SUSTAINING

The most innovative aspect of this program is that it is financially self-sufficient. Rental programs are set up in each school in which students pay the school a small fee to use a set of textbooks (4 books) for the year. This creates a fund for replacing the books as they wear out, guaranteeing that the program will survive in perpetuity.



CULTURE OF READING PROGRAM

The Culture of Reading Program (CORP) provides elementary school teachers with high-quality children's books and training in effective reading instruction. CORP is based on the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) methodology. Recommended by the RI Literacy Resource Group, CLE has shown to produce upwards of 60% gains in measures of reading and writing.

2012-2013 GLP Statistics

- 184 textbook projects
- 52 computer centers
- 26,331 students using textbooks
- 117,622 textbooks in circulation
- 16,911 students using computers
- 203 Rotary Tour veterans
- 375 contributing clubs
- 3,334 CORP students
- 27 CORP schools

COMPUTER CENTERS

Over 25% of Guatemala's unskilled laborers are unemployed. On the other hand, there are significant opportunities for those who have skills, especially computer skills.



Crossing the Digital Divide

The problem is that schoolchildren in the impoverished rural areas of Guatemala have never had access to technology. Thus they continue to fall behind their urban peers. Our program seeks to bridge this divide by creating computer centers within underprivileged schools. These centers are self-sustaining: students pay a small user fee into a fund to replace computer equipment as it wears out. These centers give middle school students the skills they need to secure technology-based jobs, which is key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Empowers local people to help themselves. It's not a "giveaway."
- Is self-sustaining after initial investment.
- Improves grades by up to 30% and the overall quality of education by 70%.
- Collaborates with a highly-regarded non-profit organization (the Cooperative for Education—CoEd) with over ten years of experience in the region.
- Enjoys strong relationships with Rotary clubs in Guatemala that oversee the projects.
- Benefits a rural, indigenous population, historically the target of discrimination and marginalization.
- Not a cent of the money raised goes toward administration or fundraising.

I'M INTERESTED!
WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

For an information packet, including a DVD, contact us at: literacyproject@fuse.net.

Visit our website!

www.guatemalaliteracy.org

If your club would like to contribute: CoEd processes all checks for the GLP. Please send your check payable to "Guatemala Literacy Project" to: CoEd, 2300 Montana Ave. Suite 301, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Ephrata, WA Rotary (D. 5060)

Glenn Chamberlain, National Project Co-Coordinator
(509) 754-3739
gchamberlain@homenetnw.net

La Quinta, CA Rotary (D. 5330)

Dick Anderson, National Project Co-Coordinator
(760) 777-1712
anderassociates@aol.com

Sun City West, AZ Rotary (D. 5490)

Pieter Vos
(623) 546-5711
Pavos4@aol.com

Glenview Sunrise, IL Rotary (D. 6440)

Mary Pribyl
(847) 729-6290
MPribyl@aol.com

Yarmouth, ME Rotary (D. 7780)

Carolyn Johnson
(207) 846-6526
cj2@mac.com

Coeur d'Alene, ID Rotary (D. 5080)

Dan Crawford
(208) 762-3427
dcrawford@benefitsmgt.com

Windsor-Roseland, ON Rotary (D. 6400)

Sheila Mosley
(519) 252-0236
shemosl@gmail.com

Aspen, CO Rotary (D. 5470)

John Keleher
(970) 925-5825
jgkeleher@hotmail.com

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala Rotary (D. 4250)

John Diehl
jdiehl@itelqua.com



A partnership between North American & Guatemalan Rotary clubs and the non-profit organization, Cooperative for Education



Guatemala Literacy Project
Coordinated by:
Rotary Club of Ephrata, WA (D.5060)
14259 Wenatchee Av. NW
Ephrata, WA 98823
literacyproject@fuse.net
www.guatemalaliteracy.org