

ILAG Programs and Projects 2008 EDUCATION

Education is an essential component in improving the lives of the marginalized brothers and sisters which the ILAG serves. Many of our adult members cannot read or write. We want to provide opportunities for adults and children alike in order to bring hope to the current and future generations of Guatemala.

Through education people are empowered and given the hope of a better life. No one can take away the education a young man or woman receives.

Two ILAG Elementary Schools in Guatemala City

The ILAG operates two elementary schools in the marginalized areas of Guatemala City with the internally displaced people. It is a big challenge to give a formal education to these children who do not have the resources necessary in order to be able to prepare themselves academically so that they can aspire towards a better future.

The ILAG has tried to make a promise with these children but it is a difficult promise to fulfill because of the financial challenges that we face and the challenges presented due to the communities where the schools are located (impoverished areas with gang presence.)

Current projects or areas of support in the schools include:

Supporting the teacher salaries
Continued up-keep of the buildings
Resources for the teachers and students

Primary and Middle School Distance Education

In Guatemala you can receive your primary (6th grade) or middle school (9th grade) degree as an adult by distance in 2 years. The ILAG has begun this program in 2008 with 3 church leaders (two ordained, one studying for ordination) and 7 women. These 10 individuals will be studying in their homes and coming to Guatemala City to receive support in their studies and take exams. By starting with the leaders that are already ordained or soon to be ordained and with women (mothers) the ILAG believe that the impact on the communities will be great since they will teach the importance of education, through their example, to their respective communities.

Scholarship Program for the Education of Students in the Rural Area and the Marginalized Areas of the City

The scholarship program of the ILAG came from the necessity that the adolescents in the rural areas have of continuing their studies after they finish elementary school. The intention is to continue helping these young people so that they can finish their studies. We do not want to only provide scholarships for one year rather support them during their complete degree or their middle school in order to be able to give them opportunities to excel.

At this time there is a student who graduated with her Degree in Education Administration from the University San Carlos of Guatemala. Another student has graduated as a teacher of primary education and several youth are enrolled in seventh, eighth and ninth grade. The waiting list of those who would like this opportunity to receive help to study is growing.

School Supplies for the Rural Areas and ILAG Elementary Schools

When the ILAG is able, they give school supply packets to the children in the rural areas and to the two Guatemala City schools. The parents in many cases are not able to give their children notebooks, pencils, etc to study. The teachers also do not have supplies to loan to the children. Many delegations help with this project every year.