



GSSG
Guatemalan Student
Support Group

newsletter

Important: GSSG's Future Direction



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"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development."

Kofi Annan

Dear GSSG Friend,

GSSG has had many successes over its 12 years of existence and has had a huge positive impact in many people's lives.

This coming academic year, we will see four students graduate from college: Byron from Wake Tech Community College (business administration), Niceh from Wake Tech Community College (civil engineering), Pedro from Waynesburg University (finance), and Raquel from Inver Hills Community College (accounting). An additional twenty-one other GSSG students are working on their degrees at colleges and universities, nearly all in Guatemala. Their majors are in many fields including agriculture, business, computer programming, criminology, engineering, geology, law, medicine, psychology, and social work.

However, GSSG continues to struggle. Donations are not keeping up with costs and no one has come forward to volunteer to run the organization after my wife and I step down in December.

Because of these factors, the GSSG Board of Trustees has voted to limit GSSG operations. GSSG will continue as an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, meaning that your donations will remain tax deductible. However, GSSG will now limit its focus on the current group of students.

All 24 GSSG students in good standing, and currently attending college/university in Guatemala or the USA, will receive their scholarships (US\$1,000 for San Carlos University students;

US\$1,500 for private Guatemalan university students; and US\$2,500 for USA students) for this coming semester.

Beginning in January 2016, only students with funds in their GSSG accounts will receive any scholarship money. The amount those students will receive in January, and in each subsequent semester, will depend on the money in his/her GSSG account.

For example, if a student has US\$500 in his/her GSSG account as of 1 January 2016 then the student would only be guaranteed to receive a US\$500 scholarship. Without additional donations by the student's sponsors, the student would not receive any additional funds for the January-to-May 2016 semester or any scholarship money for subsequent semesters.

If sponsors send donations to support a particular student then we will process those donations. Those donated funds will be distributed to the student in support of his/her educational expenses. If you want to make a donation to a student who is most in need of scholarship money, we would also welcome those donations.

My wife and I had hoped that an expansion of GSSG would be possible. But, even though we tried as hard as we could, we just couldn't make this happen. So for now, GSSG needs to focus only on the current group of students. If you can continue to support these students your donations would be very welcome.

Our students are up against major obstacles as they pursue a college education. But, they work hard to gain the advantage an education provides. They have high hopes of helping their country improve the socioeconomic conditions for all Guatemalans, especially the impoverished indigenous peoples.

We hope that through your continued financial support we will be able to provide scholarships for all of our 24 students until they graduate. You can donate by check or credit card. You can do this in the mail or at our website (<http://www.gssg-usa.org/getinvolved.html>) using the secure Donate link.

Thank you for remaining loyal to your sponsored student.

Sincerely,

Tom Goehl
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Approximately 97% of all donations are used directly to support the GSSG students.