



Indigenous School for Integrated Rural Development

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND JOBS TO INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN GUATEMALA



The school focuses on rural-appropriate vocational education for at-risk rural indigenous girls and boys, training them to get decent jobs or start small businesses upon graduation.

A program to address the needs of rural indigenous Guatemalan youth who are attempting to flee their country in order to find a better life.

Partnering with Guatemalan Ministry of Education, the Mayan indigenous organization ACDIP, and Ak' Tenamit Association, this grant will help fund additional beds, equipment, and educational support for the program which was started in 2015.

Grant Amount: \$65,000 USD

Matching Grant: G-2044

<http://www.matchinggrants.org/global/project2044.html>

Rotary



Indigenous School for Integrated Rural Development

Matching Grant G-2044

The “Indigenous School for Integrated Rural Development”, in La Libertad Peten, was built three years ago with resources from the Guatemalan Ministry of Education and is operated by the Mayan indigenous organization ACDIP.

The school focuses on rural-appropriate vocational education for at-risk rural indigenous girls and boys, training them to get decent jobs or start small businesses upon graduation.

The area served by the school has very high rates of poverty and malnutrition, and early forced marriage. In 2018 almost 500 girls (from area villages) between 10 and 14 years of age gave birth.

Due to repeated droughts and subsequent crop failures an ever-increasing amount of the area’s young men are, out of desperation, attempting illegal migration to the United States.

Under request from ACDIP, the Ak’ Tenamit association is providing ongoing technical support to transfer its highly successful “education for employment” methodology.

For the 2020 school year the “Indigenous School for Integrated Rural Development” expects to house 200 boarding students, with the ultimate goal of 300 students when fully funded.

Facts:

- Most Guatemalans attempting illegal entry to the US are fleeing poverty.
- Guatemala has the worst education system in Latin America and the highest level of malnutrition and maternal-infant mortality.
- The majority of the unaccompanied migrant youths from Guatemala that attempt entry into the US come from the four states in the western highlands where one of the only crops that flourishes is opium poppies, a source of cheap heroin.
- 2018 saw a 50% increase in unaccompanied migrant kids from Guatemala intercepted at the US border. These youth feel that their only options are illegal entry into the United States or work in opium poppy production.
- The majority of these youth only have a 6th grade education.

Grant:

The \$65,000 USD grant will be used to support the existing education and training program. It will provide funds for:

- Bunk beds to house up to 300 students
- Computer equipment for classrooms
- Providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff
- Supplies for paint and other maintenance items the school requires