

## How You Can Help!

### Donations

A typical scholarship donation is \$170 USD/year. Although this annual amount is low, the financial support can be the difference between attendance and academic success or the forced decision to enter the working world at a young age. If you would like to support the Pop Wuj Scholarship Program, donations can be made directly to Carmen de Alvarado at Pop Wuj or through Foundation Todos Juntos.

Please visit [www.todos-juntos.org](http://www.todos-juntos.org) to make a tax-deductible donation. A volunteer-run foundation, Foundation Todos Juntos maintains very low administrative expenses. To cover these costs, the Foundation retains 3% of scholarship donations and 5% of all other donations.

### Scholarship Program

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## Scholarship Program

*Working to end illiteracy and the cycle of poverty by ensuring that students have the opportunity to attend school*



***This project is a joint endeavor by Foundation Todos Juntos, Asociación Pop Wuj, and communities surrounding Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.***

## Project Summary

One of the most important yet least visible projects at Pop Wuj is the Scholarship Program. The funds and donations received for the Scholarship Program directly support families in their ability to continue sending their children to school. Costs associated with books, uniforms, and transportation are often the obstacles that prevent attendance.



Through Pop Wuj's profits, individual donations, and support from Foundation Todos Juntos, approximately 125 students receive scholarships each year. Scholarship recipients range from students attending kindergarten through university, primarily in rural areas.

## Project Need and Benefits

### Illiteracy

Illiteracy is a problem of epidemic proportions in Guatemala, largely due to the parallel problem of soaring poverty rates. Many families must survive on a very low income, so children are pulled out of school at a young age in order to begin working and contributing as a financial resource. The situation is particularly grave for young girls, whose families often perceive them to be of greater value in the home than gaining a valuable skillset through education. This attitude breeds a cycle of illiteracy and poverty — precisely what the Scholarship Program seeks to address.

### Financial Welfare

Through monthly disbursements, children receive the chance to continue with their education. The donation supports families so that children can attend school instead of working. The scholarship can mean the difference between a future as farm worker and becoming a teacher or other professional.

In addition to contributing funds, Pop Wuj helps families navigate the educational system and assists with the practical matters of finding schools, transportation, and school supplies. Pop Wuj also closely monitors the progress of all scholarship recipients throughout the school year. Pop Wuj hosts an annual assembly for all scholarship students, including recognition of students who complete their secondary or professional education.

### Community Involvement

One of the most important aspects of the Scholarship Program is its promotion of community involvement through learning. Pop Wuj typically works in communities where we have a group of scholarship students. This fosters accountability among recipients, as a representative of each family must attend a monthly meeting. In one community the recipients requested that they receive less money per child in order to support a greater number of students in the community.

The monthly meetings also include educational discussion topics and presentations, often prepared by Pop Wuj Social Work Spanish Program students or by long-term volunteers (interns). Pop Wuj staff also offer individual social work support to families struggling with healthcare, nutrition, and safe cooking spaces.

