INDEX

3 FROM OUR LEADERSHIP
4 THE JOURNEY
5 OUR SCHOOLS
6 FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM
7-8 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM
9-10 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
11-12 SOCIAL BUSINESS
13 CHAMPION PROFILE
14 FINANCIALS
15 YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN
16 HOW TO GET INVOLVED
FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear friends,

I am delighted to present the 2018 Annual Report for Niños de Guatemala. Thank you for accompanying Niños de Guatemala on our journey to provide quality education to more than 500 children.

2018 was a year of positive change for NDG. Shortly after I started working for Niños de Guatemala we began to plan the transformation of our educational system. The task ahead is enormous! We are proposing to take children living in extreme poverty conditions, take care of them physically and emotionally and then transferring to them the skills they will need to succeed and flourish in the next two decades. We named the new initiative “Skills for Success” and it consists of five components: Emotional Intelligence, Spanish Language Skills, English Language Skills, Math and Science Skills, and Digital Citizenship skills. At the heart of NDG’s mission is quality of education and enabling students to achieve their goals in life. Skills for Success will accomplish both of these aims. During the latter part of the year the planning phase was completed.

Graduation, as usual, was the highlight of the year. 77 students graduated both from Elementary as well as Middle School. For the middle schoolers a new exciting opportunity has been presented to them: As of January 2019, Niños de Guatemala will extend its Middle School graduates the option to continue their schooling and complete their high school education. The new “NDG-Bachillerato” (High School) program will utilize a blend of face-to-face and online instruction, allowing our students to work in the morning and attend school for a few hours each afternoon.

We have seen -once again- how important volunteers and sponsors are to our mission. Our volunteers played a key role in the preparation and launch of the Dual Immersion Program, and in Summer Camp, volunteers were able to give their own classes in English, following the school’s curriculum. Our students benefit immensely from the exposure to these wonderful humans that come from all walks of life and share a piece of themselves with them.

We are deeply grateful to the community of engaged donors and institutions that support Niños de Guatemala. On behalf of our board members, our staff and the children we serve, thank you for your commitment and partnership.

Warm regards,
Julio Salazar
Country Director
MISSION

We envision a world in which communities are educated, empowered, and entrepreneurial. Niños de Guatemala empowers communities in marginalized areas of Guatemala.

We achieve this by providing education that extends beyond the traditional classroom across three levels: students, their families, and the larger community.

VISION

We aim to be sustainable both at the organizational and community level through initiating and supporting social business activities and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit.

WHAT WE DO

Niños de Guatemala (NDG) provides 500 children access to the quality education they deserve. Operating 3 schools, NDG partners with families and the community to help children gain “skills for success”. We define “success” as the ability of an individual to determine his/her life goals and achieve them.

Skills for Success is Niños de Guatemala’s core educational program. These skills will serve them in all areas of life as they continue their education, enter the workforce and beyond.
Nuestro Futuro, opened in 2009  
Pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade. In 2018 we served 197 students:  
94 boys and 103 girls

El Porvenir, opened in 2012 
Pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade. In 2018 we served 200 students: 106 boys and 94 girls

Basico, opened in 2015  
7th to 9th grade. In 2018 we served 98 students: 43 boys, 55 girls

Total Number of Students: 495  
Total Number of Families: 355

NDG’s three schools operate in Ciudad Vieja and San Lorenzo el Cubo, located outside of Antigua, Guatemala

In November, 2018, 77 students graduated from both primary schools and middle school.
In 2018, our Social Work & Psychology Department worked closely with teachers and school directors to provide additional support and training to the students and their families. At all three schools, we have implemented a variety of programs which focus on providing students and their families guidance and problem-solving tools. There are four main programs that NDG is able to offer families through the Family Support Program:

**PARENTING PROGRAM**

The program strengthens families in the upbringing of children and adolescents, so they can provide support to their children at any age. The Program has a preventive focus, offering ten sessions a year. Over 60% of parents attend this monthly program.

**CRIANZA CON CARINO**

An 8-week program that works with parents and children on nonviolent communication and conflict resolution. It is a program addressed to our students and their families to prevent mistreatment, abuse and any other form of violence.

**FAMILIAS FUERTES**

A program developed in conjunction with SECCATID, a governmental organization that is helping Guatemalan schools prevent and address cases of drug abuse. In 2018, 12 families (including 14 adults) participated in the program.
In 2018, we welcomed 74 new sponsors into the program and had 40 visits from sponsors. Sponsor visits are always a special moment for both the child and the sponsor, and we are happy so many sponsors were able to visit the schools.

In November, we had the pleasure of receiving various national and international sponsors for graduation. With the support of several sponsors, volunteers, and Guatemalan companies, we were able to offer a special year-end celebration to all the students and teachers, celebrating the successes of the year.

NDG also began the Teacher and Classroom Sponsorship program, welcoming our first teacher sponsor, New Creation Church. This partnership helps support one of our dedicated teachers, Vanessa, throughout all of 2019. This is just one of the many important relationships to bring more support to the students and the schools into the next year.

We also supported several graduates by finding scholarships for them in other educational institutions and creating an alliance with the Good Hotel, which has granted scholarships to five of our graduates. The initiative is called Good Academy and it will continue to provide students who want to pursue a career in Tourism/Hospitality the opportunity to complete their high school along with special training and experience in those areas.

We would like to thank all of our 380 sponsors who supported our students throughout 2018! In 2019, our main goal is to find sponsors for all our students.
My name is Kelvin Cerda, I am 33 years, an electromechanical engineer, and my sponsor child is Erick Daniel!

I knew I wanted to help specifically in Guatemala, as one of my friends is from there. He told me about the need there is, especially after the volcano eruption, so I started doing my research. It was complicated to find the right nonprofit to support, but after finding Niños de Guatemala online, I wrote the Sponsorship Team and got an immediate reply with a detailed answer. This convinced me to sign up to sponsor a child.

As a child, I had baptismal godparents that covered my costs for high school and university. I always dreamt of doing the same for someone else, so when I had the chance to support Erick Daniel I embraced it with both arms.

I visited NDG back in July and it was phenomenal. I went with the idea of making a contribution, but I returned back home to the Dominican Republic enriched by Guatemala and its people. In Guatemala I met staff, teachers, and of course my sponsored child Erick Daniel. At the beginning of the visit he was a bit shy, but he opened up as we played more. My sponsor visit made me realize that sponsoring a child is more than a monthly financial support, it’s the human impact that’s being achieved. It’s really important to be the right motivation for him.

During my visit, Niños arranged various tours for me, including the Pacaya Volcano and Lake Atitlán trips, which made my time in Guatemala extra special. All the people involved with Niños de Guatemala are dedicated and work with their heart. I am also especially impressed with the Dual Immersion Program, this is such a wonderful opportunity to take these students to a higher level. Niños is eager to provide opportunities for the students after middle school ends, by setting up their own high school program.

Now that I am back in the Dominican Republic, I enjoy receiving regular updates from NDG through their e-newsletter and communication with Erick Daniel. He often sends me drawings, and I keep the photos of my visit to Guatemala, including photos of my sponsor visit, in a special place in my house. I am already looking forward to visiting again in the near future, and will plan my travels with NDG!
Volunteers play an important role in Niños de Guatemala. Not only do they support NDG through the volunteer donation, but also support our teachers in their daily work in the schools, such as preparing materials, helping at recess and in the English class.

**Important Volunteer & Group Department accomplishments in 2018**

- The middle school renovation with Corporate volunteers from Cibus Global.
- Hearing and Sight check ups for all students, conducted by a group of doctors from the United States
- Human Rights workshops for both students and school staff by students from Guadalajara University
- Dental check ups and treatments for 882 people by Global Dental Relief, a volunteer nonprofit
- Physical education workshops for students and school staff by a P.E.

We cannot express how thankful we are for our volunteers! We look forward to 2019 when the Dual Immersion Program will be in full force, volunteers will be able to support teachers more with English Classes and also support students to improve their English skills.
My name is Joey Doyle. I am from England and spent a month volunteering with Niños de Guatemala in Antigua. When I arrived in Antigua, the NDG team immediately set me at ease. There is a real sense of togetherness amongst the team and they are keen to make newcomers feel welcome. Weekly activities are organized, which gave me the opportunity to get to know other volunteers outside of work. Being so far away from home, it is comforting to have that extra support from the NDG team. I also noticed that this sense of community manifests itself in the schools themselves. Volunteer moms from the town work tirelessly in the kitchens to prepare meals for the children. It is inspiring to be part of a community’s effort to better the lives of their younger generation.

I stayed in a local homestay in Antigua, which allowed me to fully immerse myself in Guatemalan culture. NDG provide Spanish classes at their Spanish school which I found both helpful and enjoyable. Speaking Spanish for most of the day increased my confidence and helped me to make the most of my time in Central America.

Within the classroom, NDG started using an innovative Dual Immersion approach to English education. As a volunteer, I was able to teach English to the children, and also function as the teacher. This is a very important technique, as it builds the language skills of two generations.

While being in Antigua, I developed an understanding of the region; its people and the language, and made lasting friendships along the way. Volunteering with NDG was such an enjoyable and rewarding experience for me!

I gained a new appreciation of my own education and the doors it has opened for me. Too often, we take our own privileges for granted. Every day, it was touching to observe how much the children enjoyed being at school and their willingness to learn. Helping to provide them with this opportunity is both humbling and fulfilling.
The Spanish school was rebranded from Cambio NDG to Impact Language. We pride ourselves on another strong year of language offerings with a strong team of Spanish teachers, an accredited teaching method, and excellent student feedback. Highlights of 2018 included:

- 4 University group visits
- 3 Teacher training programs
In 2018, our tour operating company was rebranded to Impact Experiences, and we saw its strongest year to date. Offering 157 tours and group experiences to over 500 participants, a guide training program was also set up to certify our guides as national guides with INGUAT Tourism Board.

**Highlights of 2018 included:**
- Received TripAdvisor 2018 Certificate of Excellence
- Luxury Travel Guide: Tour Operator of the Year, 2018, Guatemala
- Winner of IMPULSA 2018 National Sustainable Tourism Business Accelerator & Incubator
CHAMPION PROFILE

“My name is Diana. I am in sixth grade and go to the primary school of NDG in Ciudad Vieja. I have a younger brother who goes to the same school. We live with both our parents, my mom is dedicated to domestic crafts and my dad is a waiter.”

Diana’s mom speaks proudly about her children attending NDG’s primary school: “The school is well organized and provides quality education. I am proud of the achievements of my children, both are the best in their classes. Seeing them in school almost makes me cry, that’s how proud I am of them.” As a couple, they support each other to meet the requirements of the school, such as attending school meetings and Parenting School. These meetings have helped both of them to handle their emotions well in the household and keep supporting their children. “My husband even started studying again and my children help him with his homework.”

In the household, the whole family supports each other. There is a set time for homework, “the kids know they can watch television afterwards”. Diana tells proudly about the time a volunteer told her she is able to become a doctor one day, this helps her to study even harder to achieve her dreams. Diana hopes that one day she can make a living working as a doctor and buy a house for her parents.
2018 was a year of both program and staff growth, and we are proud that we were able to maintain our key revenue sources and minimize expenses during FY 2018. Thanks to our dedicated partners, over 70% of Niños de Guatemala’s total income came from sponsorship and donations. Niños closed the year with 380 sponsors, 74 more than the previous year, and we are on track to complete our goal of a sponsor for each child. NDG Social Businesses, as well as Good Hotel Antigua, continued donating 100% of profits back to support the children and families at the three schools.
Thank you to everyone who helped us make 2018 a good year! Every contribution counts, whether you are a sponsor to one of our students, a donor, or a volunteer. Together, we are supporting our mission from all over the globe. Thank you on behalf of our students, families, teachers, and staff! We could not do it without you.
**Volunteer**

Volunteer with us and make a lasting difference in our childrens’ lives! NDG’s motto has always been that everyone can do something. Dedicated volunteers are key to our mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through education in Guatemala. You can be a volunteer in Guatemala, but you can also become a volunteer from home.

volunteer@ninosdeguatemala.org

**Donate**

With your donation, you offer a better future and the chance to break free from the cycle of poverty. Use the donation form on the right to donate by PayPal, iDeal, creditcard or Bank Transfer. If you would like to transfer your donation yourself to one of our accounts in the Netherlands, US or Guatemala.

www.ninosdeguatemala.org/donate

**Sponsor a Child**

Become a Padrino today and bring lasting change to a child’s life! As a Padrino (sponsor), you not only provide education for a child, you also have the opportunity to become their mentor and friend. As many of our children are coming from unstable homes, Padrinos provide the support and motivation our students need to succeed in school and grow into capable and conscientious adults.

www.ninosdeguatemala.org/padrino-program
THANK YOU!

Contact us at info@ninosdeguatemala.org