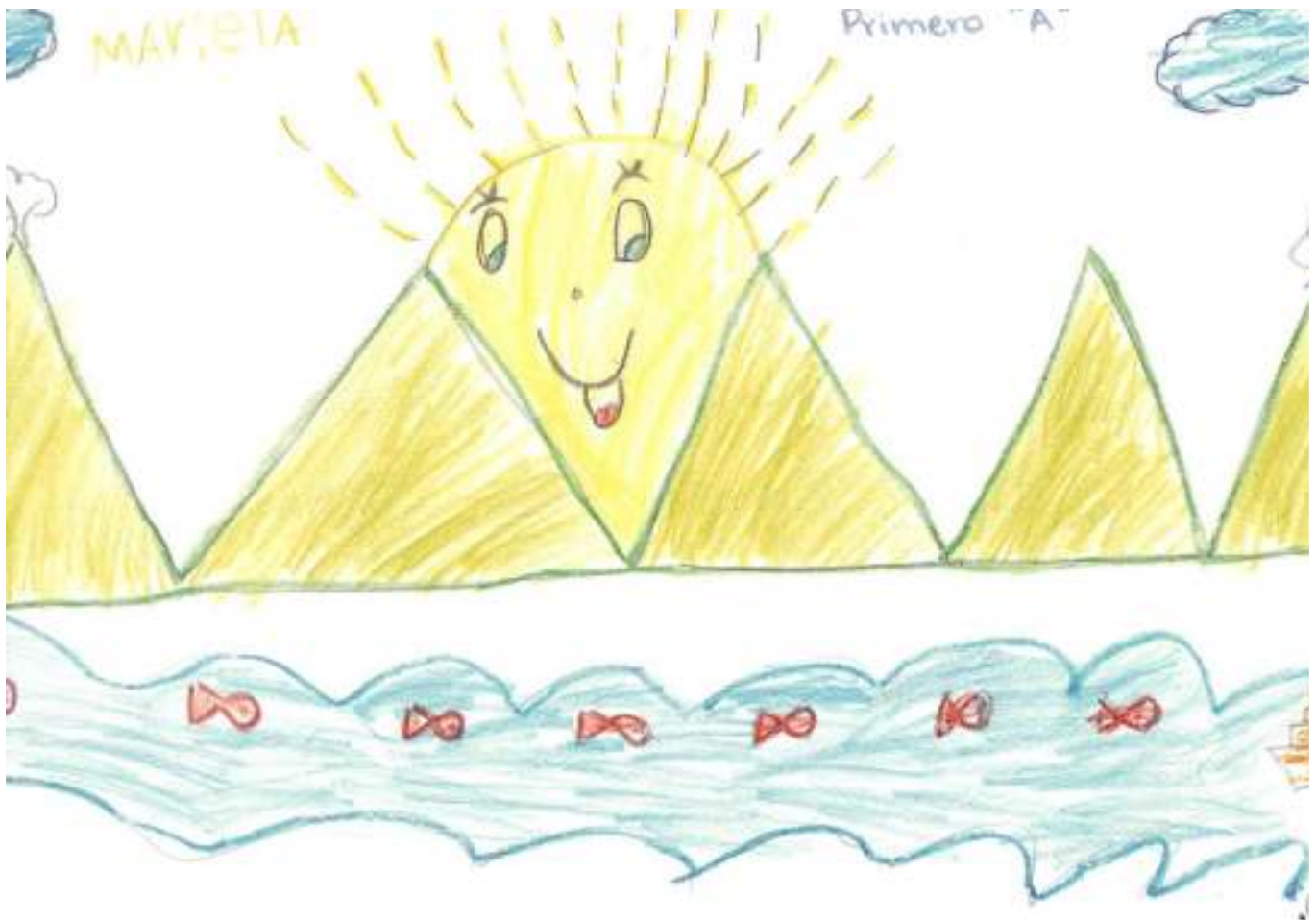


# Education for the Children Foundation

## Spring 2008 Update



'Guatemala' by Mariela Elizabeth García Monroy

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## *Introduction*

We've come a long way since our last report and so far 2008 has been full of exciting developments and new challenges. We're aiming high this year in an attempt to purchase a new school to meet the ever growing demand for more school places.

Without our supporters, we couldn't do any of this work and so we hope that you feel proud as you read about our successes, our achievements and about the aspirations that we have for the charity.

We have achieved so much for the children of Guatemala and we believe we can achieve even more.

**"ONLY THROUGH EDUCATION CAN WE BREAK THE POVERTY CYCLE"**

## Guatemala News

### Graduations

- 100% graduated from Senior School
- 100% graduated from Primary School
- 6 out of 7 of our external scholarship students passed on to the next stage of their education.
- 3 out of 4 of our Special Acceleration Students have moved on to the next stage of their education.
- 94% of Primary School students passed their end of year exams
- 83% of Senior School students passed their end of year exams



October is the end of the school year in Guatemala and last year's pass rates were better than ever.

Every child has to pass their end of year exams to be allowed into the next grade in line with the National Curriculum- each year some children don't manage to pass but for every child that does succeed in moving on up to the next level, it's a great celebration for them and their families.

Last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade senior school children have all accepted further education scholarships from us- they are studying in local colleges to gain qualifications in a range of subjects including teaching, administration, technical drawing, and business studies. This is known as 'Diversificado'.

Congratulations go especially to Carlos and Luis who graduated through 'Diversificado' and earned places at University. Please see page 11 for more about Carlos and Luis.

*The figures*

	2007	2008	2009
Primary Children	176	275	350 *
Senior Children	75	100	200 *
Scholarship Students	7	25	50 *
Special Acceleration Students	8	4	as needed
Total	266	404	600 *

\* Proposed numbers if we are successful in our New School Appeal

## Projects



### The New School in San Felipe

Our big project for 2008 is to buy a new school in Guatemala. A new school building means better conditions for learning and space for up to 200 more children- that's a total of 600 school places if we are successful.

We found the ideal premises at the end of 2007 and we managed to secure a rental agreement until the end of 2008. This means we have until the end of this year to raise the purchase price of £150,000.

The new school is situated in a quiet area bordered by trees in San Felipe, a short distance from our other school. It has good sized classrooms to be able to house both a primary and senior school together with a large recreation area. The conditions are perfect and we believe our work can be even more beneficial if we manage to raise the money.

We have already received pledges for £50,000 from the English Premiership, £10,000 from Danny Murphy and a further £5,000. Our heartfelt thanks go to these donors and it's a brilliant start to our campaign.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in organising an event of your own- we're happy to give advice on holding school fundraisers or sponsored sporting challenges and the money will all add up.

Our fundraising efforts are stretched to the maximum and raising such a large amount of money is going to be a huge challenge. We need the support of many people so that we don't have to turn away 200 hopeful children at the school gates in 2009.

**If you are in the position to contribute to this campaign, please call us on  
0115 852 6688**

## **Psychological Help**

Last year we introduced a new initiative where each child was seen by a fully qualified Psychologist and 27 of our children were identified as needing further help. Since then, we have seen significant progress in the behaviour and the educational achievements of those children and we want to continue this progress. We have now employed the Psychologist on a permanent basis. Carmen Araceli Chajon Azurdia joined us on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.



**The Safe House- near completion**

## **Safe House**

The 'safe house' for the children with the most pressing social needs is still in progress. We had hoped to have the house ready by the end of February but in true builders' style, there have been delays. However, it is almost complete and we hope to re-house our children very soon.

## **Dangerous Living Conditions**

Last year we told you of our concerns for 15 of our families who live in houses on hillsides susceptible to mudslides. The rainy season came and went without serious problems as all the annual hurricanes missed Guatemala although two came very close. Sad to say, we have not been able to move any of the families due to lack of funds but it remains on our agenda to try.

## Stove Update



**Rod Wallace helps to install a new stove**

In February 2007 we embarked on our stove initiative; to install safer stoves into the homes of our families and protect them from the harmful effects of toxic smoke. The World Health Organisation had stated that children exposed to the open fires used for cooking in Guatemala will develop permanent lung damage by the age of five and we felt that we couldn't stand by and watch this inevitability.

So far we have installed 85 new stoves and the results have been life changing for our families. The houses with the new stoves are almost completely free of smoke.

Progress in installing the stoves has been a lot slower than we first anticipated. We have been committed to ensuring that each stove is tailored to the needs of each family and that the families involved in the initiative attend workshops to ensure they fully understand how to use them. Although this has caused some delay, we hope that you will agree that our families must be comfortable with their stoves so that they are used correctly and safely for many years to come.

For all of you who have donated money towards a stove but have not yet received a photograph of the family you have helped, we would like to apologise. It has been a long and frustrating process but we are getting there and as soon as the stoves have all been installed we promise to send you all photographs. We thank you for your patience.

We would also like to thank 'The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation' for their very generous donation towards our stove campaign. This has completed our stove initiative at this stage, ensuring all our current families in need of a safe stove will receive one. It's a brilliant result and we're thrilled with the generosity of our supporters.

## People

### Cristian Galindo Monroy

Cristian, a six year old student, was diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia last year and it looked like he needed a bone marrow transplant. It appears that the initial diagnosis was wrong and that he actually has a form of Leukaemia. Cristian commenced daily chemotherapy in Guatemala in February.

He is still very poorly but responding to the treatment and could, with a lot of luck, make a full recovery. The Doctors advised us that Cristian should try to attend school so that he can maintain as normal a life as possible. He has recently started back on an adhoc basis and we hope that he will return as a full time student in 2009.

### Guatemala Visits

Since our last report we have made three trips to Guatemala.

In October we saw the graduation of both schools and were accompanied by first time visitors Rod Wallace, Vince O'Keefe, Ann McCulloch and Sandra Mann. Janet Smith and Debbie Evans also came out to help and support us with the project. In January we saw the opening of the schools for 2008 and we were particularly happy with the San Felipe School. A quick visit in early March confirmed that all was working well.

More visits are planned for later this year and we welcome anyone who wants to see the project up close to come out with us. Shaun Wright Phillips, Lynne Domingue and many of Shaun's close family are going in June and further trips are planned for August and October. We particularly look forward to organising trips with David Evans and Daniel Bennett, who successfully bid on visits to Guatemala at our Dublin auction.

The expenses of travel and accommodation on Guatemala visits are always borne by individuals and so the Charity does not incur any costs.

### Gifts and Contact

The children are always delighted to receive letters and gifts from their sponsors and we actively encourage you to send correspondence or photographs to the children that you sponsor. Unfortunately we have come across a little understandable jealousy from those children who have not received any gifts and so we would like to make a small change to our process.

We will still gladly pass on small gifts but we would prefer to use any **cash** gifts a little differently from now on. We recommend that this money be used to buy something useful for the whole family. This could be food, wood, or something for the home. In this way, your sponsor child will still undoubtedly benefit, but we hope this will cause fewer problems between our children.

With your permission, this is how we would like to proceed with monetary gifts from now on. If you have any queries regarding gifts, please feel free to contact us at the office.

## UK NEWS

### Successful Events

#### **November 8<sup>th</sup> 2007- Flawless Jewellers Champagne Reception- London.**

Shaun Wright Phillips and his family arranged a champagne reception at Flawless Jewellers in Bond Street, London. 150 attended and a fantastic £34,383.51 was raised on the night.

#### **November 16<sup>th</sup> 2007- Annual Gala Dinner- Nottingham.**

On November 16<sup>th</sup> we had our annual gala dinner in Nottingham, organised by Tommy Johnson. A total of £9,843.94 was raised.

#### **April 19<sup>th</sup> 2008- Sports Ball at the Mansion House- Dublin.**

Our second Dublin dinner at the Mansion House was a great success last month. We raised in the region of €42,000 (£33,000) which will go towards buying the new school.



**Dionne Wright with Shaun Wright-Phillips in Dublin**

**Keith Berry** successfully completed the Whitstable 10k run, raising nearly £400

**St Alphege Church** held a 'Music and Magic' Event also organised by Keith Berry and raised £245

**Pat Ashall** from the Inner Wheel Women's group in Mansfield raised £80

**Dan McKay, Christine Holly and Amy Holly** climbed Ben Nevis to raise nearly £700

*Thanks to everyone who organised and contributed to our fundraising events*

### Events to look forward to

#### **June 13<sup>th</sup>- Annual Golf Day- Beeston Fields, Nottingham.**

This is being organised by Tommy Johnson. Full details are available from Tommy on 07834 683166 or from Kris on 0115 852 6688.

#### **July 11<sup>th</sup>- Harley Davidson Bike Ride.**

Shaun Wright Phillips is organising a second Harley Davidson Charity Bike Ride from London to Berkshire. Let's hope the weather is as good as last year.

#### **November 14<sup>th</sup>- Annual Gala Dinner- Hilton Hotel, East Midlands.**

With Tommy Johnson as our host. Please put the date in your diary. Full details to follow.

## **Child Sponsorships**

Of the 404 children in our programmes, we have sponsors for 279. The stability and long term future of the foundation depends on our ability to attract individual sponsors for our individual children. If you know anyone who may be able to help please let us know. The cost of each child's education at the new school is £300 per annum (£25 per month).

### **Carlos and Luis Bacajol Hernandez**

As we promised last year, we have given a 'gap year' scholarship to Carlos and Luis who arrived in the UK in January to live and study for nine months.

They are studying English at New College Nottingham and making excellent progress.

We were immensely proud of them when they made a speech at our Dublin fundraiser- a huge achievement for them both after only learning English for such a short period of time.



**Carlos and Luis in London**

We hope many of you will get a chance to meet them this year. They are charming young boys and a credit to Guatemala and the Foundation.

### **Nottingham Admin**

Emma Denman, who is well known to most of you, left us on 20<sup>th</sup> March on Maternity leave. She gave birth to Luca, a healthy baby boy, on April 30<sup>th</sup> and we wish her well with her new family. We hope to welcome her back in 2009 in whatever capacity she feels able. She will continue to help us from home in the meantime.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> Amy Holly joined us. Amy has visited Guatemala and speaks Spanish. She is a graduate of Latin American Studies and we hope you will all get to know her as she helps Kris in the office.

### **The Future**

2007 was a fantastic year for us and we made great progress. Clearly we have stretched ourselves with the attempt to buy the San Felipe school but if you don't try....!! With a little luck and a bit of help we will make 2008 even more special for the Foundation and the children. We would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and continued generosity.

# “ONLY THROUGH EDUCATION CAN WE BREAK THE POVERTY CYCLE”



David McKee (Chairman & Trustee)  
Kevin McMenamin (Trustee)  
Malcolm Caporn (Trustee)  
Dougal Powrie (Trustee)  
Tommy Johnson (Fund Raiser)

Krisztina Hidasi (Charity Administrator in UK)  
Amy Holly (Charity Administrator in UK)  
Emma Denman  
Trisha Braisby  
Emily Chennery



You can contact all of the above people on [enquiries@eftc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@eftc.org.uk) or call 0115 852 6688