



Stories from the **heart** of Niños de Guatemala



Education: Alvaro and Maria

“We always saw education as a waste of time”

Fundraising Success

Empowerment: Ana

“SERniña has helped me to be proud of myself”

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Editorial



Mireille Goos
President of the Board

Increasing our impact through collaboration and social businesses

In July we published our 2016 Annual Report, more details can be found on page 4 of this magazine. Our major project was the finalisation of the second floor of our middle school. A worthwhile investment, because now the educational infrastructure of our organisation is complete.

To keep increasing the impact of our organisation in Guatemala, we are consistently on the look-out for collaborations and new social business opportunities.

That’s why in August I visited Guatemala to see the latest addition to our social businesses: IXMUCAFE. This new venture focuses on the carefree enjoyment of quality, worry-free coffee. IXMUCAFE is a direct trade product for a true fair price. And, of course, all profits are donated to Niños de Guatemala.

On the plantations of Acatenango I saw the potential of this new social business – not only as an additional source of income for our organisation on our path to self-sustainability but also as a way to expand our impact on education in Guatemala.

Based on our founding principles of Education, Empowerment and Entrepreneurship and by collaborating with the local public schools in the municipality of Acatenango, we can enable the children of local farmers there to reach their full potential as well.

“ We always saw education as a waste of time ”
Alvaro and Maria (Parents)

My name is Alvaro. My wife’s name is Maria. I stopped attending school after 3rd grade. Maria finished primary school but did not continue to secondary school.

A lot of work to support our family

We have four children between the ages of 12 and 20. We work in the field, where we grow beans and vegetables. Maria takes the bus at 2am to sell our products in the market in the city. I work in the fields from 5am until 12pm and afterwards I clean the vegetables all afternoon.

It takes a lot of work to support our family. This is the reason that our two eldest children never finished primary school – they started working in the fields with us.

We now value education

Education is good for our children, although at first we did not support it. Our second youngest child, Angela, is enrolled in middle school. This year we were going to withdraw her so she could work full time as well.

But Angela told us how happy school makes her. She believes that education is the key to a better future, and we want to support her where we can.

We always saw education as a waste of time, and that this time can better be used for work. We now value the education of our two children who are still in school. We understand that education can change their lives and give them a better future than we can offer them.

“ Our eldest children started working in the fields instead of going to school ”

“ we now understand that education can change the lives of our children ”

Education



Publication Annual Report 2016

We are pleased with the results of our organisation in 2016. You can read the full Annual Report which focuses on the construction of the second floor of the Básico, the expansion of our social businesses and the educational progress of our students, on [our website](#).

“*In 2016, we celebrated our 10th anniversary in the Netherlands.*”



Our dream of making a difference in the world has become reality thanks to your continued support not only for the 500 students in our three schools but also for their parents, our teachers and the community as a whole.

In Guatemala, we will celebrate this milestone in 2017. On to another 10 years!”



Mireille Goos
President of the Board



Kimberly-Clark's in-kind donation



As part of its vision to lead the world in essentials for a better life, Kimberly-Clark has donated 1,680 rolls of toilet paper to our schools – a great donation as it reduces our operational expenses.

“*In Guatemala we contribute to a better life for our local communities by bringing health, hygiene and well-being to people in vulnerable circumstances*”



Kimberly-Clark
Guatemala

Fundraising
Success



“we learn what relationships should be like”



“I have greater self-esteem”

empowerment

“SERniña has helped me to be proud of myself”
Ana - 15

My name is Ana. I am fifteen years old and am in the third year of middle school. I live with my mother, grandparents and two brothers. When I’m older, I want to be a lawyer and support my family.

Becoming a community leader

My favourite program at school is SERniña. They teach us girls how to become positive leaders in our communities and within our families.

One of the most important things we’ve learned in SERniña is that most of the time the girls we see on television have been photoshopped - lots of filters have been used to make them look prettier. It’s good to know that this happens, otherwise girls can have low self-esteem or try to become something that isn’t real.

Learning to set boundaries

Some of the girls in SERniña have boyfriends, so it’s good that we learn what relationships should be like, including setting boundaries and having respect for each other.

Ser Niña has given me greater self-esteem and greater awareness of my own abilities. I’ve also learned what rights I have when I get a job in the future. In Guatemala discrimination is still a big issue; companies think people with coloured skin are less skilled. This program has taught me that everyone has the same rights.

SERniña has helped me to be proud of myself. In the end, we have to love ourselves to be happy.

Student of the Month

Jeimy - 9

Some of our students are still without a Padrino. We'll give you the chance to meet one of them every month.

This month's student is Jeimy. She is 9 years old and attends our primary school Nuestro Futuro in Ciudad Vieja.

Campaign

“ I love to draw
and read at recess ”

Breaking the cycle of poverty

Children from impoverished families in Guatemala aren't receiving an education. Because their parents can't afford the costs involved. Meaning they won't be able to develop their full potential.

To educate our children and help them break their families' cycle of poverty, we need your support.

Become a Padrino and support a child today!

By becoming a Padrino (godparent) today, you will provide direct support to your ahijado (godchild) by covering the costs of his or her education, healthcare and food program.

You can become a Padrino for \$ 50 / € 35 a month. You'll have direct, personal contact with your ahijado, at least four times a year, and receive regular updates on the progress of her or his education.

This monthly amount covers all educational expenses for one student in our primary school program including:

- educational materials
- nutrition and health programs
- a percentage of the teacher's salary
- general school maintenance

Interested in becoming a **Padrino**?

Contact us at padrino@ninosdeguatemala.org.

“Working at Good Hotel is an opportunity to be a good example for my children”
Natty (GH staff member)

“I felt frustrated, because I couldn't give my children the things they needed”

My name is Netty. I live in Ciudad Vieja. Two of my six children attend the middle school of Niños de Guatemala. I didn't have a good job until the school's social work department approached me and asked if I wanted to join the staff of Good Hotel Antigua.

Breaking the cycle of poverty

I previously sold tortillas from my house. This was a difficult time for me and my family, as my salary depended on how many tortillas I sold that day. I felt frustrated, because I couldn't give my children what they needed.

I am very happy that I was offered this opportunity. For me, this is my chance to break the cycle of poverty, and work for a better future for my children.

Becoming a better mother

At Good Hotel I received hospitality training. I am now responsible for serving and preparing breakfast and beverages for guests.

Working at Good Hotel has enabled me to grow as a person and be a good example for my children.

If it wasn't for Niños de Guatemala, my life would be very different. I wouldn't be able to send my children to school.

I have become a better mother – I now push my children to study because I want them to achieve more in life than I have.

“I want my children to study, so they can achieve more in life”



Entrepreneurship

Events

**Saturday 7
October:**
**Art Show by
Miguel “Meriz”
de Leon**
Good Hotel Antigua.

**Sunday 29
October:**
Monster Dash
Antigua Guatemala
5k - charity run.



**Thursday 9
November:**
10th Anniversary Gala
Saul L'osteria
Guatemala City.

Vacancies

At Niños de Guatemala, we are always on the lookout for talented professionals to join our team and contribute to the work we do. If you think that your particular skill-set will help our organisation grow even further, please email us at: hr@ninosdeguatemala.org.

We currently have the following vacancies:

G U A T E M A L A

Head of Fundraising

Can you take our organisation's revenue generation to the next level? Are you a natural leader and entrepreneurial go-getter who wants to further develop our long-term fundraising strategy? Then we are looking for you!

U N I T E D S T A T E S

Volunteers

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to build relationships with local corporate and charitable organisations in the New York City area to help us grow the Niños de Guatemala community in the U.S.

T H E N E T H E R L A N D S

Marketing & Communications Expert (VOLUNTEER)

We are looking for an enthusiastic, proactive communications professional to volunteer as part of the Business-to-Consumer committee. You will be responsible for fundraising events, donor recruitment and increasing the overall brand awareness of our organisation in the Netherlands.

Apply here!

upcoming

“Everyone should have the opportunity to study”

Ashley Williams - Founder of [La Serigrafía de la Gringa](#)

Spotlight

“I don't want to create followers,
I want to create leaders”



“education is
their chance
for a better life”

Going to prison doesn't mean you stop being responsible for taking care of your family. I founded 'La Serigrafía de la Gringa' to provide jobs in screen printing. We work with inmates to make T-shirts for different organisations, such as Niños de Guatemala. The fabrics we use are from recycled brand-named clothes.

A positive way to support their families

Our employees are committed and thankful for the opportunity we provide them. They always want to work more because it's a positive way to continue to support their families.

My organisation provides a 6 month technical course for screen printing and we require our employees to attend classes in prison. By doing so, we hope to motivate inmates to focus on their lives after prison. I don't want to create followers, I want to create leaders.

Education helps prevent crime

Fighting for justice is hard due to corruptive elements in the government. Every day our organisation is confronted with new obstacles. Luckily the judges I have worked with so far are supportive of our cause. I want to find a solution to prevent crimes from happening. Education is a component key of this solution.

Our goal is to get inmates skilled jobs when they are released from prison. We can make this possible through the power of education.

People with low incomes in Guatemala don't get the same chances in life but everyone should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. I believe that education is their chance for a better life.

Social Businesses

At **Niños de Guatemala**, we believe that a self-sustainable society will be a prosperous one. The same goes for our organisation.

That's why we have established and collaborate with a variety of social businesses with the aim of empowering people from our local community and providing them with a steady income and meaningful employment.

The profits of these social businesses are donated directly to Niños de Guatemala.

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Some names and personal details have been modified for privacy reasons.



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GOOD HOTEL™

The Good Hotel aims to combine doing business with doing good and premium quality.

Through the Good Training program, long-term unemployed locals are offered a unique hospitality training and a chance to re-integrate into the economy.

The Good Hotel Antigua is located in a former private mansion with a minimalistic design, in the heart of the UNESCO protected town of Antigua

www.goodhotelantigua.com

IXMU CAFE



We offer worry-free coffee from the highlands of Guatemala.

Our coffee is of specialty quality and produced and designed to make you relax.

We know our farmers personally and are able to tell you about their lives and products and the fair price we pay.

Great coffee with 100% social impact, providing education one cup at a time. Try it yourself!

For more information: info@ixmucafe.com



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