



Impact Report

2020

In 2020, donors to the US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (USFUVG) provided over

US \$306,000

in support for students, staff, and facilities of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (UVG).

Scholarships

USFUVG donors provided over \$241,000 of scholarships for students at UVG in 2020. Across the three campuses, 248 students received support.



Perseverance and Success

Thanks to your generous donations, Dina (pictured below) completed all of the coursework for her Bachelor's (*licenciatura*) in education in 2020 at UVG's Altiplano Campus. For Dina, this achievement was a long time coming: she started university in 2012 while also making *huipiles*, aprons, and blouses in order to fund her studies and support her family. Unfortunately, she was unable to afford both and left school in 2015. In 2019, however, Dina was able to restart her program thanks to a scholarship funded by USFUVG.



Despite having to move to online classes, scholarship recipient Dina completed her coursework for her licenciatura in 2020.

Speaking about what receiving a scholarship meant to her, Dina said:

This support definitely gives me hope every day with the knowledge that we will become people with opportunities that allow us to improve our quality and professional life. Many of us love to study because we dream of being better people, professionals capable of solving real life problems, but few of us have opportunities, so I feel lucky.

Dina's coursework in 2020 included creating educational materials in the Kaquikel Maya language, executing a community education research project about family gardens, and even helping to run technology-in-the-classroom workshops for teachers, a project which was all the more crucial because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dina said, "Teachers have varying levels of skill on electronic devices, from a cell phone to digital platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Facebook. It is difficult for teachers to incorporate these technological tools into their teaching strategies."

Dina is continuing at UVG in 2021, working on her final thesis

Creative Solutions

Also at UVG-Altiplano, Kimberly finished her second of three years in the Intercultural Bilingual Elementary Education program also at UVG's Altiplano Campus with an average of 96%! She said, "The year 2020 was a challenge for all of us students, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We had to adapt, receive virtual classes, and do all our assignments. With difficulty but great enthusiasm we carried out many activities."

Kimberly has been incredibly resourceful in completing her coursework during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to creating a family garden as part of her coursework, she also recruited her family members to be her students so that she could deploy the face-



Kimberly planned and created a garden in Teaching-Learning Strategies course.

to-face lesson in addition that she had planned. She recorded the "class" and submitted it to her professors online so that she could receive feedback.

Kimberly is continuing her studies from home in 2021 to complete her program.



Kimberly (right) recruited family members to be students in order practice a class at home.

San Andres Semetebaj (SAS)

In addition to scholarships, one of USFUVG's major areas of support is the living laboratory for archaeology at San Andres Semetebaj. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the students and staff had planned to renovate and set up a museum in the town to display some of the unique and significant artifacts found at the site. While those plans had to go on hold in 2020, the care of the site continued, and focus shifted to supporting the community during the difficult days of coronavirus.

When their financial support was unexpectedly reduced, five UVG-Altiplano students living at the El Hogar Feliz orphanage in San Andres Semetebaj were in danger of having to leave school. Luckily, thanks to the generous donors over the years to the SAS fund, USFUVG was able to cover their tuition to UVG-Altiplano and help with other necessities.

Other Support

Non-scholarship endowment funds at USFUVG provide continual funds for students, programs, and initiatives. These funds also provided support for UVG in 2020 in the form of:

- \$23,000 for Endowed Chairs
- \$7,000 for fellowships
- \$7,000 for the library

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad

Additionally, USFUVG facilitated over \$364,000 of support for UVG through the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program within the US Agency for International Development (USAID). This support was part of a \$1 million grant awarded in 2018. These funds were used for durable goods needed to support learning and instruction, including 3D printers and technology to facilitate online learning.



Funds from the ASHA grant helped outfit laboratories with durable goods, such as 3D printers. During the Covid pandemic, these facilities produced face shields and other protective equipment.

Coronavirus Brings Community Together—Virtually

Classes at all of UVG's campuses moved online as of March 17, 2020. While some lab classes have resumed in person with strict Covid protocols, most students remain learning from home. Students have had to adjust to learning in a different way, finding adequate resources at home, and most of all, being far from their fellow students and professors. But they have risen to the challenge!

In an October online event, USFUVG highlighted some of the important contributions UVG has made to the fight against coronavirus. Laboratories and makerspaces were deployed to make ventilators and personal protective equipment (pictured p. 4); departments worked across disciplines to create an app to self-report symptoms in order to monitor outbreaks; and the long-standing partnership with the US Center for Disease Control made UVG a go-to ally for managing the Covid-19 response.

For the students at UVG, the pandemic brought opportunities to connect as a university community in different ways. Student leaders in the UVG student association AEUVG quickly recognized that their fellow students would need extra support, and so they spearheaded the *Estudiante x Estudiante* (Student for Student) campaign to help with necessities to attend virtual classes, such as mobile devices and internet access.



The UVG student association AEUVG sold hats, as modeled here by AEUVG officer Diego, to raise money for their fellow students during the covid pandemic.

While UVG rose admirably to the coronavirus challenge in 2020, the pandemic is unfortunately still ongoing in Guatemala, with little relief in sight. Reuters estimates that just over 2% of the population has been vaccinated, and some 1,400 new cases are being reported daily.

About Us

The US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (USFUVG) was started in 1977 by a group of US citizens committed to the idea that education is essential to Guatemala's development of civil society and prosperity for all its citizens. USFUVG's mission is to improve educational opportunities for the citizens of Guatemala and, to this end, raise funds for scholarships and endowments, build alliances with US donors, corporations and non-governmental organizations, and to provide financial and other assistance to the University of the Valley of Guatemala (UVG).

USFUVG is a non-profit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. Our tax ID number is 22-2171258.



US FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE VALLEY OF GUATEMALA

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Our objectives are:

- Increasing the availability of scholarships for qualified Guatemalan students. Special emphasis is on providing opportunity to the country's historically disadvantaged Maya majority and other rural poor, with a particular focus on female students.
- Enhancing the overall learning environment and facilities of UVG and bolstering UVG's future by securing USAID ASHA grants and building our endowment.

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