

Meet a Former Student: Felipe



Felipe is the first and only member of his family to have an education and he was born with a disability in his hand where such things as writing were challenging for him growing up.

Felipe briefly went to school when he was 10 years old but had to leave it to help his family economically. When Felipe was around 18 years old, he met Abraham, our lead teacher, and restarted his first grade year, following an 'accelerated' elementary school program. This was before the Friendship School and Abraham taught Felipe wherever he could: under a tree, in the church down the street, or in his family home. Throughout this time, Felipe had to leave school off and on to help his family but finally achieved his 6th grade education. Sadly, Felipe could not afford to continue his education beyond 6th grade.

It was because of Felipe that Abraham pursued the dream of opening a school with Basico (Jr. High) together with Doug. After the Friendship School was started, Felipe completed Basico and today is completing high school through a GFSF scholarship.

Today, Felipe travels to a nearby city to attend high school and to do so, he travels 3 hours EACH WAY twice a week for the weekend program he is part of. All other days he continues working in the fields to help his family.

Felipe would like to someday pursue a degree in law or social justice. He has been so fortunate; our teachers have injected a 'can-do' mentality in Felipe and he plans to continue his education all the way into College, against all of the hurdles of his disability and his family's level of poverty. We are incredibly proud of Felipe's accomplishments.

You Can Help!

[Donate or sponsor a student today!](#)

www.gfsf.org

Click on 'sponsor now' or 'donate now'

Or via mail:
PO Box 3293
Redmond, WA 98073-3293

[Please join our mailing list!](#)

In the coming year, we will no longer have a mailed Annual Report. Please stay connected by joining our email mailing list. Just go to www.gfsf.org and click on 'contact us' to get the latest information (with just a few emails a year) and to help us direct every penny to our students in Guatemala

[Contact us](#)

Amy Johnson, President: amyj@gfsf.org

Our foundation is a non-profit organization with many active board members. We are able to fund the Friendship School through partnerships with Rosa Parks Elementary and other local schools, local community support, and donations & sponsorships from supporters like you.



Students in Redmond dancing at the end of another successful Friendship Week in 2010



2010 Annual Report

**Who makes dreams
come true? WE DO!**

www.gfsf.org

The Guatemala Friendship School Foundation is a Federal non-profit, 501c3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Dear friends,

You are a part of a special community. Together, we are a small group of people who have rallied around a simple idea- that ALL children deserve a basic education. Together we have raised up a small village in Guatemala, providing a basic education to over 350 students over the last 11 years. These are Mayan students, intelligent people who deserve the opportunity to follow their dreams and end a cycle of poverty for their families and their community.

In these difficult economic times, all of us are looking more closely at the donations we choose to make. Please understand that at the Guatemala Friendship School Foundation we are careful stewards of your donations. Today please consider recommitting to our community- one where your donation will make a REAL difference in the life of a child and a community. Our school was built and runs today because of people like you, and with all sizes of donations.

- **88% of every dollar goes directly to our education programs**
- It costs only \$250 to educate a child for one year
- We currently have students in 1st through 9th grade at our own school and sponsor others at the high school and university level
- In November, 2010, we celebrated our 9th junior high graduation and over 95% of our students continue their education after graduating
- In 2007, our school was recognized as having the highest standardized test scores of all the junior highs in their state- and all the rest are private schools where students must pay tuition to attend
- Our students are very successful in extracurricular activities, winning championships in girls and boys soccer and basketball, as well as art competitions
- Friendship Week 2010 will mark our 11th year of successful partnerships with local schools.

The Friendship School started as a dream of a Mayan teacher. Today, we are making dreams come true every day. Thank you for being a part of this small and extremely effective community of support!

Muchas Gracias,
Doug Johnson, Founder

Financial Summary for 2010

INCOME

Friendship Week	\$12,153
Corporate matching	\$10,748
Donations for scholarships	\$7,350
General donations	\$6,369
Other fundraising	\$3,681
Total Income:	\$40,301

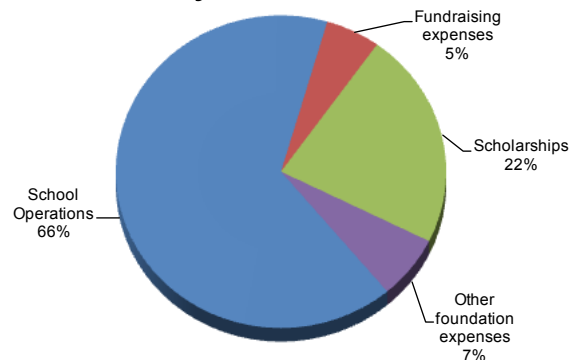
EXPENSES

Friendship School operations, maintenance, & salaries	\$27,086
Scholarships	\$9,264
Fundraising expenses	\$2,208
Other foundation expenses	\$2,780
Total Expenses:	\$41,339

Note:

During 2010, the Board of Directors voted to discontinue support of the programs in La Vega, Guatemala. In order to maintain the benefits to the community of La Vega, the remaining funds targeted specifically towards those programs, \$35,745, were refunded to the original donors to continue this work.

Your money at work



Looking forward to 2011

Student Sponsorship

Our new website is here! Once again, we will be giving our supporters the opportunity to sponsor students at our school and help them receive their education in 2011. Visit our website -

www.gfsf.org

Here you can choose a student to sponsor and send your payment via PayPal. You can also donate smaller or larger amounts to fit your budget- every amount helps!



Students like Isaura can be sponsored via our website

Friendship Week, 2011

Our main school-based fundraiser, Friendship Week, will continue at Rosa Parks Elementary in Redmond, Washington. Mark your calendars for March 7th-11th, 2011!

Students will participate in writing letters to their student friends in Guatemala. This is an amazing opportunity for students in our local area to build cultural understanding and international connections. There will be a lot of fun activities for the students and, of course, our annual Friendship Dance and Silent Auction on March 11th from 7-9 PM. See you there!

