



Education  
for the Children

# Volunteering Program

*The School of Hope*







# Education for the Children

Romper el ciclo de pobreza a través de una educación  
integral y empoderamiento



## Volunteer with us!

Over the last 19 years visitors and volunteers have brought their unique skills and experiences to enrich The School of Hope in Jocotenango, Guatemala. We welcome volunteers of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds. We've hosted students, entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, retired travelers, marketers and musicians from around the world. Some spend a week with us, others stay for many months.

We're delighted that students will be back in the classroom from February 2022 and so we can invite volunteers back too. Visits can be tailored to suit your skills, interests and travel plans. Why not combine your volunteering with an adventure, touring one of the many active volcanoes in the local area? (Acatenango is just 20 miles from the school) Or visit Tikal, a mysterious Mayan ruined city in the middle of the jungle?

Whilst you volunteer at with us, you will stay in the Unesco World Heritage city of La Antigua whose colorful buildings, markets and restaurants are sure to please.



# How Can I Help?

If you speak an advanced level of Spanish, there will be the opportunity to be a Teacher's Assistant. If you have English as a Second Language (ESL/TEFL) qualification or experience, we'd love to hear from you, as we have tutoring opportunities with our Further Education students.

If you don't speak Spanish, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. You'll be delivering lunches to classroom bubbles, guiding students to and from classes, preparing classroom materials or working in the office with our education admin team.

We have a dedicated visitor coordinator in Guatemala who will help with every aspect of your stay, to ensure it is both fulfilling and enjoyable.





# About Us

## Education For The Children Foundation (EFTC)

EFTC funds and runs The School of Hope and further education scholarship programmes in Jocotenango, Guatemala: an urban area where extreme poverty, gang crime, domestic violence and alcoholism are everyday realities. However, the town is also close to the tourist destination of Antigua and the capital Guatemala City, where many opportunities exist.

More than 600 students study with EFTC's support, with food, healthcare, counselling and career guidance removing obstacles to education. These elements support each other enabling our students to realize their potential. Our ultimate goal is that students can lead independently supported lives for themselves and their families.

## Guatemala

Guatemala is a Central American country with an ancient history and beautiful landscapes, but also a long history of violence, poverty and marginalisation.

Guatemala has the lowest literacy rates in the whole of Central America. 62.4% of Guatemalans live below the poverty line and half the number of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. The pandemic caused schools in Guatemala to be shut for over 18 months. Over 160,000 students have already dropped out of schooling and EFTC is determined that our families don't become part of this statistic.



# A Holistic Approach



## EDUCATION

The School of Hope is a Primary and Middle School that educates 429 children and supports another 186 further education scholarships. Our innovative Guatemalan based curriculum provides a well rounded education as well as teaching life, vocational and entrepreneurial skills.



## NUTRITION

Healthy and nutritious school meals are vital to enable students to be able to concentrate and learn. We have four in-house kitchen staff who provide delicious food every day. We also run a water filter program with Eco Filtro to ensure all our families have access to clean water at home.



## HEALTH

Physical and Mental Healthcare are a vital part of our program. We have a dedicated school nurse who administers regular health screenings for all students. For those with specific needs we fund specialist medicines and procedures. Our psychology team work with students in need of counselling and support, who have often experienced violence or abuse.



## SOCIAL SERVICES

We have a range of services that support the well being and vulnerability of our families. These cover a range of topics from restorative justice, to bullying and consent. We work closely with partners such as WINGS (sexual reproductive healthcare) to identify need and deliver bespoke programmes.





## Interested? Next Steps.....

1

Register your interest by emailing [visitors@eftcfoundation.org](mailto:visitors@eftcfoundation.org). You'll receive details of specific position(s) which will be tailored to your length of stay, skills, preferences and experience.

2

Before you travel, you'll have the opportunity for discussion with our visitor coordinator in Guatemala and then agree to sign-up to a specific role.

3

You'll be able to read and agree to detailed information about Covid volunteer protocols before your visit.

4

Each volunteer will be required to sign the 'EFTC Visitor and Volunteer Agreement' and pay the volunteer fee of £50/€70.

5

Please be aware that current regulations state that upon arrival in Guatemala volunteers will be required to show proof of vaccination and a negative PCR test taken within 3 days of entry. Regulations are constantly changing and we advise you check with your country's travel regulations to Guatemala before you book.





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