



Connecting Lives
Sharing Cultures

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." John Holmes

# Community Service Program Guatemala

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." Booker T. Washington, Up from Slavery

# Association of Private Natural Reserves of Guatemala



The Association of Private Natural Reserves of Guatemala is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-religious, a-political organization, whose primary objective is to contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of the natural resources of Guatemala through the concept of sustainable development on private property.

Our Mission is the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity on private property. Through its combined actions, inspired by shared convictions, it benefits its members and society, fomenting the continuity of life for current and future generations.

Our Vision is to be an autonomous, decentralized leader, representing the largest diversity of ecosystems and landowners. Its members will be supported and stimulated to conserve and use natural resources in a sustainable manner. Its effective and innovative action, based on principles and mysticism of work, permit a positive influence in the creation of environmental policies, actions, and initiatives in the private and public sectors.



Private Natural Reserve Buenos Aires, Retalhuleu, Guatemala

Since it was established in 1998, The Association of Private Natural Reserves of Guatemala has taken a leadership role in promoting environmental conservation through the creation of private reserves

Actually there are 173 Private Natural Reserves recognized by the Guatemalan National Council of Protected Areas –CONAP-. They cover around 75,000 hectares in 19 districts of the country.

What are private natural reserves? They are areas that are the property of individual persons, or communities, that the landowners declare as a natural protected area on a volunteer basis. These areas conserve flora and fauna and the ecosystems on that property.

The Private Natural Reserves complement de Guatemalan System of Protected Areas –SIGAP-.

Why are Private Natural Reserves Important?

- They conserve our natural heritage.
- They conserve water resources.
- They conserve biodiversity.
- They conserve our cultural heritage.
- They mitigate climate change
- They bring environmental friendly products
- They prevent disaster (landslides, flood)

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

Anne Frank

The volunteer will support the Program Federico Fahsen, environmental education aimed at urban and rural schools:

### Activities to develop:

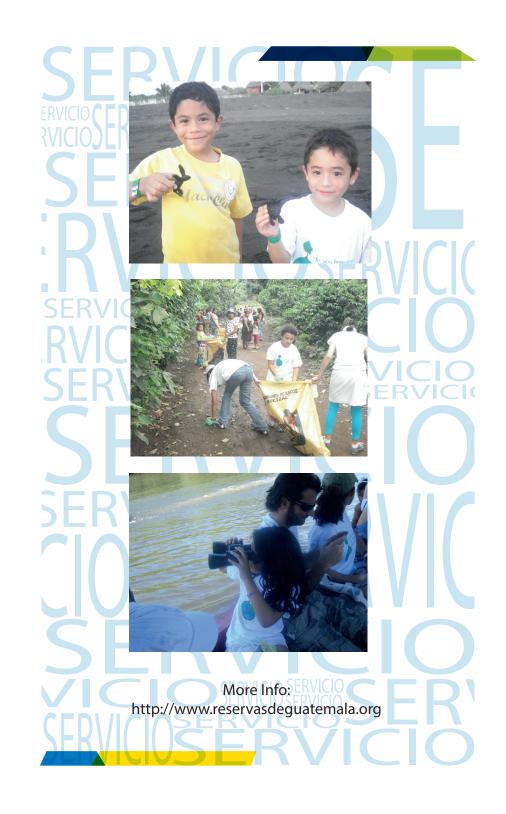
- 1. Environmental documents.
- 2. Support for individual private nature reserves and community conservation areas and production.
- 3. Develop audiovisual material.
- 4. Translate information into English
- 5. Participate in events planned by the Association.
- 6. Participate with eco-instructors who are teenagers part of the Club of a Better Environmental Heirs

The activities fall under the following topics:

- 1. Water
- 2. Waste Management
- 3. Forest
- 4. Native plants and their use.
- 5. Biodiversity
- 6. Orchards gardens
- 7. Agricultural products.



Private Natural Reserve Ram Tzul Ruta a Coban,, Guatemala



## Brillo de Sol



Brillo de Sol is a school based in La Antigua, Guatemala that provides for the special education needs and services to children who would otherwise have no opportunity for a healthy, happy and productive future.

Our Mission is to change the future of Guatemalan children with learning disabilities by providing different forms of learning to meet their unique needs. By creating a nurturing environment of love, learning and mutual respect, our goal is to help each child reach their full potential and lead joy-filled, productive lives.

Our Vission is to be an educational center that works through integration and inclusion serving students with different forms of learning disabilities caused by neurological, sensory, or emotional disorders. In addition to providing the necessary content for their educational development, we will provide them with the necessary therapeutic attention. To receive every child that knocks on our doors, without leaving anyone outside, regardless of their age, economic capacity, religion, or place of residence.



Some children have very bright minds, but have special needs in order to allow them to reach their full potential. Brillo de Sol is an educational project that was born 7 years ago to take care of these children:

- Very often they don't pass their grade
- Are removed from other educational centers
- Or don't learn by traditional methods

### Some of the causes are:

- Being diagnosed with learning disabilities
- Have serious emotional problems
- Are over age
- Come from extreme poverty

We do not discriminate against any student because of his/her age, religion, or failure to pass the same grade. We provide a quality education with well-trained teachers and proper methodology that fits the individual needs of each student.

We utilize teaching and rehabilitation methods such as: Montessori, Neuronet, Estrellita, Program of instrumental enrichment, and others. Additionally, we use the national curriculum as our teaching base. But our best therapy is to teach our students to laugh through good humor, perseverance, and letting them feel our unconditional love and acceptance.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

### **Volunteers**

In addition to our staff, our volunteers are an integral part of our program. We couldn't do what we do without them. It's a great opportunity for students pursuing a teaching career to gain hands-on experience or others in the profession to lend a hand with their expertise. We are looking for people all type of skills to help us make a brighter life for our children. Here are some of our current needs:

- Teacher's aide in each classroom
- Librarians
- English teachers
- Art, dance, theater teachers
- Public Relations experts.
- Speech, occupational, and physical therapists
- Psychologists
- Vocational teachers
- Physical education teachers
- Reading and writing tutors
- Volunteers that want to work with the physical facility (painting, repairs and other maintenance of the school)

### Living and Volunteering:

There are many housing opportunities for volunteers in La Antigua and its surroundings villages. Many local residents offer homestays where you can live, volunteer and/or study Spanish. There are many hostels offering affordable housing for short-stays. CasaSito, one of Brillo de Sol's partner programs, operates a 5-room volunteer house where you can live and share quarters with like-minded volunteers from around the world.





Founded in 1997 Hogar Miguel Magone is a non government organization, providing shelter for over 80 children aged between three and sixteen years old in Guatemala City.

The majority of children sent to us are victims of abuse or neglect. We are located on the outskirts of Guatemala City, where we aim to provide the children necessary care and education to help them live rewarding and successful lives.

The children study in public schools. In 2008 we also began to work with girls and now we have around 20 living in the Hogar. The Hogar is also involved in a sponsorship program, providing food, medication and education to more than 50 children from Agucate, a village near to the Hogar.

The Hogar is run by local teachers, national and international volunteers and service personnel, who help with the children's schooling, hygiene, health and recreational activities. We also have a psychologist for the children and skilled locals visit the Hogar who teach the children valuable skills like baking, carpentry, art and IT.

The children's accommodation is divided by age group separate buildings for the young boys, middle and elders and one area for the girls. Through the help of volunteers we also have a computer room, TV room for the weekends, bakery and a Chapel.

As a volunteer you will be expected to help with the day-to-day running of the home. Breakfast will be prepared by you and maybe a teacher around 5am. You will then usually follow one of the teachers to the school in Satellite. It's about 25 minutes from the Hogar and quite a steep walk (downhill going there and uphill coming back).

When you get back there is always other work to undertake, for example helping to prepare the lunch or looking after the children who go to school later in the afternoon. Many children need help with homework and like to learn English. Children usually go to bed around 8pm.

Before being accepted to volunteer at the Hogar Miguel Magone, potential volunteers will need to send the following information:

- What you expect from your stay at the Hogar
- What skills and other useful things you may bring
- Previous, relevant experience including your level of Spanish
- Reasons why you would like to come
- CV and photo



"All I want to do is change the world."

W. Clement Stone



# World Vision Guatemala



World Vision has been working in Guatemala since 1975. It started providing scholarships and, established its operations in the country in 1976 by providing emergency assistance after a devastating earthquake. In 2004, World Vision Guatemala was chosen by The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to act as the principal recipient and manage the Global Fund grants in the country; the Government and civil society of Guatemala participated as well.

By 2009, World Vision Guatemala established a goal for 2013 "Create transforming development opportunities for 252,000 children, adolescents and youth –CAY– and protection for 500,000 Guatemalan CAY."

At present, World Vision supports more than 80,000 sponsored children from eight regions of the country: Guatemala, Sololá, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Chiquimula, Jutiapa and Zacapa.

World Vision focuses its efforts on the development of comprehensive and sustainable actions that contribute to improving the welfare of children through successful models in education, promotion of primary health care nutritional recovery by changing behaviors and building of positive parenting practices, based on values.

"If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity." John F. Kennedy

### Our Work:

Strengthening family capacity with the aim of improving living conditions sis for income generation and life, for the generation of income and employment through entrepreneurship projects and stimulating savings and investment. It also works to strengthen local capacities to care, emergency response and resilience.

Strengthening community organization and local power for social management and advocacy at the municipal and national levels, aimed at participation in the design and implementation of public policies that contribute to the welfare of children.

World Vision Guatemala since 2004 promotes an art project that provides opportunities for transformational development for girls, children and young people of Guatemala through the study and practice of music. Innovator and pioneer in Guatemala, the project is headquartered in San Juan Sacatepequez which provides care to over 300 families. This project resulted in the Youth Orchestra of World Vision Guatemala "Sounds of Hope"

The orchestra brings together more than 50 members who have reached a high level of interpretation, presented in multiple scenarios achieving nationwide.

They have been recognized "Artist of the Year" and were named "Ambassadors of Peace." Now teachers are also smaller. The children's program is based on the Suzuki method whose principles are teaching with love, active and positive involvement of parents developing a healthy and stimulating environment. With this method, children learn music as they learn the native language.







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