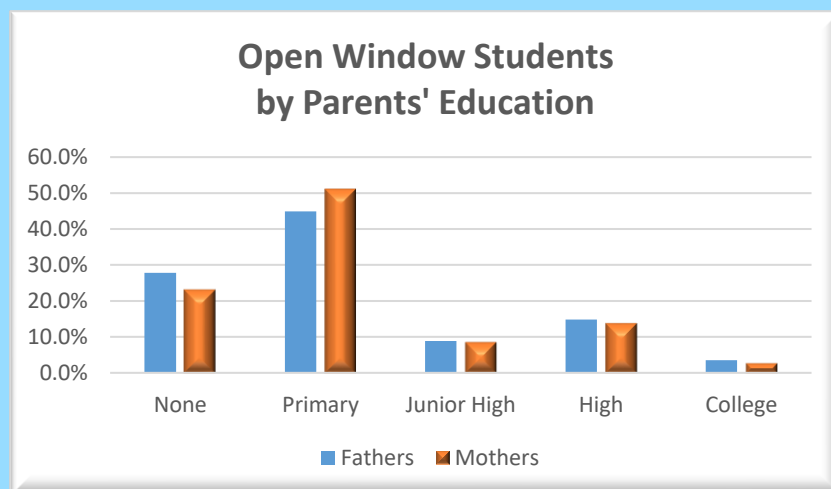




## Education and Poverty

The founders of Open Windows believed that educating children would give them, as adults, the chance to escape the poverty in which most of their parents had spent their lives. While the belief that education is a powerful weapon against poverty is common enough, quantifying it is less common. So, we decided to explore what an education means for the people in San Miguel Dueñas.

We began by looking at all the children and youth who started attending Open Windows during the last ten years, i.e., between 2013 and 2022, and we found that over 70 percent of the students have parents with no more than a primary school education. Even among those reporting higher levels, many merely started junior high, high school or university without finishing.

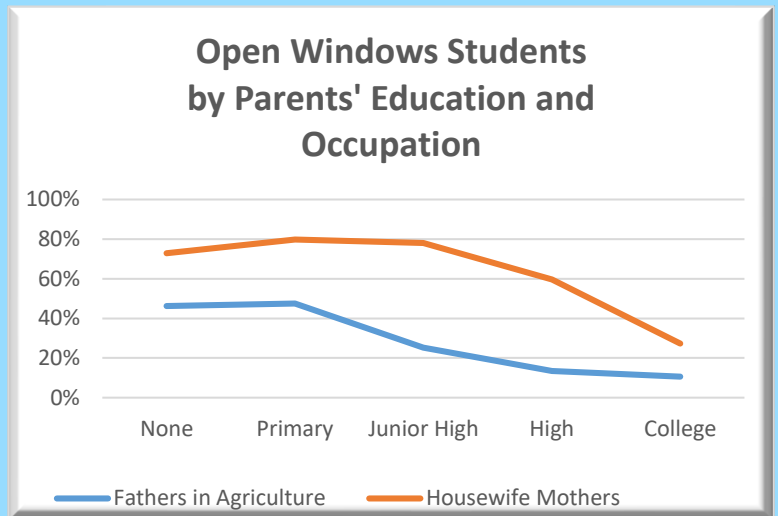


Because we do not have information on the incomes of our students' parents, we decided to look at the parents' occupations. We assumed that working in agriculture, where the minimum wage is even lower than it is for other sectors, could serve as a reasonable proxy for poverty. Using that assumption, we asked whether more education leads to a lower probability of doing agricultural work and, if so, by how much.

That question works for the students' fathers but not for the mothers. The mothers of over 75 percent of our students report being housewives. At least partly as a result, the impacts of education are different for mothers than they are for fathers.



While nearly half of the students' fathers with no more than a primary school education work in agriculture, that figure drops nearly in half when the father has spent some time in middle school, and it sinks by almost half again when the father has entered high school. Even a bit of education beyond the primary grades provides men with options outside of the coffee plantations and similar settings.



It is not that clear for the mothers of our students. Three-fourths of the students' mothers are housewives unless the mother has gone at least to high school. In other words, there is no visible impact of middle school other than as a pathway to high school. Even among mothers with some high school education, three in five still do not work outside the home. Only with a university education are most of the mothers of our students able to get paid for their work. While education has some impact for these low-income women, other factors are clearly also at work, and it appears that higher levels of education are needed for women than for men if they are to be financially independent.

*Más del 70 por ciento de nuestros estudiantes tienen padres y madres sin educación más allá de la primaria. Además, sin educación casi la mitad de los padres trabajan en el campo, y tres cuartos de las madres quedan como amas de casa sin una educación de diversificado. Pero los padres con una educación más que de primaria pueden trabajar en otros oficios y las madres que estudiaron en el diversificado o la universidad pueden encontrar trabajo afuera de la casa.*



## A Cleaner, Safer Home

Another family in San Miguel Dueñas has a new home thanks to Open Windows Foundation. Luis and his wife Lesbia live with their five children on a plot of land where eight nuclear families, all related to one another, have their homes. During two weeks in March four volunteers, Diane, Tim, Chris and Gail, mixed mortar and cement, built reinforcement



structures from rebar and wire and laid the cinder blocks. At times, when they were not in school or doing their homework with their mother's help and supervision, the kids in the family joined in, carrying the blocks and loading wheelbarrows full of sand or rock.

The work is physically exhausting but one by one families in Dueñas are getting safer and healthier homes. And the volunteers go home knowing they have made a substantial contribution to the family and to the community as a whole.

*En marzo cuatro voluntarios ayudaron a construir una casa para la familia de Luis y su esposa Lesbia. El trabajo consistió en mezclar sabieta y concreto, construir estructuras de hierro para reforzamiento y hacer los muros con bloques. Ahora la familia tiene una casa más segura y más saludable donde los niños pueden vivir en un ambiente limpio. Y los voluntarios regresan a casa dándose cuenta que han contribuido al bienestar de una familia y de la comunidad.*

Upcoming Events	
Dates	What's Happening
May 12	Mother's Day Celebration
June 12	Mid-year Competency Tests in Reading and Math
June 16	Father's Day Celebration
June 26 - 30	Exams and Basic Procedures from Volunteer Dentists
October 16	Final Competency Tests in Reading and Math
October 31	Meeting with Parents of Scholarship Applicants
Nov. 2 – Dec. 13	Reinforcement Classes

## A New Way to Donate

While most of Open Windows' donors live in the United States (or Guatemala), we also have some very faithful donors in other countries. Over the past few weeks we have been able to find a way for many of them to obtain tax deductions in their own countries for their donations. One exception involves Canada where the laws make it prohibitive to register to accept tax deductible donations unless the organization receives donations equal to about half of our annual budget.

To facilitate our donors getting tax deductions we have joined with TrustBridge Global, a Swiss organization that serves as a clearinghouse for donations for many charities. Open Windows now has two active URLs with TrustBridge. One is for supporting the organization with general donations. The easiest way to get to that site is to go to the "Donate" page on our website where there is a new TrustBridge button. The second site features a specific project, one designed to expand the number of our scholarships by 50 percent next year. Our hope is that with TrustBridge advertising this project, donors from around the world who have previously never heard of Open Windows will come to know us and begin to support our work, starting with helping us increase our scholarships. We will also be putting a special button for this project on our website to make it easy for our veteran donors to contribute to this specific project, as well.





*Para nuestros donadores que no viven en los EE.UU. hay una nueva manera de donar y recibir deducciones de los impuestos de sus países. Trabajamos con TrustBridge Global para ofrecer esta oportunidad. Los donadores pueden ir a nuestro sitio web para ver los detalles y hacer las donaciones, en donde puede donar a la organización en general o bien al proyecto con el que deseamos aumentar la cantidad de nuestras becas.*

## **Correction: 32 39 Scholarship Students**

In our last newsletter we reported that we had 14 new scholarship students, with a total of 32 including the continuing scholars. Shortly after the newsletter went out, our long-time Canadian partner, Developing World Connections, announced that it had just received additional funds to support its Every Girl effort, which, among other things, provides scholarships to young women. That allowed us to loosen our criteria a bit and offer scholarships to six girls who had not quite qualified earlier. In addition, DWC sponsored two girls



who previously had had no sponsors. We were also able to add other students after the school year had started, so we now have 39 young people studying in middle school, high school and college. Together with DWC, we are hoping that the new funds signal more scholarship funding in the future. If we have 39 scholarships this year, how many might we be able to offer next year?

*En las noticias anteriores anunciamos que teníamos 32 becados en 2023. Luego de esto Developing World Connections de Canadá nos proporcionó fondos adicionales que recibió para becas de chicas. Teníamos dos chicas sin patrocinadores e identificamos a seis estudiantes que no habían calificado antes, pero cuyas notas en las pruebas al final del reforzamiento estuvieron cerca de la calificación esperada. Con ellas completamos ahora 39 estudiantes que reciben becas de Ventanas Abiertas para 2023, esto es más que en los últimos años. ¿Cuánto podemos tener en el próximo año?*

### **Change a child's life today:**

Send a tax-deductible check to:  
Open Windows Foundation  
c/o John Davis  
1268 E. McNair Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85283

### **Find out more about Open Windows Learning Center:**

Contact:  
Nilda Girón, Director  
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