



14 New Scholarship Students



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, 32 students will be studying at the secondary and university levels this year. At the end of Open Windows' reinforcement sessions in December, students took exams to determine who was likely to succeed beyond primary school. As a result of those exams, 14 new students will be receiving scholarships.

Ten of the new students will be attending high school and four will be in their first year of middle school. Subjects the older students will study include accounting, education, biology and computer science, among others.



The composition of the new group differs somewhat from that of the continuing scholars. Last year most of the students were in middle school. This year 10 are in middle school and 18 in high school. Four students will continue to receive university scholarships.

In part because of donations provided by Developing World Connections through its **Every Girl** program, a large majority of the scholarship students are girls, mirroring efforts across Guatemala to provide girls greater opportunities. In fact, all but three of the new scholars are girls. While no one was denied a scholarship due to lack of funds, few boys applied for scholarships and among those who did, several never took the test while many others scored poorly. While we are delighted to be able to provide support to so many young women, one of the agendas for this year will be to figure out why the boys are less enthusiastic about pursuing their education and what we can do to correct that.



En 2023 Ventanas Abiertas apoyará a 32 estudiantes con becas, incluyendo a catorce nuevos becados. Cuatro de los estudiantes asistirán a la universidad, dieciocho a diversificado y diez a básico. Los nuevos becados estudiarán contabilidad, educación, ciencias biológicas y computación, entre otros. La mayoría de los becados nuevos son chicas porque muchos de los chicos que aplicaron becas o bien no tomaron las pruebas o bien recibieron notas malas.

The Miracle of Eco-stoves

Open Windows works daily to overcome the root causes of poverty. One of the recent efforts involved volunteers from the Canadian organization, Developing World Connections, who installed 120 eco-stoves over the course of two weeks. These stoves replaced the open fires on which so many poor Guatemalan families cook their meals and will save the families time and money they would otherwise spend on collecting or buying firewood, as well as on doctors' bills caused by respiratory ailments. As the comments here show, the volunteers could see the impact of their work.

I remember one family. It was the grandmother, the mom and a boy who was about 9. After the project was done, we took pictures and then the boy said something memorized that he had been practicing probably for weeks. It was just beautiful to see this effort put in to say thank you. His grandmother said a prayer and then she gave us eggs and tomatoes as a gift for the hard work.

You can be a tourist in any city, in any town, anywhere. But to actually go into the hills, up into the mountains and down the trails and into people's homes. It's just an amazing thing to be invited into their home as their guest and see how they live their lives.

I like the eco stoves because the project aligns with our values of health and wellness and also finance. Burning open fires in their houses causes health issues. And they spend a lot of time or income either gathering or buying the wood necessary to cook food. They are now able to use less wood and, of course, it's a healthier environment. It's hard work. There are a couple of pieces that are really heavy so lifting those is always the hardest part. But the stoves themselves are not very complicated. They're not that hard to install.



The numbers didn't matter; the impact did. The families said we were a gift from God. One woman said "This has been a dream of mine." She'd never owned a stove before.



Con voluntarios de la organización canadiense *Developing World Connections*, *Ventanas Abiertas* instaló 120 estufas ecológicos en noviembre. Las estufas reducen el humo en la casa y ahorran tiempo y dinero que las familias tienen que gastar para recolectar o bien comprar la leña. La instalación de estufas es una parte de nuestros esfuerzos de lucha contra la pobreza en Guatemala, dando a las familias hogares más sanos y más seguros.



Christmas Basket Update



2022 was the best year yet for the Christmas Basket campaign. Donors provided 1,300 baskets for poor families in San Miguel Dueñas and surrounding communities. Most families got two baskets, one for themselves and one for a family they knew who was in greater need than they were. Thus, they were able not only to celebrate a happier holiday themselves but also to participate in the joy of giving to someone else. For most of these families this double gift represents a benefit that they would otherwise not be likely to have.

Aside from providing a benefit to the families of the community, the Christmas Basket campaign is also an important source of funding for the learning center. With the funds raised through this effort *Ventanas Abiertas* is able to continue supporting primary students through the after-school program and secondary and university students with scholarships so they can look forward eventually to getting professional and semi-professional jobs, escaping the poverty in which most of them have grown up.

Nuestros donadores brindaron a familias pobres 1300 canastas navideñas en 2022, la cantidad más grande durante los últimos tres años en que hemos emprendido esta campaña. La mayoría de las familias recibieron dos canastas, una para sí mismo y una para una familia más pobre. Las donaciones no solo les ayudan a las familias, sino también brindan fondos para los programas de *Ventanas Abiertas* que apoyan la educación de estudiantes guatemaltecos.

Upcoming Events	
Dates	What's Happening
January 30, 2023	Open Windows' after-school program opens.
February 20, 2023	Initial Reading and Math Assessments
March 13-24, 2023	OW Volunteers build a house.
March 22, 2023	Silent Auction in Antigua





As part of our ongoing effort at community development, Open Windows will be building a house for a family in San Miguel Dueñas during the weeks of March 12 and 19. The house will replace an existing home made of corrugated metal and a dirt floor with one made of steel reinforced cinder blocks and a concrete floor. We have some volunteers already signed up and are looking for more. If we can get enough people, we will also install some eco-stoves in and around San Miguel Duenas. If you would like to provide a family with a safer, healthier place to live, click on this link: [Become a Volunteer](#). The expressions on the family's faces will let you know how much this means to them.



Como parte de nuestros esfuerzos de desarrollo comunitario, Ventanas Abiertas construirá una casa para una familia en San Miguel Dueñas a partir del 13 hasta el 24 de Marzo. La casa de bloques y concreto reemplazará una casa de lámina y suelo de tierra. Ya tenemos unos voluntarios y con más podríamos instalar unas estufas ecológicas también. Si quisieras unirte a esta labor haz clic en este enlace: [Hacerse Voluntario](#).

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
openwindows.nildag@gmail.com
(502) 7834 0292

