



CHILD AID BELIEVES

Literacy is a powerful tool, especially for children growing up in extreme poverty. As Americans grapple with the immigration crisis at our southernmost border, we must look beyond the simplistic and cruel “solution” of a wall or detention camps to addressing the underlying root causes of the crisis.

Lack of adequate education is one of the most pervasive and hobbling issues plaguing the Guatemalan people, and Child Aid has a tried and true solution. For a fraction of the cost of a wall spanning our southern border states, our nation could invest in educating every child in Guatemala, and the long-term results would be astonishing.

For the cost of just one mile of Trump’s estimated \$11 billion wall -- \$20 million dollars -- Child Aid could help nearly 270,000 children become readers for life. For five miles, our organization could reach every child in the nation!

ABOUT CHILD AID

Child Aid’s literacy programs have benefitted more than 82,000 children. Child Aid trains teachers, provides books and supports literacy programs in some of Guatemala’s poorest and most underprivileged public schools. We work in impoverished communities where children attend broken schools with few quality books and supplies, teachers who lack sufficient training to be effective and a general sense of futility around learning.

Child Aid breaks that cycle. We empower educators by committing to a four-year teacher training program that stresses critical thinking skills and developing a community of reading. Our organization bolsters teachers’ skills by conducting hands-on workshops, one-on-one coaching sessions and creating more engaging and interactive classrooms. We support all this learning by providing a robust library of books and teaching materials for each of our schools.



Access to quality education means girls like this one have a greater opportunity for success in school and beyond.

“Now is the time to spend our money, time and know-how reaching people in great need with tried and true interventions — including educational resources for children in Guatemalan schools and homes. This approach is a smarter and more sustainable plan forward than spending billions of dollars building a wall or terrorizing immigrants. It’s also more humane.”

Nancy Press, Ph.D.
Child Aid Co-Founder and CEO

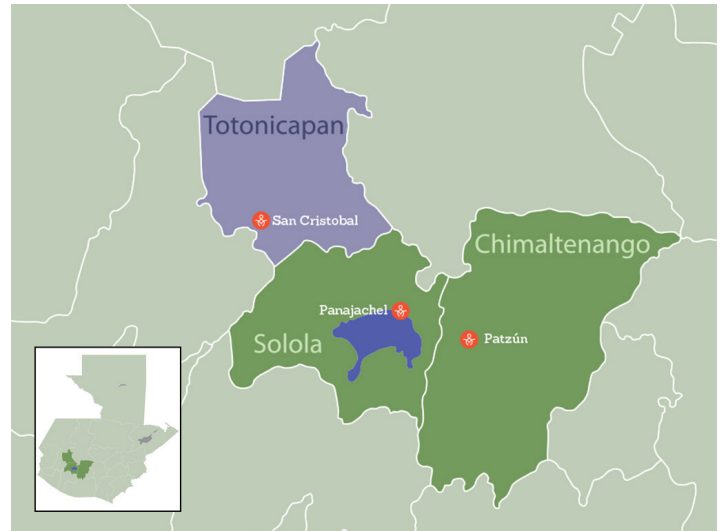


Child Aid Literacy Trainers work one-on-one with teachers in their classrooms, helping them become skilled and effective educators.

WHERE WE WORK

Child Aid works in three departments (states) in Guatemala: Sololá, Chimaltenango and Totonicapán. Our organization works in many small indigenous communities, some located in the coffee growing highlands. Since 2010, Child Aid has worked with 211 schools and trained nearly 2,000 teachers, helping them become skilled and effective educators. Child Aid's literacy programs have benefitted more than 82,000 children.

We focus on Guatemala because the country has the lowest literacy rate in Latin America. In the indigenous communities where we work, more than 75 percent of women cannot read beyond the simplest of words. In this beautiful but impoverished nation the inability to read represents a nearly impenetrable barrier to a flourishing future.



Child Aid sources available to reporters:

Graciela Landa Pichiya — Child Aid National Program Director (located in Guatemala, available via email, Skype or in-person interview in Antigua, Guatemala)

Angus Fredenburg — Child Aid Country Director (Located in Guatemala and New Hampshire. Available via phone, email, Skype or in-person interview)

Nancy Press — Founder and CEO of Child Aid (Located in Portland, Oregon. Available via phone, email, Skype or in-person interview)

Child Aid assets available to reporters:

Hi-res photos and videos depicting our literacy work in Guatemala, including:

- A pre-recorded interview with Child Aid's National Program Director Graciela Landa Pichiya
- A video from U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley who praises Child Aid's critical education work in the Northern Triangle

For more information and/or to be put directly in touch with any sources or media assets listed above, please contact Helyn Trickey Bradley, Child Aid Director of Public Relations @ 404-384-4143 (cell) or helyn.bradley@child-aid.org.