



US Foundation of the University
of the Valley of Guatemala

IMPACT REPORT 2023



ABOUT US

The US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (USFUVG) was started in 1977 by a group of US citizens committed to the idea that education is essential to Guatemala's development of civil society and prosperity for all its citizens. USFUVG is a non-profit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. Our tax ID number is 22-2171258.

Mission

USFUVG's mission is to educate Guatemala's next generation of innovators, scholars, and leaders by building alliances and raising funds for the University of the Valley of Guatemala.

Vision

USFUVG will enhance the quality of life in Guatemala by making education more accessible and equitable for all.

Objectives

- Increase the availability of scholarships for qualified Guatemalan students. Special emphasis is on providing opportunity to the country's historically disadvantaged Maya majority and other rural poor, with a particular focus on female students.
- Enhance the overall learning environment and facilities of UVG and bolster UVG's future by securing USAID ASHA grants and building our endowment.

Core Values

Integrity - We are deeply committed to our mission and transparent in stewardship of our resources.

Equity - We strive to give all students the opportunities and support they need to realize their full potential.

Respect - We value the ideas, opinions, and culture of others.

Collaboration - We seek partnerships with individuals and institutions that share our goals.

Impact - We ensure all our actions focus on the greatest needs and opportunities.



ASHA-supported learning at the Industrial Biotechnology Laboratory
Photo credit: UVG

About Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG)

UVG is a private, not-for-profit, non-ideological, and non-sectarian university founded in 1966. The University has more than 6,500 students enrolled at three campuses:

- Central Campus in Guatemala City
- Altiplano Campus in Sololá, serving Mayan communities
- South Campus, serving agricultural communities on Guatemala's Pacific Coast

What distinguishes UVG from other Guatemalan universities is not only its high quality academic

programs, particularly in the fields of engineering and education, but also its innovative, practical approach to tackling the problem of accessibility to education.

UVG was named the #1 university in Guatemala and the #1 private university in Central America by QS World University Rankings again this year. All three campuses received accreditation for five years from the French Institute of Accreditation. UVG has been designated a "Great Place to Work" for the fourth year in a row.

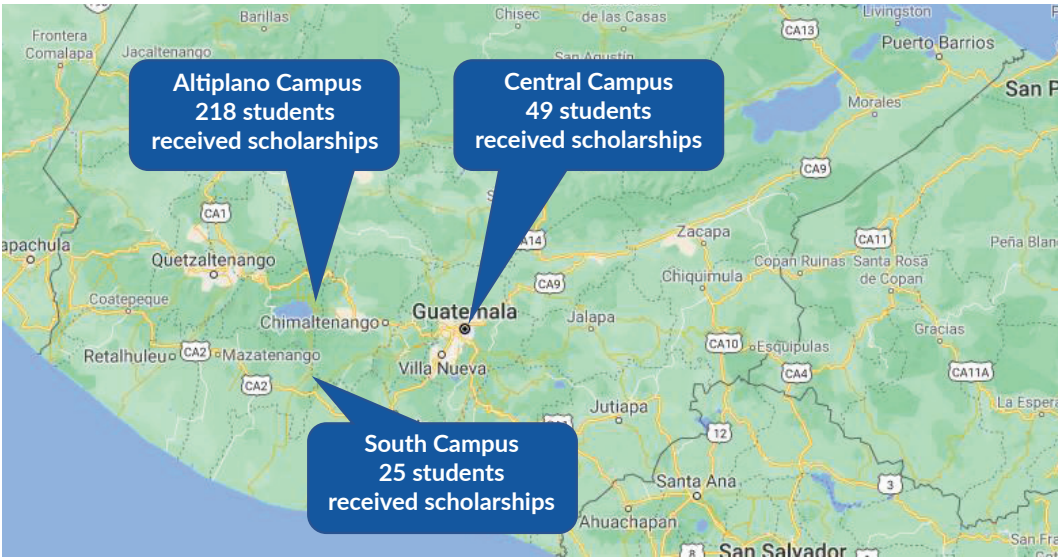
USFUVG FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

In 2023, the US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (USFUVG) provided over **\$802,772** in support for students, staff, and facilities of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (UVG).

The \$802,772 includes facilitation of a donation of **\$439,618** from ASHA to UVG and **\$363,154** in scholarships and other funds to students. USFUVG donors provided **\$307,256** in scholarships for students at UVG. Across the three campuses, **292** students received support from USFUVG. USFUVG donors also provided \$25,476 to Chairs, \$8,156 in Fellowships, \$8,156 to Libraries, \$13,218 to San Andres Semetabaj projects and students, and \$892 in other projects.

SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

| CAMPUS | FUNDS | # STUDENTS |
|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| UVG Central | \$78,735.52 | 49 |
| UVG Altiplano | \$208,348.23 | 218 |
| UVG Sur | \$20,172.41 | 25 |
| Total | \$307,256.16 | 292 |



UVG - CENTRAL CAMPUS

| FUND | DONATION | GIFT AMOUNT (US\$) | STUDENTS |
|---|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Archaeology Scholarships Fund | Restricted | \$9,725.32 | 2 |
| Blackburn Hughes Fund | Endowment | \$2,713.13 | 2 |
| CAG 77 Friends Memorial Fund | Restricted | \$1,700.00 | 1 |
| Campus Central | Restricted | \$4,335.00 | 4 |
| Helen Franklin Fund | Endowment | \$35,108.30 | 20 |
| Hitz Foundation | Restricted | \$7,650.00 | 4 |
| Jeanne Blackburn Fund for the Arts Fund | Endowment | \$1,100.96 | 2 |
| Phillip Taylor Fund | Endowment | \$1,362.41 | 1 |
| Plus Technologies Student Loan | Restricted | \$11,900.00 | 10 |
| Reader's Digest Fund | Endowment | \$1,913.03 | 2 |
| Texaco Fund | Endowment | \$1,227.37 | 1 |
| Total | | \$78,735.52 | 49 |



Blanca María de León

3rd Year
Licenciatura
Engineering in Agroforestry Technology
Altiplano Campus / 2023

Philip Herrera
Scholarship Fund



Lisandro Alvarado Pol

2nd Year
Licenciatura
Engineering in Agroforestry Technology
Altiplano Campus / 2023

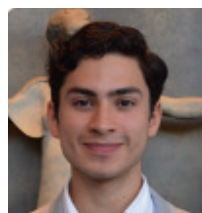
Dr. Calvin Hughes
Memorial Fund
Scholarship



Pedro Fernando Gómez

5th Year
Licenciatura
in Tourism
Business Admin
Altiplano Campus / 2023

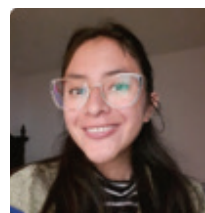
Berkley Cone
Scholarship Fund



José Carlo Lemus Medina

5th Year
Licenciatura
in Industrial Chemical Engineering
Altiplano Campus / 2023

Plus Technologies
Loan Program



Sara Tomasa Hernández Riquiac

3rd Year
Teaching Program
in Learning Disabilities
Altiplano Campus / 2023

Patricia Price
Petersen
Foundation
Scholarship

UVG - ALTIPLANO CAMPUS

| FUND | DONATION | GIFT AMOUNT (US\$) | STUDENTS |
|--|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Altiplano Scholarship: Erhardt R. \$425 Lorena P. \$850 Hannah P. \$42.50 Gregory S. \$106.25 Lucia C. \$425 Loa T. \$439.32 | Restricted | \$9,938.07 | 1 |
| Calvin Hughes Fund | Endowment | \$114,491.11 | 120 |
| ExE (San Andrés Semetabaj) Bucklin | Restricted | \$170.00 | Pending |
| Friends and Katherine Terrel | Endowment | \$2,655.78 | 3 |
| Lynn Horowitz | Endowment | \$381.03 | 2 |
| Mack Foundation Scholarships and SAS Girls Scholarship | Restricted | \$26,698.68 | 15 |
| Mack Foundation Special Support for 6 students from Casa Hogar Feliz | Restricted | \$6,000.00 | 6 |
| Miriam Rosengarten | Endowment | \$3,175.29 | 4 |
| Patricia Price Petersen Foundation | Restricted | \$21,250.00 | 22 |
| Philip Herrera Scholarship Fund | Restricted | \$11,517.50 | 16 |
| Teacher Empowerment | Endowment | \$1,358.21 | 1 |
| The Berkley Freeman Cone Fund | Endowment | \$10,073.30 | 17 |
| V. Sanchez | Endowment | \$639.26 | 5 |
| Alumni Scholarship Fund | Restricted | \$7,650 | 6 |
| Total | | \$215,998.23 | 218 |

UVG - SOUTH CAMPUS

| FUND | DONATION | GIFT AMOUNT (\$US) | STUDENTS |
|--|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Carlos Nottebohm | Endowment | \$12,947.41 | 12 |
| Friends (Michael & Jaqueline Abbey; Polly H.) | Restricted | \$5,100.00 | 10 |
| Pantaleon Foundation | Restricted | \$2,125.00 | 3 |
| Total | | \$20,172.41 | 25 |

ENDOWMENT FUNDS - CHAIRS & LIBRARY

| FUND | CAMPUS | DONATION (US\$) |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| Kidder | Central | \$10,976.83 |
| Pardo | Central | \$8,761.81 |
| Shook | Central | \$5,737.08 |
| Fellowships in the State of Wyoming (Thomas Stroock) | Central | \$8,155.67 |
| Library (Thomas Stroock) | Central | \$8,155.67 |
| Total | | \$41,787.06 |

MACK FAMILY FOUNDATION - CURRENT PROJECTS (2023)

| PROJECT | DONATION (US\$) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Environmental Community Promoter | \$2,308 |
| Archeology Project | \$6,910 |
| Forestry and Horticultural Nurseries | \$4,000 |
| Total | \$13,218 |

OTHER FUNDS APPLIED IN 2023

| FUND | CAMPUS | DONATION (US\$) |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| CAS Gibbons | CAS | \$850 |
| Lake Atitlan | Central | \$42.50 |
| Total | | \$892.50 |

GRAND TOTAL USFUVG FUNDS (2023)

| PROJECT | DONATION (US\$) |
|--|---------------------|
| Scholarships | \$307,256.16 |
| Chairs, Fellowships and Library – Wyoming (Thomas Stroock) | \$41,787.06 |
| Other Funds | \$892.50 |
| Mack Family Foundation | \$13,218 |
| Total | \$363,153.72 |

SAN ANDRÉS SEMETABAJ

The San Andrés Semetabaj (SAS) site, located in the hills above Panajachel on Lake Atitlan, is an extension of the UVG-Altiplano campus and serves as a living laboratory for archaeology, anthropology, ethnobiology, agriculture, ecology, and community development studies (<https://usfuv.org/sas/>). The location, which contains a Mayan archaeological site dating to 900 BCE, was donated to UVG in 2007 by the Mack family.

The museum housing artifacts excavated by UVG students on the site was completed and opened to the public in 2022. The Mack Family Initiative at UVG-SAS provides funds for scholarships for youth from SAS to attend the UVG Altiplano campus and to support the development of the museum and many other initiatives for the work of UVG students at the site.

One of the ultimate goals of this effort has been to create a significant self-sustaining tourism and cultural anthropology business around the site, creating jobs for graduating UVG-SAS students. This goal was achieved when 2023 graduate of the UVG Altiplano campus and a Mack Initiative Scholarship recipient, Lilian Candida Cana Chon, became the director of the museum in SAS in 2022.

In coordination with the Centro de Estudios Atitlan at UVG (www.uvg.edu.gt/investigacion/cea/), students working at the UVG-SAS site have opportunities to put into practice various strategies for improving the lake water quality and the surrounding ecosystem, which is under great pressure from various sources of pollution.

The Mack Family Initiative at UVG-SAS, in partnership with Helps International, provided funding for 10 new scholarships for female high school students from SAS to attend the UVG Altiplano campus starting in 2022. This funding includes the cost of transportation to and from SAS to the UVG Altiplano Campus.

STUDENT STORIES



**Juana Dominga
Mendoza Xicay**

1st Year -
Licenciatura in Tourism
Altiplano Campus/2023

Dr. Calvin Hughes Memorial Fund
Scholarship

I live 1 hour and 30 minutes away from the campus in San Juan La Laguna, Sololá, on beautiful Lake Atitlán. I commute by water, crossing the Lake to reach Panajachel, and then I take a bus to the university. I am studying for a Bachelor's degree in Tourism, a field that I am passionate about. My father has been working with tourists for many years, and he encouraged me to pursue this career. I believe that tourism can make a significant impact economically, ecologically, and culturally in a community like mine.

San Juan La Laguna is experiencing significant tourism growth. Because of this, there is currently a lot of discussion about sustainable tourism. For this reason, I want to focus my thesis on a sustainable tourism plan to help both local and foreign tourists be aware of the ecological responsibility involved while visiting communities in Guatemala.

I want to express my gratitude to the donors who financially contribute so that I can pursue my dreams and complete my studies.



Jeymi Mayda Yon Perechú

1st year -
Licenciatura Engineering in
Agroforestry Technology

Philip Herrera Scholarship Fund

I am originally from Nueva Santa Catarina Ixtaguacan, Sololá, and I am currently in the third year of my studies in Agroforestry Technology. I am passionate about working with animals, especially in the livestock sector. I see significant potential to improve food security in my community through sustainable agriculture. Despite facing challenges as a woman in a field that requires physical strength, the University of the Valley of Guatemala (UVG) has provided me with the tools to overcome these challenges. They have assisted me in developing projects such as raising laying hens in my community.

UVG has transformed my perspective and has given me valuable knowledge in agriculture, inspiring me to promote changes in agroforestry in my municipality. Through the university, I have been involved in an initiative to improve egg production and prices in my community. I hope to expand this and become involved in livestock. UVG has been crucial to my academic development and my projects. I deeply appreciate the financial support I receive and I firmly believe in giving back to society. I encourage others to seek financial support and contribute to our society's well-being.



Pedro Vásquez Sulugüi

3rd year -
Teaching Program Specialized in
Music

Patricia Price Petersen Foundation

I am 22 years old, originally from Aldea Barraneché in the municipality and department of Totonicapán. I am very grateful for the support you are giving me to be able to continue with my studies. I dream of graduating, getting a job and continuing my education.

At the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala I have learned values and professional ethics that I should have in my personal, professional and work life. I have been able to lead and teach students in my community, in an efficient way, promoting culture, art and music, and support the Artistic Expression course at the Technological Institute of the UVG.

I work as a freelance musician with a marimba group, solo saxophonist and give private lessons to children, youth and adults. Thanks to what I have learned at UVG I have improved my way of sharing and teaching my knowledge and I have broadened the way of visualizing musical education. This year, 2023, I received the diploma of recognition of "Honor to Merit" for my performance as a student during the year 2022 which encourages me to continue studying the Teaching Program Specializing in Music and strive for my goal which is to graduate with honors.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala is governed by a 18-member Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet twice a year, once in Washington, DC and once in Guatemala City at UVG. Much of the trustees' work is performed throughout the year in committees.



USFUVG Board of Directors and staff, Washington, DC, October 13, 2023

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Committee

Chair: Marcello Canuto

USAID ASHA provides international aid to schools, hospitals, libraries, and other centers of excellence that showcase U.S. ideals and practices. It has provided \$29,172,645 to UVG through USFUVG since 1979. The ASHA Committee works diligently with UVG year-round preparing grant proposals and reporting on ASHA grants received. The current ASHA grants are:

- 2019 – Awarded Oct 1, 2020 - \$1.1M
- 2020 – Awarded Oct 1, 2021 - \$900K
- 2021 – Awarded Oct 1, 2022 - \$1.4M
- 2022 – Awarded Oct 1, 2023 - \$2M

Committee on Trustees and Governance

Co-chairs: Margot Herrera, Howard Wright

The Committee on Trustees and Governance recruits and nominates new members and addresses all matters pertaining to trustees and best governance practices.

In 2023 the committee was pleased to bring two new members to the board: Gabrielas Asturias, a neuroscientist and entrepreneur, and Monica Christman, a marketing executive. Both were born and raised in Guatemala. Monica attended UVG for her undergraduate studies.

Communications Committee

Co-chairs: Bruce Wharton, Lucia Cottone

The Communications Committee worked closely with the Executive Director and web designer to continue to improve the USFUVG website's visual appeal, content, and effectiveness as the key information resource for donors. New and enhanced features include regularly updated stories on students supported by USFUVG funding. The Communications Committee also brainstormed with the Executive Director to provide suggestions to UVG for a theme and speaker for the annual friend raising event on October 12 at the OAS in Washington, DC. The committee

worked on ideas for audience development for this event, a great success with over 125 attendees. The committee acknowledges the important and continuing success of the Executive Director's work to include senior officers of the Rotary Club among the people invited to the October 12 event. The committee has also provided input on articles for the upcoming launch of periodic newsletters and has begun to brainstorm themes for the 2024 Fall reception.

Alumni Committee

Chair: Alvaro Molina-Cruz

The Alumni Committee is committed to connecting UVG alumni living abroad with their alma mater. The committee promotes networking, conferences by alumni and mentoring for UVG students. An Alumni Scholarship Fund (www.usfuvg.org/graduados/#donate-form) for UVG-Altiplano students was established in 2019 and has raised more than \$20,000 for scholarships. Donations have been made honoring UVG professors including Dr. Elfriede Pöll, Dr. Ricardo Bressani, Dr. Hector Centeno, Dr. Oscar Pineda, Licda Ana Maria Peralta, and Dr. Jack Schuster. Join us to support the next generation of UVG students! For more information contact alvaro.usfuvg@gmail.com.

Strategic Planning Committee

A strategic planning committee was formed in 2022 to create USFUVG's strategic plan. Facilitated by the Executive Director, the committee met regularly over the course of six months to develop a revised mission statement, vision statement, core values and the 2023-2025 strategic plan. A subset of the Strategic Planning committee met to review the Strategic Plan and monitor progress on accomplishing the goals and objectives established for 2023. Overall, goals and objectives have been met and the Board of Directors will further review the plan progress at the upcoming Board meeting in April in Guatemala.



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The Trustees Emeriti are former members of the Board who have provided distinguished service and extraordinary contributions to USFUVG throughout their tenure and who we gratefully recognize:

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(2006–2018)

Berkley Cone
(1996–2017; 2019–2020)

Carlos Nottebohm
(1996–2022)

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