



US Foundation of the University  
of the Valley of Guatemala



# IMPACT

## REPORT 2024

[usfuvg.org](https://usfuvg.org)

## ABOUT US

The US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala (USFUVG) was founded 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 grants and building our endowment.

### Core Values

- Integrity - We are deeply committed to our mission and transparency in the 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.



## ABOUT UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE DE GUATEMALA

UVG is a private, not-for-profit, non-ideological, and non-sectarian university founded in 1966. It has a long-standing focus on academic excellence in science and technology, evidenced by the pioneering of development projects for the region, including the creation of nanosatellites like CubeSat Quetzal 1 and the nation's first nanochip, the "Gran Jaguar." It uses a dynamic and high-impact educational model that includes competency-based learning, an entrepreneurial ecosystem, and connections with local industry, which has earned it the following recognitions:

- Top university in Guatemala: UVG is ranked among the top global universities by QS World University Rankings, the number one university in Guatemala, and the number one private university in all of Central America.
- Highest accreditation: It was the first university in Guatemala to receive institutional accreditation from the French High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres).
- Great Place to Work: It was designated a "Great Place to Work" for the seventh year in a row.

UVG is dedicated to making a high-quality education available to a diverse range of students, particularly those from underrepresented communities. It serves Guatemalans on its main campus in Guatemala City and on two regional campuses: in the Highlands (serving Mayan communities) and in the South (serving agricultural communities). Its educational offerings include over 50 bachelor's degrees and more than 20 postgraduate and master's programs. In the past 10 years, it has invested \$623 million in financial aid to high-potential, low-income students to foster social mobility. Six of every ten UVG students receive some form of financial aid.



# USFUVG FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2024, USFUVG had a significant impact on the education of talented Guatemalan UVG youth on all three university campuses, providing a total of \$305,141 and serving 285 students. These students were enrolled in fields that are key for the development of the country and thus will be catalyzers of social and economic change. These fields included Industrial Chemical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science and Technology, and Electronic Engineering. Scholarships also supported studies in Tourism, Food Industry Technology, Agricultural Production for Export, Primary Education Teaching, and Industrial Technology.

## Impact Data:

\$ 305,141

raised in scholarship funds

285 Students

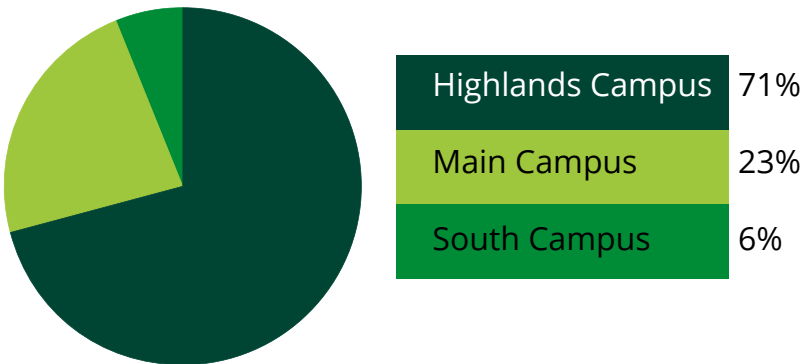
supported by scholarship funds

Scholarship funds have a great impact on a country such as Guatemala, where only 3% of students have access to higher education. In 2024, USFUVG donors provided a total of \$305,141 in scholarship support which was distributed among 285 UVG students who showed promise as well as a documented need for financial support.

Scholarship Funds Distribution (per campus)

| Campus    | Funds     | #Students |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| South     | \$19,490  | 21        |
| Main      | \$69,734  | 47        |
| Highlands | \$215,917 | 217       |
| TOTAL     | \$305,141 | 285       |

The following graph shows how the funds were distributed. South Campus students received 6% of the total Scholarship Fund, Main Campus students received 23%, and Highlands Campus students received 71%.



## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BREAKDOWN (per campus)

### UVG – South Campus

| Fund               | Donation   | Gift Amount (US\$) | Students  |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Carlos Nottebohm   | Endowment  | \$14,390           | 11        |
| USFUVG CAS         | Restricted | \$850              | 2         |
| South Scholarships | Restricted | \$4,250            | 8         |
| <b>Total</b>       |            | <b>\$19,490</b>    | <b>21</b> |

### UVG – Main Campus

| Fund                               | Type of Donation | Gift Amount (US\$) | # Students |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Archaeology Scholarship Fund       | Restricted       | \$9,731            | 2          |
| Blackburn Hughes Fund              | Endowment        | \$2,529            | 2          |
| CAG '77 Friends Memorial Fund      | Restricted       | \$1,700            | 1          |
| Helen Franklin Fund                | Endowment        | \$32,705           | 19         |
| Hitz Foundation                    | Restricted       | \$7,650            | 3          |
| Jeanne Blackburn Fund for the Arts | Endowment        | \$1,025            | 1          |
| Phillip Taylor Fund                | Endowment        | \$1,269            | 1          |
| Plus Technologies Student Loan     | Restricted       | \$10,200           | 15         |
| Reader's Digest Fund               | Endowment        | \$1,782            | 2          |
| Texaco Fund                        | Endowment        | \$1,143            | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>                       |                  | <b>\$69,734</b>    | <b>47</b>  |



## UVG – Highlands Campus

| Fund                                                                                    | Donation   | Gift Amount (US\$) | # Students |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Calvin Hughes Fund                                                                      | Endowment  | \$106,988          | 103        |
| Friends and Katherine Terrel                                                            | Endowment  | \$1,905            | 7          |
| Lynn Horowitz                                                                           | Endowment  | \$355              | 2          |
| Mack Foundation Scholarships (SAS Girls Scholarship and students from Casa Hogar Feliz) | Restricted | \$21,522           | 13         |
| Miriam Rosengarten                                                                      | Endowment  | \$2,958            | 4          |
| Patricia Price Peterson Foundation                                                      | Restricted | \$21,250           | 22         |
| Philip Herrera Scholarship Fund                                                         | Restricted | \$28,620           | 17         |
| Teacher Empowerment                                                                     | Endowment  | \$1,265            | 1          |
| The Berkley Freeman Cone Fund                                                           | Endowment  | \$9,927            | 14         |
| V. Sánchez                                                                              | Endowment  | \$596              | 6          |
| Alumni Scholarship Fund                                                                 | Restricted | \$8,500            | 7          |
| Friends of USFUVG Fund                                                                  | Endowment  | \$575              | 7          |
| Highland Scholarship for Women                                                          | Restricted | \$2,295            | 6          |
| ExE (San Andrés Semetabaj)                                                              | Restricted | \$2,112            | 4          |
| Johnny Rohrbach Scholarships                                                            | Restricted | \$4,500            | 1          |
| Margarita de Rodriguez Scholarships                                                     | Restricted | \$2,550            | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                            |            | <b>\$215,917</b>   | <b>217</b> |

## CULTIVATING RESILIENCE IN SAN ANDRÉS SEMETABAJ

Nestled in the highlands overlooking Lake Atitlán, the San Andrés Semetabaj (SAS) site continues to embody the spirit of innovation, learning, and community collaboration that defines UVG. What began in 2007 with the Mack Family's generous donation of land, home to a pre-Classic Mayan archaeological site, has grown into a living laboratory for research, conservation, and sustainable development.

Over the years, UVG students have brought the site to life through hands-on work in archaeology, anthropology, ethnobiology, agriculture, and ecology. The opening of the SAS Museum in 2022 marked a major milestone, a space where history, science, and culture converge. Today, that museum is proudly led by Lilian Candida Cana Chon, a UVG Altiplano graduate and Mack Initiative scholar, whose leadership exemplifies the program's vision: creating opportunities for young people to shape their community's future.

In 2024, that vision deepened. The region has faced the mounting challenges of climate change. Unpredictable weather, deforestation, and food insecurity have strained local livelihoods. Yet, thanks to the continued support of the Mack Family Foundation, UVG's Altiplano Campus has transformed these challenges into opportunities for resilience.

Through the establishment of a native tree and vegetable seed bank, local farmers are safeguarding biodiversity and strengthening food security. The forest nursery, now producing over 20,000 trees, and the horticultural nursery, which supplies seeds for 100 family gardens, are restoring both ecosystems and hope. To ensure the long-term success of these efforts, UVG created a new Environmental Community Promoter position to guide farm operations, support student research teams, and improve collaboration with the municipality and nearby villages to promote sustainable forestry and horticultural practices.

The Mack Family Foundation also expanded academic opportunities, funding five thesis fellowships for UVG students, empowering more young researchers to pursue innovative, community-driven solutions. What began as a field site for learning has become a model of applied education and social impact, where research preserves culture and science nurtures sustainability.



## MACK FAMILY FOUNDATION BREAKDOWN

| Funds Distribution                                      | Gift Amount (US\$) |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Scholarships Fund (Highland Campus)                     | \$9,708            |
| Scholarships Fund (High School)                         | \$6,916            |
| Special Support for 6 students from Casa Hogar Feliz    | \$4,898            |
| Lake Atitlán Research Center (CEA) - Thesis Fellowships | \$2,900            |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>\$24,422</b>    |



|                                                         |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Scholarships Fund (Highlands Campus)                    | 40% |
| Scholarships Fund (High School)                         | 28% |
| Special Support for 6 students from Casa Hogar Feliz    | 20% |
| Lake Atitlán Research Center (CEA) - Thesis Fellowships | 12% |



## A SAMPLE OF HIGHLANDS CAMPUS GRADUATES



**Azucena Morales Chiroy**

Teaching Degree Specialized in Intercultural Bilingual Primary Education

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

V. Sánchez

**Ana Patricia Cuy Morales**

Bachelor's Degree in Educational Psychology

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Mack Foundation



**Gerson Eliseo Torres**

Bachelor's Degree in Tourism Business Administration

Philip Herrera Scholarship Fund



**Celeste Dulce Alejandra Camey Cotzajay**

Associate's Degree in Tourism

Calvin Hughes Fund



## OTHER USFUVG DONATIONS

In addition to the Scholarship Program, USFUVG donors provided \$23,731 for Chairs, \$7,634 for Fellowships, and \$7,634 for the Main Campus library.

### Endowment Funds - Chairs & Library

| Fund                                                 | Gift Amount (US\$) |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Kidder                                               | \$10,225           |
| Pardo                                                | \$8,162            |
| Shook                                                | \$5,344            |
| Fellowships in the State of Wyoming (Thomas Stroock) | \$7,634            |
| Library (Thomas Stroock)                             | \$7,634            |
| <b>Total</b>                                         | <b>\$39,000</b>    |

### Other Funds applied in 2024

| Fund                                                                                          | Gift Amount (US\$) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ethnobotanical Garden                                                                         | \$16,846           |
| Lake Atitlán Research Center (CEA) - Multidisciplinary project for micro-watershed management | \$14,577           |
| Lake Atitlán Research Center (CEA) - Thesis Fellowships                                       | \$2,900            |
| Health Research Center (CES)                                                                  | \$1,000            |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                  | <b>\$35,323</b>    |

### Grand Total USFUVG Funds (2024)

| Project                          | Gift Amount (US\$) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Scholarships                     | \$305,141          |
| Chairs, Fellowships, and Library | \$39,000           |
| Other Funds                      | \$35,323           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$379,465</b>   |

# STUDENT STORIES



# The Dream of an Inclusive School

I was born in the Municipality of Santiago Atitlán in the Department of Sololá. My father is a carpenter, my mother is a housewife, and I am the younger of two sisters. I am the first person in my family to acquire a university degree. Studying beyond high school was not an option for me because of our economic situation, but my dream was to acquire the skills and abilities for a place in the professional world.

I chose UVG because I had read a lot about its programs and the resources it offers. My biggest dream is to create a school in my municipality to serve the special learning needs of children and adults. My UVG training has taught me that everyone can learn; it has changed my perspective on how one learns, and it inspires me to want to impact learners who struggle. It is so important that learners' individual strengths be recognized and considered in their learning journey. This is the most important thing I have learned in my studies at UVG. I am very hopeful that this dream will come true because of the excellent preparation I have received from UVG, plus numerous connections with professionals of a similar mindset who can help me transform education for those who struggle with learning.

I want to thank the Lynn Horowitz Scholarship Fund for giving me the opportunity to study at UVG, and I want to thank UVG for each piece of knowledge it's given me, which ultimately, has helped me open my mind to new possibilities.



Susana Doloros Estefanía Petzey Sojuel  
2025 Graduate  
Teaching Degree Specialized in  
Learning Difficulties  
Distinction: SUMMA CUM LAUDE  
Lynn Horowitz Scholarship

# Building a Greener Future for Sololá

I live in the village of El Tablón in the Department of Sololá. My parents are both teachers and I am the youngest of six children. My three older siblings studied at the university before me.

I chose the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) because of its facilities and the high quality of its programs. Unfortunately, my family's economic situation made it impossible for me to afford a university education; therefore, I applied to the Scholarship Program and was awarded a Tessa Namuth Scholarship.

With the knowledge I have acquired at UVG, I serve my community through workshops on caring for the environment and taking care of the forests in the Maya communities in Sololá. I was worried about the challenge of finding a job, but thanks to my scholarship and my UVG education, I found one with little trouble. I work as an environmental technician for an NGO, and my studies have prepared me very well for this position.

My dream is to use my expertise acquired at UVG to become an entrepreneur in the forest industry, producing wood in a sustainable way by preserving the forest cover. Another dream I have for the future is to work in the Guatemalan Ministry of the Environment or for CONAP, the National Council for Protected Areas.

I now see the world through a new lens, completely differently from how I viewed it before: I know how to make the most of natural resources while maintaining an equilibrium, in a responsible way.

I am very grateful to the Tessa Namuth Scholarship Fund and to UVG for giving me the opportunity to become a professional, which was always my childhood dream. This experience has inspired me to want to continue studying to strengthen my knowledge and to have an even greater positive impact in my community

Benjamín Alexander Meletz Roquel  
2025 Graduate  
Bachelor's Degree in Agroforestry  
Technology Engineering  
Tessa Namuth Scholarship



# Empowering Students, Transforming Communities

I was born in Sololá, and I graduated with a Teaching Degree Specialized in Bilingual Primary Education. I am very happy for all the support I have received. My parents did not have the opportunities that I have had: my father is a farmer and my mother is a housewife.

I am the oldest of four siblings, and I am the first to study at the university level. I chose UVG because of its programs and teaching techniques, its professors, and its reputation for supporting its students.

My biggest dream is to apply what I have learned in the area in which I live. In my municipality, there are many children and family members that have learning difficulties, and I want to support them in the same way that I've been supported. In my hometown, there aren't many opportunities and what I want is for my community to develop through education.

I had to pause my studies for two years due to economic problems, but I put all my effort into being able to study at UVG. The scholarship helped me tremendously! I hope to be an excellent teacher, an innovative educator, who understands and can really make a difference. I want to work closely with children because in this way, I can touch lives and be a part of their transformation.

On a personal level, I want to have a family, support them, and play a key role in making changes that I recognize are necessary in my community and in my hometown. I want to have a positive impact on the local rural schools because that is where the biggest limitations are.



I am very grateful to the Patricia Price Peterson Scholarship Fund for having supported me from the beginning of my studies at UVG, and my family and I are very excited about my upcoming graduation. Thank you very, very much for your support, and I hope that I can meet you some day.

Juan Emiliano Gómez Tzoc  
2025 Graduate  
Teaching Degree Specialized in  
Bilingual Primary Education  
Distinction: SUMMA CUM LAUDE  
Patricia Price Peterson Scholarship

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala is governed by an 16-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 and staff with UVG leadership and students.*

| Board of Directors |                       |                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|                    | Role                  | Name                    |
| 1.                 | <b>President</b>      | Bruce Wharton           |
| 2.                 | <b>Vice President</b> | Margot Herrera          |
| 3.                 | <b>Treasurer</b>      | John Mack III           |
| 4.                 | <b>Secretary</b>      | Catalina Keilhauer      |
| 5.                 | Board Member          | Gabriela Asturias       |
| 6.                 | Board Member          | Marcello Canuto         |
| 7.                 | Board Member          | Monica Christman-Arenas |
| 8.                 | Board Member          | Marilyn Nevy-Cruz       |
| 9.                 | Board Member          | Gerrity Lansing         |
| 10.                | Board Member          | Stephen Miller          |
| 11.                | Board Member          | Alvaro Molina-Cruz      |
| 12.                | Board Member          | José Carlos Monzón      |
| 13.                | Board Member          | Tessa Namuth            |
| 14.                | Board Member          | A. Lorena Passarelli    |
| 15.                | Board Member          | Gabriela Quiñonez       |
| 16.                | Board Member          | Johnny Rohrbach         |

| Staff              |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Role               | Name            |
| Executive Director | Lauren Lederman |
| Comptroller        | Ted Grover      |

### Trustees Emeritus

- John Hamilton
- Berkley Cone
- Carlos Nottebohm

## AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ABROAD (ASHA) COMMITTEE

**Chair: Marcello Canuto**

The goal of ASHA was to provide international assistance to schools, hospitals, libraries, and other centers of excellence that exemplified USAID values, ideals, and best practices. Since 1973, ASHA contributed a total of \$31,172,645 to UVG through USFUVG. Owing to its long-standing record of successful grant implementation, strong reporting and documentation practices, and consistent alignment with U.S. policy goals, UVG secured four consecutive ASHA grants since 2000, as presented below:

| Fiscal Year                | Amount (US\$) | Type of Project | Closing Date                      | % spent |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 2020, awarded October 2021 | \$900K        | Equipment       | September 30, 2024                | 100     |
| 2021, awarded October 2022 | \$1.4M        | Equipment       | February 26, 2025<br>(Terminated) | 60      |
| 2022, awarded October 2023 | \$2M          | Equipment       | February 26, 2025<br>(Terminated) | 0       |
| 2023, awarded October 2024 | \$2M          | Construction    | February 10, 2025<br>(Terminated) | 0       |

During 2024, \$1,088,467 (\$335,741 from the 2020 award and \$770,750 from the 2021 award) was invested in the university. However, in February of 2025, USFUVG received notification that the last three ASHA awards (2021, 2022, and 2023) were to be immediately terminated due changed policies of the new U.S. Administration. This represents a loss to the University of \$5.4 million.



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