



US Foundation of the University
of the Valley of Guatemala

IMPACT REPORT 2025

THE US FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VALLEY OF GUATEMALA

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 (UVG).

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, with special emphasis on expanding opportunities for the country's historically disadvantaged Maya majority and other rural poor, particularly female students.
- Enhance the overall learning environment and facilities of UVG, while strengthening the university's long-term future by securing grants and building USFUVG's endowment.

Values

- **Integrity** – We are deeply committed to our mission and to transparency in the stewardship of our resources.
- **Equity** – We strive to ensure all students receive the opportunities and support they need to realize their full potential.
- **Respect** – We value the ideas, opinions, and cultures of others.
- **Collaboration** – We seek partnerships with individuals and institutions that share our goals.
- **Impact** – We focus our actions on addressing the greatest needs and opportunities.

ABOUT UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE DE GUATEMALA

Excellence That Transcends

Founded in 1966, the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala is a private, not-for-profit, non-sectarian university dedicated to transforming lives through education, science, and technology. For six decades, UVG has served as a national leader in academic excellence, research innovation, and sustainable development—positioning Guatemala as both a beneficiary and contributor to global knowledge.

Recognized as the #1 private university in Central America and Panama and the only Guatemalan institution ranked as a Top Global University for 2025 by QS World University Rankings, UVG combines international distinction with deep local impact.



Expanding Access to Opportunity

UVG is committed to ensuring that talent — not income level — determines access to higher education.

■ 158 academic programs and 66 degrees available

■ Campuses in Guatemala City, the Highlands, and the South

■ 70% of students receive financial aid

■ Over \$39 million invested in financial aid in the past five years

Many UVG students are the first in their families to attend university. Through sustained scholarship investment, the university is building a generation of scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, and public leaders equipped to address Guatemala’s pressing challenges.

Indigenous and Rural Communities

At its Highlands campus, UVG operates one of the few bilingual Mayan/Spanish elementary programs in the world. This innovative program strengthens rural education systems by preparing teachers who preserve Indigenous languages and culture while delivering high-quality instruction.

Through its regional campuses, UVG also serves agricultural communities and historically underrepresented populations, bringing world-class education directly to communities that need it most.



Research That Drives National Impact

UVG's 10 research centers serve as engines of knowledge generation, producing high-impact data that informs public policy and strengthens national decision-making. Through rigorous scientific inquiry and evidence-based analysis, UVG plays a vital role in addressing Guatemala's most pressing development challenges.

UVG's Center for Innovation and Technology leads dozens of active research collaborations with international partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Yale University. Priority areas include:

- Tropical diseases
- Climate change and biodiversity conservation
- Food and nutrition science
- Water resource management

Current projects include nanotechnology-based environmental remediation solutions designed to remove heavy metals from water, advancing sustainable ecosystem restoration.

Through an agreement with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT, UVG supports rigorous research and policy evaluation initiatives aimed at reducing poverty across Central America.

Innovation and Global Engagement

UVG fosters entrepreneurship through its *Centro de Recursos para Emprendedores en Acción* (CREA, Center for Entrepreneurial Resources and Action) and the UVG Bridge Business School, now the official partner of Shark Tank Guatemala. These initiatives help translate ideas into enterprises that generate jobs and economic growth.

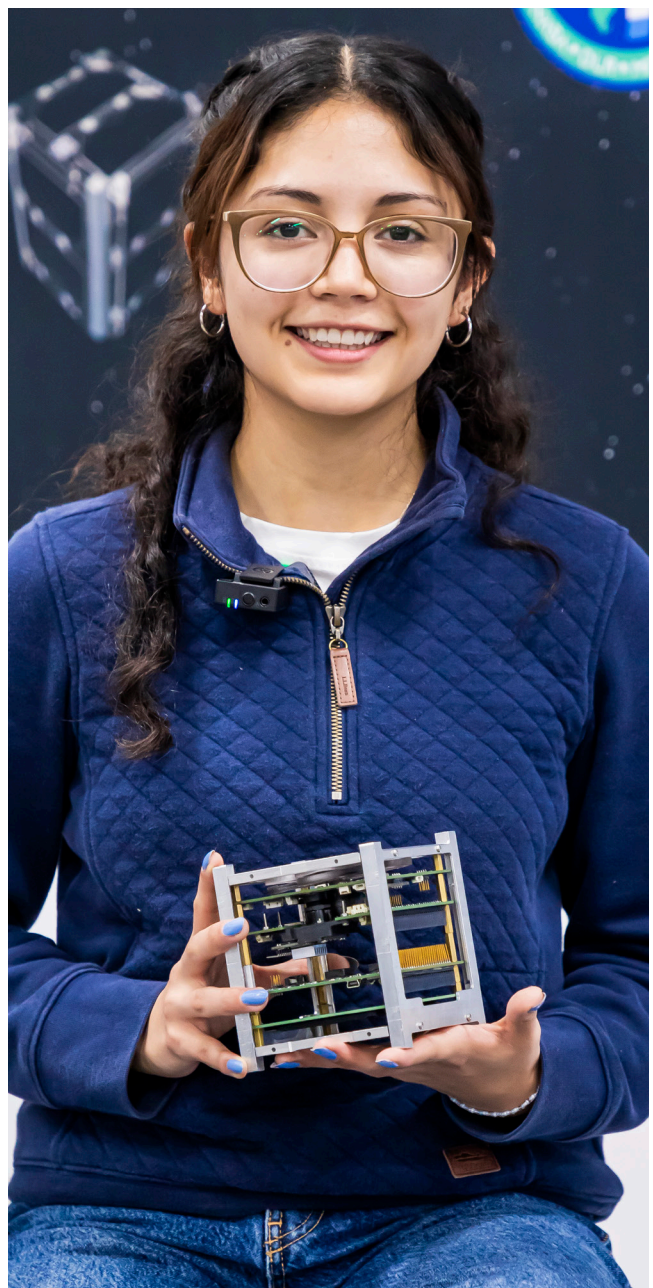
At the frontier of technological innovation, UVG is advancing the development of the Quetzal-2 CubeSat, a nanosatellite projected for launch in 2028, alongside El Gran Jaguar, the first nanochip designed and developed in Guatemala. Led by its engineering departments, these groundbreaking initiatives mark a decisive step in strengthening the country's scientific and technological capabilities.

Strategic Growth for Greater Reach

One year into its 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, UVG has strengthened institutional capacity and expanded access through:

- Launching AVE (Virtual Learning of Excellence), a fully online degree platform serving working adults
- Expanding Lifelong Learning programs for professional and community education
- Establishing an Office of Development to deepen philanthropic partnerships

UVG stands at the intersection of education, research, and national development. Through strategic investment and philanthropic partnership, the University continues to expand access to opportunity, advance scientific innovation, and deliver measurable impact for Guatemala and the broader Central American region.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The generous support of USFUVG's donors has transformed the lives of hundreds of Guatemalans, turning the dream of higher education into a reality. The designated funds highlighted below have empowered and uplifted women in the Highlands, supported students in science and technology, advanced archaeological research, and created many more opportunities for growth and achievement.

2025 Donations (USFUVG)

Alumni Scholarship Fund	\$5,150
Highlands Campus Scholarship for Women	\$6,149
Highlands Campus Scholarship Fund	\$9,500
Hitz Foundation Archaeology Fund	\$15,000
Plus Technologies Student Loan Fund	\$12,500
Luis von Ahn Science and Technology Scholarship Program	\$200,000
Mack Foundation Archaeology Scholarship Fund	\$5,882
Mack Foundation Highlands Scholarships	\$11,765
Margarita de Rodriguez Scholarships	\$1,107
Patricia Price Peterson Foundation	\$45,000
Philip Herrera Scholarship Fund	\$23,450
South Campus Scholarships	\$5,000

SUPPORTING UVG'S MISSION THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Providing scholarship funds is a main objective of USFUUVG. In 2025, the foundation increased its scholarship fundraising by 48% compared to 2024. USFUUVG provided a total of \$452,606, serving 329 students and reaching all three university campuses. These students were enrolled in a wide variety of programs in education, engineering, science, computer science, technology, business, and psychology. This scholarship support is critical in Guatemala, where only 3% of students have access to higher education.

Scholarship Funds Distribution (per campus)

Campus	Funds (USD)	# Students
South	\$19,914	18
Main	\$234,511	117
Highlands	\$198,181	194
TOTAL	\$452,606	329

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BREAKDOWN (PER CAMPUS)

UVG - South Campus

Fund	Donation	Distributed Amount (USD)	# Students
Carlos Nottebohm	Endowment	\$15,664	10
South Scholarships	Restricted	\$4,250	8
TOTAL		\$19,914	18

UVG - Main Campus

Fund	Donation	Distributed Amount (USD)	# Students
Mack Foundation Archaeology Scholarship Fund	Restricted	\$5,000	1
Blackburn Hughes Fund	Endowment	\$2,287	2
Helen Franklin Fund	Endowment	\$29,557	17
Hitz Foundation Archaeology Fund	Restricted	\$12,750	4
Jeanne Blackburn Fund for the Arts	Endowment	\$926	2
Philip B. Taylor Fund	Endowment	\$1,147	1
Plus Technologies Student Loan	Restricted	\$10,200	8
Reader's Digest Fund	Endowment	\$1,611	2
Luis von Ahn Science & Technology Scholarship Program	Restricted	\$170,000	79
Texaco Fund	Endowment	\$ 1,033	1
TOTAL		\$ 234,511	117



Luis von Ahn Science & Technology Scholarship Program

The Luis von Ahn Science & Technology Scholarship Program was officially launched during an inauguration ceremony held in 2025. This scholarship initiative supported 79 students enrolled in 20 undergraduate programs in science, technology, and engineering. The program represents a strategic investment in Guatemala's future by expanding access to high-impact fields such as biotechnology, agro-industry, environmental engineering, mechatronics, data science, and civil engineering.

Beyond financial support, the program fosters a new generation of professionals equipped to drive technology, natural resources management and entrepreneurship.

Through this long-term commitment to scientific and technical education, the Luis von Ahn Science & Technology Scholarship Program is positioned to help move Guatemala up the global economy, reducing reliance on imported expertise and expanding the country's participation in the knowledge economy.

LUIS VON AHN SCHOLARSHIP DATA

Bachelor's Degree	# Students
Industrial Biotechnology	2
Biology	6
Biochemistry and Microbiology	4
Molecular Biotechnology	3
Physics	2
Industrial Food Science Engineering	2
Biomedical Engineering	6
Environmental Civil Engineering	1
Architectural Civil Engineering	5
Electronic Engineering	1
Computer Science and Information Technologies Engineering	8
Data Science Engineering	2
Food Science Engineering	4
Industrial Engineering	6
Mechanical Engineering	3
Industrial Mechanic Engineering	3
Mechatronics Engineering	11
Chemical Engineering	6
Industrial Chemical Engineering	3
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	1



79
Students



46%
Women



54%
Men



20
Bachelor's
Degree Programs

UVG - Highlands Campus

Fund	Donation	Distributed Amount (USD)	# Students
Calvin Hughes Fund	Endowment	\$97,081	83
Katherine Terrel Fund	Endowment	\$1,729	2
Rosengarten-Horowitz Fund	Endowment	\$321	1
Mack Foundation Highlands Scholarships	Restricted	\$10,000	8
Miriam O. Rosengarten	Endowment	\$2,673	4
Patricia Price Peterson Foundation	Restricted	\$34,000	20
Philip Herrera Scholarship Fund	Restricted	\$14,138	18
Teacher Empowerment	Endowment	\$1,143	1
The Berkley Freeman Cone Fund	Endowment	\$9,602	14
Victoria D. Sánchez	Endowment	\$538	9
Alumni Scholarship Fund	Restricted	\$2,636	6
Friends of USFUVG Fund	Endowment	\$520	1
Highlands Scholarship for Women	Restricted	\$850	4
Highlands Scholarship Fund	Restricted	\$12,750	12
Highlands Scholarship	Restricted	\$8,500	8
Margarita de Rodríguez Scholarships	Restricted	\$1,700	3
TOTAL		\$198,181	194

UVG Highlands Campus: 25 Years of Empowering the Guatemalan Highlands

In 2025, the UVG Highlands Campus celebrated its 25th anniversary—a quarter-century milestone of educational impact and community transformation. Strategically located as a meeting point for indigenous Maya youth from across the region, the campus serves as a vibrant hub of linguistic wealth and tradition, bringing together Kaqchikel, K'iche', Tz'utujil, and Mam cultures.

Aligning Education with Opportunity

While the Highlands continue to face the persistent challenges of poverty and migration, UVG is focused on the region's strengths: entrepreneurship, sustainable tourism, and agricultural exportation. To meet these local demands, the Highlands Campus has strategically strengthened its programs in agroforestry, food science, and education.

In 2025, we further expanded this commitment by launching two new career paths designed to drive the local economy:

- Industrial Technology Engineering
- Agricultural and Livestock Technology Engineering

Na'ojilal: The Spirit of the Builder

A cornerstone of our innovation strategy is the Makerspace Na'ojilal, which has transformed the regional landscape since opening in 2017. Its name—the Mam word for “woodpecker”—symbolizes the spirit of a creator. By providing access to high-tech tools and a collaborative environment, Na'ojilal allows students, community members, and local industry partners to turn “Learning to Innovate” into a tangible reality.



Research with Purpose

Our research is never academic in a vacuum; it is deeply rooted in the soil of the community. From sustainable tourism and social entrepreneurship to agricultural innovation, UVG Highlands projects are designed to create immediate social mobility.

As we look toward the next 25 years, USFUVG support remains the vital bridge between the “maker mindset” of our students and the sustainable development of the Guatemalan Highlands.

San Andrés Semetabaj: A Living Laboratory for Transformation

The municipality of San Andrés Semetabaj, Sololá, sitting 6,381 feet above sea level in the western highlands, is a place of world-renowned significance. It is celebrated for its breathtaking views of Lake Atitlán, often called the “most beautiful lake in the world,” and for the vibrant traditions of its 15,000 predominantly Maya Kaqchikel residents. Perhaps most notably, it is home to an ancient Maya archaeological site dating back to 900 BCE.

Despite this rich heritage, the region faces significant hurdles. While Guatemala’s national average for university studies is just 3%, the average in San Andrés Semetabaj is even lower. For many youth, the future is constrained by education gaps, food insecurity, and climate vulnerability, with employment often limited to subsistence farming or small-scale commerce.

Foundational Support from the Mack Family

This work reached a milestone in 2007, when the Mack family generously donated the land containing the ancient archaeological site to the University. Since then, the Mack Family Foundation, under the leadership of John E. Mack III, has played a foundational and sustained role in the development of the site, which is a unique field campus and community-based research hub. Continued support has funded scholarships for local Indigenous students, as well as programs in archaeological research, environmental conservation, and sustainable community development. This investment has helped position San Andrés Semetabaj as a model for integrating education, research, and community engagement.



An Innovative Education Model

Today the San Andrés Semetabaj extension of the UVG Highlands Campus serves as a living laboratory for archaeology, anthropology, ethnobiology, agriculture, and ecology. Unlike traditional classrooms, it emphasizes a distinct model of practical, hands-on learning:

- **Cultural Preservation:** Students participate in ongoing excavations, with findings preserved in a local ecomuseum that fosters self-sustaining tourism and generates local jobs.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The project *Design of a Comprehensive and Multidisciplinary Micro-Watershed Management Plan for the Municipality of San Andrés Semetabaj* addressed key issues such as environmental protection, natural resource management, solid waste, wastewater, and community development. Based on its findings, a set of recommendations was developed and formally submitted to local authorities to support informed decision-making processes and to strengthen community engagement in the sustainable management of the micro-watershed. In this way, UVG students and experts worked alongside local authorities to empower the community to manage water and monitor their environment sustainably.
- **Food Security & Conservation:** The site's forested areas serve as a refuge for native and migratory birds, while ethnobotanical gardens and organic family plots help families combat the effects of climate change.

Investing in Social Mobility

Through scholarships sponsored by USFUVG, local youth are no longer observers of their history—they are the leaders of their future. By integrating ancient Maya agricultural techniques with modern environmental education, UVG is not just preserving the past; it is fueling the social and economic development of the entire Sololá region.

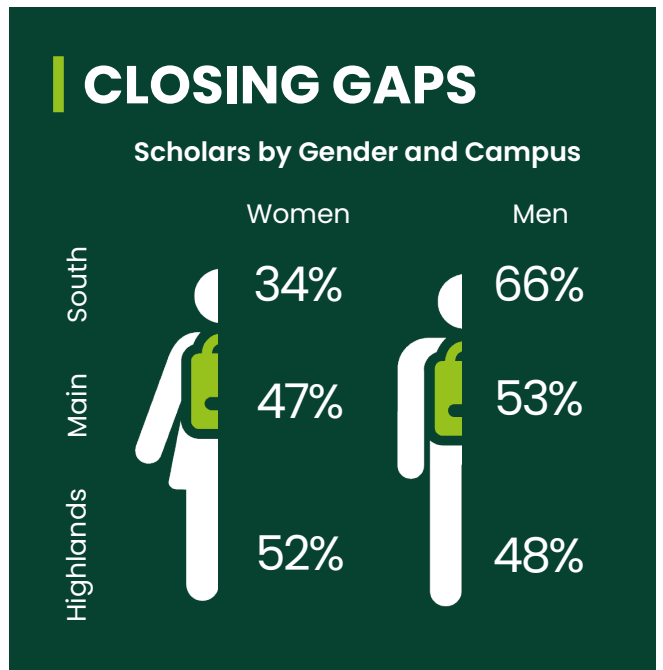




BENEFITED STUDENTS
Across all campuses



329 Students



USFUVG: Supporting Academic Chairs, Assistanships, and Library Enhancement

In addition to supporting the Scholarship Program, USFUVG donors provided \$16,617 for academic chair positions, \$4,830 for the Virginia B. Shook Archaeology Library, \$6,944 for fellowships, and \$6,944 for the main campus library.

Endowment Funds – Chairs & Library

Fund	Distributed Amount (USD)
Kidder Archaeology Chair	\$9,241
Pardo History Chair	\$7,376
Edwin M. Shook Fund (Virginia B. Shook Library)	\$4,830
Thomas Stroock Exchange Program (UVG-UW Academic Exchange Fellowships)	\$6,944
Thomas Stroock Main Library Fund	\$6,944
TOTAL	\$35,335

The **Kidder Archaeology Chair** provided funding for the archaeological research of two UVG experts: Dr. Tomás Barrientos and Dr. Marion Popenoe, both of whom have served as Directors of the Center for Archaeological and Anthropological Research and have been winners of the Guatemalan National Medal for Science and Technology.



The **Pardo History Chair** partially covered the honorarium of the Chair holder, Dr. Johann Melchor Toledo. Dr. Toledo's work involved numerous publications (including a book titled *Las calles de la Antigua Guatemala*), national and international lectures, and the teaching of three university courses.

The **Edwin M. Shook Fund** supported eight research assistantships for advanced students. Through this funding, students were able to properly preserve and organize the documents that comprise the Edwin M. Shook Archive, as well as manage additional collections within the Sociocultural Documentary Archive of UVG (ADS-UVG).

Beyond archival preservation, the assistantships also contributed to the proper management of the archaeological artifact collection, the Popenoe Collection (books), and the equipment, supplies, and tools used in projects conducted by the Center for Archaeological and Anthropological Research. In addition, the support strengthened the professional practicum activities of the Department of Archaeology.

The **Thomas Strook Exchange Program** supported two visits: a 4-person delegation from the University of Wyoming to UVG early in the year, and a 4-person delegation from UVG to Wyoming. The purpose of these exchanges was to share experiences and expertise, strengthening both universities' capacities for teaching, research, and innovation.

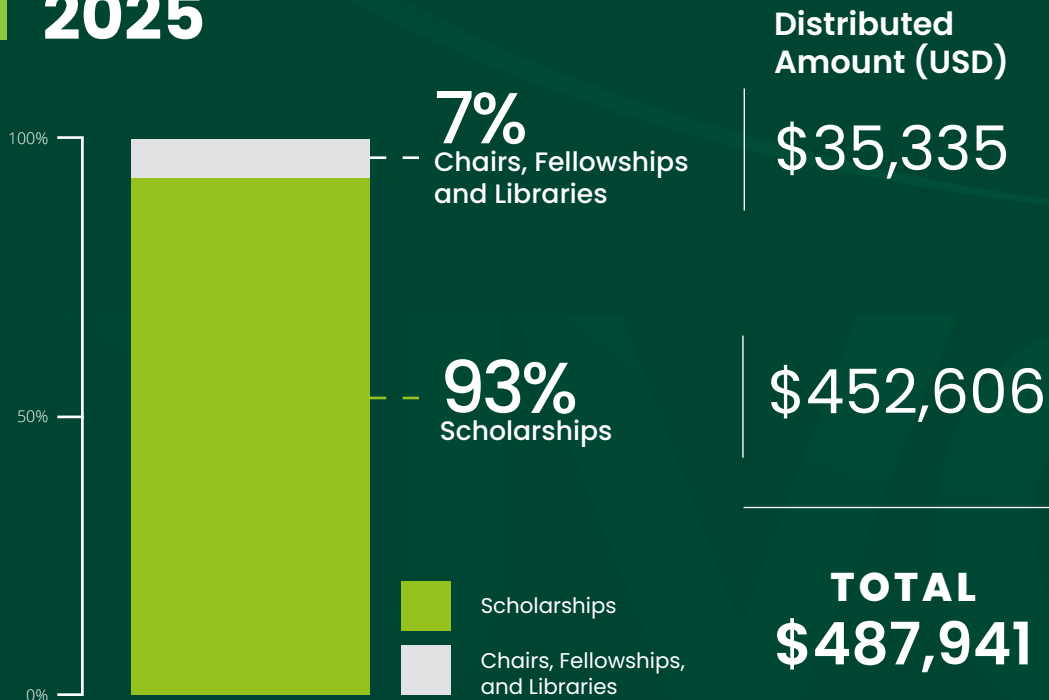
The **Thomas Strook Main Library Fund** served to cover the costs of office furniture for the new Library Academic Services Center; the installation of electronic locks in library study rooms; development of the Multimedia Collection, including shelving; and the registration fee for an AI conference for library staff.



"As a library, we are grateful for the donation we have received. Your contribution helps us to continue working hard for the benefit of our users, ensuring that they receive high-quality service and have access to the most recent academic innovations".

Handy Morales, UVG Library Department Director

GRAND TOTAL USFUVG FUNDS IN 2025



American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA)

The termination of three USAID/ASHA grants (2021, 2022, and 2023) in February 2025 ended a long history with this key USFUVG partner. Despite the abruptness of the termination, \$411,028 from the 2021 award was able to be invested in the university.

Fiscal Year	Amount (USD)	Type of Project	Closing Date	% spent
2021, awarded October 2022	\$1.4M	Equipment	February 26, 2025 (Terminated)	29% in 2025 84% overall
2022, awarded October 2023	\$2M	Equipment	February 26, 2025 (Terminated)	0
2023, awarded October 2024	\$2M	Construction	February 10, 2025 (Terminated)	0



STORIES THAT INSPIRE US



Becoming the Teacher I Needed

My name is Glendy Jimena, and I am a 20-year-old student specializing in English Education.

Before receiving my scholarship, I faced a heartbreaking choice: I wanted to learn, but my family's financial struggles made me fear that my education had reached its end. I came to UVG with a small glimmer of hope, and finding out I was granted financial aid changed everything. It wasn't just a relief; it was a confirmation that my dreams were still alive.

My inspiration comes from my own childhood, where I lacked teachers who truly cared about teaching. I chose this path because I don't want to just be called a teacher—I want to be a professional who truly empowers her students. Today, knowing that people who don't even know me are investing in my future motivates me to give my absolute best. This scholarship is my foundation, and I am determined to use everything I learn to give back and support others in my community, just as I was supported when I needed it most.



Rooted in Purpose



My name is Juan Francisco Gerardi, and I am 24 years old. My story has always been deeply intertwined with nature and my family's roots in environmental activism.

Coming from a family of farmers, I wanted to study something that would protect our resources. This led me to pursue Agroforestry Engineering at UVG Altiplano. Receiving this scholarship was a victory for my entire family. It gave me the gift of time to focus on my studies and my professional growth.

This support allowed me to represent my country at COP 30 last year. Without it, I would have struggled to find the financing to reach these goals. I am proud to be part of a community dedicated to the development of Sololá. We are building networks to transform our society and protect our land.

I want to honor the donors' investment with a heartfelt commitment. I will work tirelessly to contribute my "grain of sand" to the progress of Guatemala.





Teaching to Inspire

My name is Herlyn Analy Chávez, I am 20 years old, and I am currently a student pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education with a focus on English as a Second Language at UVG's Altiplano Campus. Before this scholarship opportunity came into my life, I felt that my educational options were deeply limited. In my community, many students do not have the chance to continue with higher education, but for me, this was the opportunity to pursue my goals.

The impact of this scholarship has been life-changing; it opened the door for me to find a job at an international school located right here in Sololá. Today, I am already working with people from different countries, helping students and fellow teachers navigate the English language. UVG represents a massive opportunity for us to grow, and I am proud to be part of it.

Looking ahead, I see a future full of purpose. I dream of one day creating my own English academy or dedicatedly helping the students in my community. I even hope to return to UVG in the future to serve as a teacher and give back to the institution that gave me so much. To the donors who make this possible: thank you from the bottom of my heart. So many students are chasing their dreams, and thanks to these scholarships, we are here.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The US Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala is governed by a 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 done throughout the year in committees.

2025 Board of Directors

President	Bruce Wharton
Vice President	Margot Herrera
Treasurer	John Mack III
Secretary	Catalina Keilhauer
	Gabriela Asturias
	Marcello Canuto
	Monica Christman-Arenas
	Marilyn Nevy Cruz
	Gerrity Lansing
	Stephen Miller
	Alvaro Molina-Cruz
	José Carlos Monzón
	Tessa Namuth
	A. Lorena Passarelli
	Gabriela Quiñonez
	Johnny Rohrbach

Trustees Emeritus

John Hamilton
Berkley Cone
Carlos Nottebohm

Staff

Executive Director	Lauren Lederman
Comptroller	Ted Grover



USFUVG

US Foundation of the University
of the Valley of Guatemala

usfuvg.org

