



Bridging the Digital Divide Project Report  
2008



a project of  
NextStep Recycling

541.513.7830

psolidarity@yahoo.com

www.partnersinsolidarity.com

## Table of Contents

<b>Page1</b>	Project Summary
<b>Page 2</b>	Project Accomplishments
<b>Page 3</b>	Project Budget
<b>Pages 4-5</b>	List of Recipient Schools and NGOs
<b>Page 6</b>	Support Organizations

## Addendums

- I. Thank you letter signed by dozens of teachers, school directors, and parents from recipient communities
- II. Receipts
- III. News articles written about the project (Guatemala and US media)
- IV. Project Report in Spanish from INEPAS (our Guatemalan project partner)
- V. Copy of computer use curriculum developed by INEPAS, Partners in Solidarity, and local Guatemalan teachers
- VI. Photos Disk (with pictures of the arrival of container, teaching of computer repair classes, and computer labs)



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## Project Summary

Since 2002, Partners in Solidarity has been collecting, refurbishing, and transporting shipping containers full of computers, medical equipment, and school supplies to Guatemala. Our main focus has been the establishment and maintenance of rural computer labs in public schools of the highland department of Quetzaltenango. The primary beneficiaries of the project have been K'iche Mayan communities.

This year we transported 310 computer systems with licensed software from Eugene, Oregon to Guatemala. The computers were then loaded with Spanish software as well as programs to learn the local Mayan dialect of K'iche. The computers were donated to 31 different public schools, libraries and Guatemalan non-government organizations (NGOs).

The computer labs are a part of our "Bridging the Digital Divide" Quetzaltenango, Guatemala project. In the department of Quetzaltenango there are approximately 750,000 people. According to the Ministry of Education, less than 1% of its public schools have computer labs. This is especially evident in the rural, mostly indigenous schools. In Guatemala, computer literacy is a pre-requisite for university study. It is also a gateway to employment opportunities throughout the region.

Our project has been particularly successful because of our partnership with a local non-government organization called INEPAS (Instituciòn de Español y Participaciòn en Ayuda Social) which assists in the coordination and supervision of the project. INEPAS has been instrumental in the development and facilitation of the computer labs into "community projects". Each receiving school has to form an agreement between teachers, parents, and local leaders that provides for a security committee, a maintenance committee, a plan that states how the machines will be used, and a commitment to attend quarterly workshops that provide trainings on how to maintain and fix the computers.

The result of these "community projects" has been powerful. A Tulane University study in 2006 stated that schools with computer labs had notable increases in attendance, parent involvement, community respect for education, and access to new jobs and opportunities. The long-term impacts of the project will be documented as students graduate from primary and secondary schools and enter universities and other higher education institutions. Partners in Solidarity plans to study and document the effects of this project as it matures.



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## Project Accomplishments

- Collection, repair, transportation, and distribution of an 8 x8 x40' shipping container full of computers from Eugene, Oregon to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
- Creation of our first public library computer lab project in the capitol city of Quetzaltenango
- Amplification of computer labs to a total of 25-30 systems in 6 schools
- Creation of 5 new labs in rural schools and their communities
- Technical support and hardware distribution to 5 NGOs in Quetzaltenango
- Computer exchange to update systems at all participating schools
- Design, production, and distribution of a basic computer curriculum
- Support of spare parts storage facility with new parts, cables, monitors, and hardware to maintain our computer labs
- Implementation of a series of computer maintenance and repair workshops
- Installation of Mayan cultural studies and K'iche language software on all the computers installed in this year's computer labs
- Computer education and literacy for 6,154 students in the department of Quetzaltenango



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### Project Budget

Partners in Solidarity received two separate grants(for a total of \$8,000) from the Daniele Agostino Foundation for our "Bridging the Digital Divide 2007 Guatemala" Project and raised additional \$4,000 by hosting benefit concerts, rummage sales, and private donations. The following chart details how we spent the grant money from the Daniele Agostino Foundation:

Item	Cost
8 x 8 x 40' Shipping Container Costs (cartage, forwarding, security compliance fee, ocean freight, federal express of bill of lading)	\$5,262.25
Port of Quetzal, Guatemala Costs (Storage of container, taxes, fines, fares, copies, transmissions, document transportation miscellaneous costs)	\$294.14
Overland Transportation Costs (Puerto Quetzal to Quetzaltenango)	\$877.00
Project Administration Costs in Guatemala (Including salaries for technicians, visits to communities, gas, storage, phone, electricity, office space, fax, copies, curriculum design, lawyer fees, and miscellaneous support fees)	\$9,305.00
300 licensed copies of Window 2000	\$1500.00
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$17,238.39</b>



Transforming e-waste for the next generation.

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### Distribution of Donations

Name of School or NGO	Donations Received
Escuela Autogestion K'ot Bal' Abaj Cantel, Quetzaltenango	<b>20 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Xeul Cantel, Quetzaltenango	<b>15 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Xolquiac Cantel, Quetzaltenango	<b>15 computer systems</b>
Escuela Basico Cooperativa Pasac Segundo Cantel, Quetzaltenango	<b>10 computer systems</b>
Escuela Basico Cooperativa Xecam Cantel, Quetzaltenango	<b>10 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Casa Blanca Salcaja, Quetzaltenango	<b>15 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion San Antonio de la Raya Salcaja, Quetzaltenango	<b>10 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Banos de San Juan Salcaja, Quetzaltenango	<b>15 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Sector Las Flores Salcaja, Quetzaltenango	<b>15 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Caserio El Tigre Salcaja, Quetzaltenango	<b>20 computer systems</b>
Escuela Oficial Aldea La Emboscada San Miguel Siguila, Quetzaltenango	<b>7 computer systems</b>
Escuela Oficial Jornada Vespertina Aldea Argueta, Solola	<b>10 computer systems</b>
Escuela Telecondaria Xecaracoj Xecaracoj, Quetzaltenango	<b>10 computer systems</b>
Escuela Oficial Canton Belen El Palmar, Quetzaltenango	<b>5 computer systems</b>
Escuela Oficial Toj Alic San Martin Sacatapequez, Quetzaltenango	<b>5 computer systems</b>
Escuela Autogestion Toj Mech San Martin Sacatapequez, Quetzaltenango	<b>7 computer systems</b>



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**Name of School or NGO**

**Donations Received**

Café Conciencia Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango	<b>4 computer systems</b>
Entremundos Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango	<b>10 computer systems, digital projector</b>
AIDG Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango	<b>3 computer systems</b>
INEPAS Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango	<b>Digital projector, screen, computer</b>
Proyecto Jovenes de Maria Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango	<b>1 computer, two monitors, one box of medical supplies, 5 bags of kid's clothing</b>
Hogares de Ninos Cantel Cantel, Quetzaltenango	<b>5 boxes of school supplies, 1 box if medical supplies, 25 bags of kid's clothing</b>
Central Infantil Bellota Quetzaltenango	<b>20 bags of kid's clothing</b>



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## Support Organizations

### Next Step Recycling (Eugene, Oregon)

- Refurbishing computers
- Publicity
- Storage
- Container loading

### Microsoft (Seattle, Washington)

- Discount priced operating systems

### Western Overseas Shipping Company (Portland, Oregon)

- Discount on shipping and trucking costs (Oregon to Guatemala)

### INEPAS (Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)

- Guatemala logistics
- Planning
- Distribution

### Comité de Padres, Pasac Segundo (Cantel, Guatemala)

- Storage
- Technical support

### Entremundos (Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)

- Storage
- Donated space for workshops
- Free Internet



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