



Crowdfunding Report:

“Nataly’s smile motivates everyone!”

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, C.A., November 2017

Nataly's smile motivates everyone!

Nataly has a delicate smile that conveys enthusiasm and joy. Despite the trials that she faces, she is appreciative and optimistic with each new day.

She is twelve years old and currently is in the sixth grade of elementary school in her community. She lives with her father, her grandmother, her stepmother and two brothers in the Agro-Community of Arizona in the municipality of Genoa, on the South Coast of Quetzaltenango, a small town located in the Pacific side of Guatemala.

Since 2014, Nataly has been assisted, along with other girls from the community, by FUNDAP's Scholarship for girls project, with the purpose of ending school drop-outs and accompanying them in their educational path. The chances of leaving school two years ago were very high, as her father didn't have a stable job and when he got work at a palm plantation he earned the equivalent of five Euros a day, which is not enough for him to care of his family. Her grandmother and stepmother wash other people's clothes to help with the expenses of the house and young Nataly has taken over the household chores to contribute to her family, every afternoon when she returns from school she cleans her humble home, washing clothes and helping to care for her two-year-old sister.

She tells that she does not remember her mother, who abandoned them when she was three, but that her father Eliazar has taught her to work and be responsible. Her dream is to be a teacher and to help many children who, like her, have difficulty continuing their studies.

The shyness that characterized her when she started in the project has diminished and now her teachers identify her as a leader and acknowledge that her self-esteem has improved very much. She has developed skills in communication, drawing and theater. To the question of what has been the most important aspect for her being in the project, she answers with a smile: "Now I dare to dream, I will be a teacher and I will change the history of many children"

FUNDAP's Scholarship for Girls program has developed a comprehensive methodology to accompany highly vulnerable girls, including a monthly stipend for the girl to help with their study expenses, extracurricular lessons in the areas of communication and mathematics, personalized tutoring and educational-awareness for her and her family. The project accompanies them for six years, from the fourth grade of elementary school through high school, having verified by studies that is the period of greatest amount of school dropouts.

The opportunity that Nataly has had, as well as other girls from her community is the same that we want to bring to the municipality of Comitancillo San Marcos Guatemala, a municipality located in the Western Altiplano of Guatemala that has a territorial extension of 113 square kilometers and where it is estimated that out of each 10 families, 9 are poor and 4 of them live in extreme poverty.

