

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

## PARAGUAY: EXPANSION ALLOWS LOCAL SCHOOL TO ADD GRADE LEVELS

Educational Opportunities Help Break the Cycle of Poverty in Low-income Neighborhoods



Thalia Araceli Gonzalez Cuenca, the mother of preschoolers Misaela Jaqueline and Miqueas Alberto, is pleased with the education her children are receiving at El Redentor School in Zeballos Cue, Paraguay. Read more of her testimony below, 'In Their Own Words.'

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**CONTEXT:** Paraguay has a young population, with children ages 1 to 14 making up almost a quarter of the 7 million people living there. Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, is the most populated city in the country. It is organized geographically into districts, including Zeballos Cue, where 70 percent of the population are school-age children.

In 2008, Redeemer Anglican Church and the Anglican Church of Paraguay refurbished the Pepe Semillita preschool building in Zeballos Cue, creating a primary school that has since been officially recognized by Paraguay's Ministry of Education. Now named El Redentor School, it has since grown from 11 preschoolers to 70 students from preschool to the third grade.

**NEED:** In the Zeballos Cue area, access to education is limited, especially for families with low incomes. Children need at least a primary and secondary education to help break the cycle of poverty. Education has both direct and indirect impact on economic growth and poverty because it provides skills that boost employment opportunities.

**SOLUTION:** To improve the community's educational opportunities, in 2017 Redeemer Anglican Church and the Anglican Church of Paraguay began an expansion of El Redentor School. This new project completes the second stage of the school's expansion, adding four new classrooms and an office for the administration. In addition, the project will put a roof over the soccer field. These modifications will double the enrollment, and allow the school to eventually serve students from preschool to ninth grade. The facilities also will be used by community members who will host a Saturday Bible club and sports for children. The the local church has assumed responsibility for the school. The pastor will be in charge of the program, along with a team of two or three people.

### LIFE IMPACT

**Benefits 165 people, some in multiple ways:**

- 110 students will experience a Christian education, learn Christian values, and gain an understanding of the Christian faith, as evidenced by school records
- 55 children will benefit from weekend activities, including 40 children who will take part in the Saturday Bible club and 15 youth who will play soccer

### PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-0519-Paraguay

Lead Ministry

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PARAGUAY**



LIVES IMPACTED 165

SECTOR Education

AMOUNT REQUESTED US\$79,099

COST PER BENEFICIARY US\$479.38


TIMELINE 13 MONTHS

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"This is the first year for both kids [at El Redentor School]. I have been able to see positive changes in them. Both had attention problems, but now I can see they are overcoming that problem. They are focused in what they are learning in school. I also observed that the relationship with other children has changed favorably. I love the education in values they are receiving; I have seen that they have learned to forgive."

– Thalia Araceli Gonzalez Cuenca, the mother of preschoolers Miqueas Alberto and Misaela Jaqueline.

## WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



*“As the rest of the Latin America region, the problem of poverty in Paraguay has acquired important problems, such as urban disorder and especially insecurity. ... In Barrio Zeballos Cue ... it has one national school and two private schools.”*

— [seam.gov.py/sites/default/files/users/control/m.defensa\\_nacional\\_barrio.rc4\\_j,facetti.pdf](http://seam.gov.py/sites/default/files/users/control/m.defensa_nacional_barrio.rc4_j,facetti.pdf), ‘Minutes on Environment Impact,’ by environment consultant Dr. Juan F. Facetti, 2015

*“The new UNESCO policy paper shows that the global poverty rate could be more than halved if all adults completed secondary school. ... The paper, ‘Reducing global poverty through universal primary and secondary education,’ focus[es] on poverty eradication in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The paper demonstrates the importance of recognizing education as a core lever for ending poverty in all its forms.”*

— [en.unesco.org/news/world-poverty-could-be-cut-half-if-all-adults-completed-secondary-education](http://en.unesco.org/news/world-poverty-could-be-cut-half-if-all-adults-completed-secondary-education), UNESCO, June 21, 2017

## PROJECT DESIGN

The first phase of this project started in 2017 with funding from the Anglican Relief and Development Fund to expand the preschool. As work started, church leaders realized that they had the opportunity to enlarge the scope of the project, adding a primary school to the original preschool.

In this second phase of the project, The Redeemer Anglican Church will expand the El Redentor School, allowing students to study at the school through the ninth grade. The school currently has three classrooms and two bathrooms to accommodate its 70 students. The administrative office is located in nearby Redeemer Anglican Church. Construction of the four new classrooms and office will take between 4 to 6 months. The school is currently in session from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. In 2022, the school will offer preschool to fourth grade in the afternoons and fifth to ninth grade in the mornings. The proposed roof over the soccer field will allow more use of the soccer field. The Saturday program will include a Bible club, games, and a free lunch for 40 students.

Church leaders stress that construction must start by November, when school is not in session. That means it requires funds in September or October so the work will be done in time for new students to enroll in February 2022. Based on this timeline, project evaluation can be completed by December 2021. If the project is not started by November 2021, the construction project will be delayed a full year.

**Measuring impact.** Impact will be measured using school enrollment and attendance records. Afterschool activities also keep track of attendance, allowing impact to be recorded.

## TRACK RECORD

A 2016 project funded by the Anglican Relief and Development Fund covered the costs to successfully rebuild the Pepe Semillita Preschool in Zeballos Cue and reopen as an elementary school that served up through the third grade. That project achieved expectations and was officially accredited by the country’s Ministry of Education.

In addition, the Anglican Church of Paraguay also manages a large private school in Asunción that was founded in 1963. In the past, this private school has donated desks, chairs, and equipment to the preschool.

PROJECT BUDGET		SOURCES OF FUNDS		HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE
ITEM	BUDGETED*	LOCAL/OTHER		
<b>Preliminary work</b>				
Research and Evaluation	\$10,317			For \$423, you can provide the windows in the building.
Concrete foundation	\$7,025			For \$2,270, you can fund the bathrooms for this new building.
Floors and coverings	\$2,027			For \$2,602, you can provide the paint for both floors of the expansion.
Demolition and ground clearing	\$928			
Painting	\$260			
<b>Second floor</b>				
Brickwork	25,790			
Taxes	\$6,253			
Floors and coverings	\$5,899			
Concrete	\$5,467			
Wood and metal carpentry	\$4,409			
Painting	\$2,342			
Electric installation	\$2,323			
Bathroom	\$2,270			
Gutters for draining roof	\$2,119			
Cleaning	\$1,247			
Windows	\$423			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,099</b>		<b>\$28,500**</b>	

**NOTES:**

\* All funds are reported in US dollars.

\*\*The Anglican Church of Paraguay will contribute these funds to equip the new classrooms, provide air conditioning for the new building, and repair and cover the soccer field.



This mark is used throughout the report to indicate additional information available upon request.

## IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS\*

This project adheres to some or all of this sector's established best practices

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>
School fees	2,254,033	85	2,138,936	79	2,488,317	87
Education sale of goods (net sales)	277,850	10	487,533	18	95,681	3
Cost of the sale of goods	(187,506)	-7	(182,284)	-7	(59,411)	-2
Diocese donations and offerings	293,118	11	235,463	9	324,341	11
Other (including interest)	20,968	1	17,284	1	42,560	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,658,463</b>		<b>2,696,932</b>		<b>2,891,488</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>
Program operations	391,351	15	123,679	5	200,539	8
Departmental expenses	1,731,500	65	1,924,545	77	1,857,917	72
Office administration	478,537	18	412,643	15	470,673	18
Taxes and banking	56,174	2	73,814	3	55,090	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,657,562</b>		<b>2,534,681</b>		<b>2,584,219</b>	
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>901</b>		<b>162,251</b>		<b>307,269</b>	

### NOTES:

\*Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars

**INCOME:** The diocese's income rose slightly from 2015 to 2016 and an increase of 7% was reported in 2017. Its school and university accounted for an average of 83% of total income over the three-year period. Student fees provided over 90% of the education related-income and the university accounted 10%. The school and university also sold goods and services that accounted for 10% of revenue in 2015, 18% in 2016, and 3% in 2017. Tithes, offerings, and donations represented an average of 10% of revenue over the three-year period.

**EXPENSES:** The diocese's program operating expenses accounted for an average of 9% of the total expenses from 2015 to 2017. Departmental expenses consumed 65% of the budget in 2015, 76% in 2016, and 72% in 2017. Office administrative expenses averaged 17% over the three-year period and comprised of salary, compensation, and miscellaneous charges. Bank charges and taxes accounted for 2.3% of the total expenses over the three-year period.

## RISK ANALYSIS



Low: 1, Low/Medium: 2, Medium: 3, Medium/High: 4, High: 5 

### CONCEPT: 1

This project aligns well with the goal of Redeemer Anglican Church to serve its community for Christ. The scope and extent of impact for beneficiaries can last a lifetime because education is the best legacy for future generations.

### PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 2

The facility started as a preschool in 2008. In 2015, the Anglican Church of Paraguay decided to support this project, using its educational expertise gained by operating a private school in Asunción since 1963. Since educators opted to expand the primary school, the school has only experienced success. This second stage will add four new classrooms and an administrative office. El Redentor School has the support of the Anglican Church of Paraguay to expand, support that includes educational expertise and financial support until the school is self-sustainable.

### LEADERSHIP: 1

Redeemer Anglican Church has the necessary skills and staff to expand and operate this school. The school director is its founder. She is a teacher with 19 years of experience working in different schools and with various grade levels.

### FINANCIAL CONTROL: 2

The Anglican Church of Paraguay has stable management, externally audited financials, and secure fund transfer methods. It lacks independent governance as all board members are members of the Anglican Church. Also, the school will require continued access to funds until it can be self-sustaining, which is expected from 2022 on. These extra funds will be reinvested in the school.

### SUSTAINABILITY: 2

Continued access to funds are necessary to maintain the expected level of impact during the first years of expanded service. The Anglican Church of Paraguay has committed to covering the funds necessary during this period. With increased enrollment in the coming years, it is possible to be self-sustaining.

### EXTERNAL: 2

Local residents of Zeballos Cue area have received this project very well. Parents have expressed their satisfaction with the academic quality of the school. However, the church still needs to raise \$28,500 to cover its share of the budget. Without these funds, the remodel will be limited.



## LEADERSHIP PROFILES

The Rt. Rev. Peter John Henry Bartlett serves as diocesan bishop and president of the executive committee. His background includes:

- a bishop of the Anglican Church of Paraguay since March 2009
- priest of a local church in Doncaster, United Kingdom
- a bachelor's degree in law and history from Staffordshire, U.K.-based Keele University
- a master's degree in social sciences from the Supreme Court in United Kingdom, as a result of his 14 years of work with abused children
- a diploma in theology from Mathersey Hall Christian College, United Kingdom
- assistant pastor and pastor, Christ the Savior Anglican church, La Paz, Bolivia
- consultant for two Anglican schools in Paraguay

The Rev. Luis Echeverria has served as pastor of Redeemer Anglican Church since his ordination in 2007. His background includes:

- entered ministry as a deacon at Saint John Apostle Anglican Church in Mariano Roque Alonso, Asunción
- a bachelor's degree in theology from Universidad Evangelica del Paraguay, Asunción

## REFERENCES

*"I write from Asunción, Paraguay, to add my support for the project presented by the Paraguayan Anglican Church. ... I received the project in its second stage and I know El Redentor Church of Zeballos Cue. I sign my signature to give my agreement to the project."*

– The Rt. Rev. Gregorio Venables, bishop of the Anglican province of South America and Diocesan Bishop of Argentina

## BEST PRACTICES

Based on research, this project adheres to the following best practices:

- represents a long-term investment
- maintains pre-existing relationships
- mobilizes local capital

## RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT



**ANA LISBETH SALAZAR**

*Sr. Research Analyst*  
May 2019

El Redentor School started by expanding its services up to the third grade. It has long planned to offer education to children up to the ninth grade, but has been strategic in its growth. In this second stage, the school will be able to accommodate students from preschool through the ninth grade. The Anglican Church of Paraguay will provide equipment and technology to serve the students, and provide funds until the school can become self-sustaining. However, the ability to raise \$28,500 in local funds will demonstrate the necessary local support.

## IMPLEMENTER'S INSPIRATION

*"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life."*

– Proverbs 22:6 (GNT)

## HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

Write to  
The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada  
Box 1013  
Burlington, ON L7R 4L8  
Canada

Or log onto: [www.ardfc.ca](http://www.ardfc.ca)



The Anglican Relief  
and Development Fund  
Canada