



Sombrilla

International Development Society

About Us

Sombrilla is an Alberta-based, independent, non-governmental organization, founded in 1985 as a registered charity to facilitate projects supporting sustainable development, social justice, gender equity and human rights.

Our Mission

Sombrilla partners with communities in Latin America to empower them to assert their democratic, economic, cultural, and social rights.

Our Partners

Sombrilla develops partnerships with Latin American community-based organizations that share our mission in order to assist them in reaching their goal.

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Scholarships for Post-Secondary Education in El Salvador

In El Salvador relatively few young people have the opportunity to continue their studies beyond secondary school. In spring 2016 Sombrilla started a new project in collaboration with CEBES PERQUIN, a local NGO in El Salvador. The project provides scholarships for young adults from rural communities to complete their post-secondary education.

The partner organization in El Salvador currently sup-

ports 10 students obtaining degrees ranging from Business Administration and Accounting to Registered Nurse and Laboratory Technician. The scholarship allows students to ful-

fill their professional and personal goals.



An addition to receiving scholarships, students are requested to stay involved with their communities after the completion for their degrees. Students will share their time and skills with the community mem-

bers of their hometowns. While in past years, community involvement was left to the discretion of each student who received a scholarship, CEBES Perquin has now defined involvement in the

local community as working with young people. Each student is asked to form a youth group, with 5 or 6 members. The groups meet twice a month to reflect on the issues affecting young people today.

Education and Capacity Building



The youths who are benefiting from scholarships are from north of Morazan - Torola, San Fernando and Perquin.

The scholarship covers the following: food, transportation and studies. Total monthly cost of \$125. The other \$45 dollars will be come from the student, his/her family and the CEB's in El Salvador.

The recipients will pay back 10% of their scholarship with a limit of 3 years after graduation. The money will be used to support additional students. After graduation, community banks provide loans to students who received a scholarship. This will make is easier for students to pay the 10% back over the period of three years.

Some of the youths have received scholarship since high school until comple-

tion of their careers. The graduated are now lawyers, Sociologist, Psychologist, Social Workers, Computer Analysts, Tree Planting, etc. All of them have assumed social commitment in their communities.



Giving Opportunity to Youth

Padre Rogelio's Testimonial:

"It has been 11 years supporting the youth. It is of course an effort, but it is also a profound satisfaction to see the results. Professionals with a social consciousness that can con-

tribute to the transformation of the country. But, at the same time it brings satisfaction to see their personal development that each one of them have obtained with their studies. To give opportunity to the youth is precisely

what our society demands."

Padre Rogelio Ponsele: A pastor who accompanied the *campesinos* during the civil war. Padre Rogelio is a notable activist, author and local coordinator of the scholarship fund.

Padre Rogelio's Testimonial:

"To give opportunity to the youth is precisely what our society demands."

To make a difference please donate!

Make cheques payable to:

Sombrilla International Development Society

(Please specify *Jose Garcia Scholarship*)

Tax Receipts issued by:

Sombrilla International Development Society

Website: www.sombrilla.ca



Jose Garcia (1932-2011) is remembered for his conviction to social justice, warm regard for his community, and his passion for study.