

What else does *Proyecto San Gerardo* do?

Proyecto San Gerardo, working under the direction of the local community committee, delivers a number of programs and provides volunteer opportunities to young people from both within and outside Costa Rica. Here are a few highlights:

- *English Conversation classes at 4 levels*
- *Computer Classes and internet*
- *First Aid Training*
- *Community based website*
- *Café Bambú women's apprenticeship program*
- *Homestay and volunteer program*



Contact us:

San Gerardo & Area Outreach Society
(known as *Proyecto San Gerardo* in Costa Rica)

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**San Gerardo & Area
Outreach Society**

Building skills in rural Costa Rica

**Send a student to
school program**



www.sangerardocostarica.com

Why are we helping students go to school?

Proyecto San Gerardo has been delivering high school and university scholarships since 2010 as an initiative of one of our volunteers.

Many young people could not previously study as the local high school was only constructed 10 years ago. Now there is a thirst to learn - but always the obstacle of funds. Average family incomes in rural Costa Rica are around \$400/month—leaving little for education which even at high school is expensive: we estimate it costs \$500 per child per year: including annual 'fees', uniform, supplies, lunches and transportation.

We provide a helping hand with \$100—paid in two installments in January and July. Students invariably choose to spend the scholarship on uniform, school supplies or the annual fee.

University fees vary by course and institution. National universities have suffered harsh cutbacks and fewer and fewer university scholarships are available—especially for students away from the capital city: San Jose.

We provide \$600 to each successful university applicant—in three installments of \$200. This is a healthy contribution towards basic course fees and registration.

Proyecto San Gerardo believes it's never too late to learn. Our scholarship holders maintain great grades and also volunteer with the project to recognize the support they are receiving.



JOIN US & HELP A STUDENT



Stories from Costa Rican students



Karol is one of those students who would succeed despite the odds! As a child she grew up in the poverty of Limon's banana plantations with her younger brother and sister. She returned to San

Gerardo but neither of her parents had any experience with education so at the age of 12 she was considered ready to work in the family dairy. But young Karol wanted more! She put in her time in the dairy but also signed up to study her high school courses at home! For 7 years she studied, took exams, and invariably placed top. In 2010 she completed her high school finals with the highest grades in the country for home-schooling!

"My name is Karol Fernandez Elizondo; I have been studying English Education for around two years.

The most important objective in my life is to become an English teacher to help other people to learn another language and to expand their intellectual abilities..."

One of our volunteers donated \$50 to start her university fund, and we have continued to support Karol, though slowly, since then. Karol's dream—to be able to enroll full-time and complete her degree faster. Her academic costs are about \$2000 per year .

Why don't we pay all the costs?
We believe that students all over the world are bearing many of the costs of their education, and to an extent should be responsible for their costs. Our students pick coffee, porter , have part time jobs and the small assistance PSG can provide means students feel supported in their dreams - and have more successful outcomes.

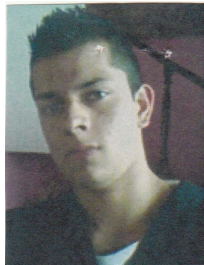
Paula is Proyecto San Gerardo's volunteer computer teacher and mom to 5 year old Justin. Every afternoon Paula donates her time to teach adults and children in her village of Herradura basic computer skills as you see here.



Paula is heading for nursing

Back home with her 8 brothers and sisters, mom and dad, Paula raises her little boy and dreams of a chance to study herself. Her family picks coffee, porters on Mt Chirripó, but without that high school or university diploma their chance of moving out of the poverty they share in the 3 bedroom house is slim.

Paula wants to study nursing and has excellent math & science records from high school—she just needs a chance. Paula's annual costs will be around \$3000 per year.



Richard is already attending medical school in San Jose. He had completed year one with help from a sister who worked to pay his fees when his father suffered a dreadful stroke and could no longer work. The funds for Richard's schooling had to be diverted to pay for his father's rehab (in Costa Rica universal health care exists but doesn't extend to therapies). Richard

dropped out of school and stayed home to work in the dairy. In 2011 Proyecto San Gerardo started assisting Richard with his costs, in collaboration with other funders. A success story! Richard is now

fully funded to complete his medical training and plans to concentrate on rural medicine.

Running is **Clara's** passion! At the age of 12 she ran her first cross-country marathon and has subsequently placed among the top 3 a number of times in races of up to 35 km. For a year now PSG has been supporting Clara with funds for her equipment and transportation. We would like to see more supporters help an indigenous child take a shot at a sporting future .



Esmeralda is just completing first year high school with a scholarship from PSG. She is extremely gifted in arts and wants to go on to art school one day. She is one of four children and for parents Jorge and Edit it's just tough making ends meet on his earnings as a coffee-grower and porter. Both Esmeralda and her mom are active volunteers with PSG in the café and at events

Josué is studying to be a physiotherapist— he needs financial help as he is also supporting his mom. He works in construction every morning so he can attend classes at night.

What can I do to help?
We're asking our friends and supporters to financially help a student going through high school or university. Simply fill out the attached slip and send it with your donation—at the high school or university level—and we will let you know about the particular student you are supporting. You can donate every semester or once a year, whichever is more convenient, knowing you are making a big difference.

YES! I would like to help a student go to school!

I would like to support:

	Donation	Amount in US \$
<input type="checkbox"/> A high school student	2/year	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A university student	3/year	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to donate just once a year:		
<input type="checkbox"/> A high school student		\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A university student		\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a general donation to Proyecto San Gerardo to help with their programs.		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like detailed information about the student I am supporting.		
	Total:	_____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Method of Payment

Check: made out to San Gerardo & Area Outreach Society

Cash

PayPal: via our donation button at www.sangeradocostarica.com/get-involved/proyecto-san-gerardo/

Thank you!

Please send your check with this slip to:

San Gerardo & Area Outreach Society
534 Ellis St, North Vancouver, BC
V7H 2G6 CANADA

(Your receipt will be sent to you within 4 weeks)