



Hola-IT:

*Connecting classrooms
through technology*

March: What we were able to do with your support

We have made it a priority to travel to Guatemala every year and a half or so. This year we returned the week of March 10th and spent significant time understanding the region around Tecpán.

Tecpán is about 50 miles or 2.5 hours from Guatemala City. Much of the indigenous culture, dress and language are still intact, and regardless of the hardship, it is clear that the people have a strong identity and pride in their Kachikiel (a Mayan sub group) roots. It took an additional 1 hour to reach the school from the center of Tecpán, up steep, unpaved, bumpy terrain. We met with the principal and administrators of IBCE Caquixajay (*pronounced: Kah-Kee-Cha-Hi*) school for children in grades 7-9.
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Thankful to our donors!

We are so grateful for the support we received these past two months! In February of 2019, we launched our first Go Fund Me and raised over \$2,000 through the website and an additional \$2,500 through family and friends.

Also, International Spanish Language Academy (where our daughters have attended) ran a student-run penny-war fundraiser and were able to raise over \$650 in a few short days! We are so grateful for your support!



Did You Know? In Guatemala, only 1 in 10 children even reach high school and over 45% of the population over the age of 15 is illiterate.



<continued from page 1> The teachers and administrators at IBCE Caquixajay are seeking a partnership that will allow their students to have greater access to careers and education. They have ageing computers, many of which do not work, have no access to the internet due to cost, and are lacking engagement from their potential student population.

We spent time listening to the teachers and administrators. We took an inventory of what they currently have and what they need. We asked lots of questions about what their students and their teachers would find the most valuable. It is important to us that as visitors in this culturally rich and historically dramatic country, we do not impose our preference for how Hola-IT serves a community seeking technology to connect their education systems.

Here's what we heard: they need 20 computers, internet access, some teacher training, and a school to partner with that will allow them to create relationships and solve problems. We believe we can do this for them!

Next Steps: Grants, Install and Travel

We will be returning to Tecpán in June of 2019 to install computers and create a partnership with the teachers to work on a STEM problem solving curricula.

Here's our plan and here's how you can be involved:

- We are seeking a grant from Raspberry Pi (www.raspberrypi.org) to meet some of the computer needs that IBCE Caquixajay has.
- We are working with Microsoft and will be reimaging the donated computers.
- We will be shipping all supplies at the end of May.
- We will be developing curricula, using the Design Thinking platform from the International Baccalaureate platform to create structure for two classrooms to work together on STEM projects using Raspberry Pi coding.
- We will be travelling in June to install, teach and demonstrate how the technology can be used in the IBCE Caquixajay classroom.
- Want to see further pictures from our visit? Check out: <https://www.facebook.com/holaitLatAm/>

We need you!

- Want to donate? Great, we are still seeking \$4000 to finish supplies and shipping costs.
- Want to get involved? Great, we need people to help update our existing computers, help packing and shipping.
- Want to be involved in Guatemala? Great, we are looking to put a teach of people together to work at IBCE Caquixajay at the end of June.

Contact us below to get involved!