

What is Education for Life?

The scholarship program is one piece of a community-based ministry which includes

- Sunday School
- Youth group for older kids
- Neighborhood Bible study groups (sector groups)
- General parent meetings
- Assisting with worship.

The program operates with care given the challenges of gang violence and territorial restrictions within the community. The church is the center of the program and is sacred space, respected by and welcoming of local members of both gangs.

Why do students need Scholarships?

Families in Los Héroes survive by selling things they make, working day labor jobs or working in factories. Typical pay for a worker is \$5 or less, and bus travel to the city costs \$1.50 per day. The government provides education through Grade 9 without tuition. Older students pay a monthly quota and purchase uniforms and shoes. Parents struggle to provide their children with sufficient food, and do not have the money needed to pay for school supplies, incidental fees, or the more expensive costs for older students.



What does a Scholarship Provide?

- Elementary students: gym shoes, backpack, supplies, and food fees.
- Middle School students: same as above plus bus fare (there is no middle school in Los Héroes.) The Salvadoran government provides one uniform, shoes and a small pack of school supplies for each student in K through Grade 9.
- High School students: tuition fees, school uniform & shoes, gym uniform & shoes, some school supplies and bus money.
- University students: January registration fee, monthly tuition, some books & supplies, transportation (2 or 3 buses each way at 25 cents each ride) and a daily food stipend. Families pay a minimum of 10% for university students.

Who receives a Scholarship?

The scholarship recipients are selected by a board of directors in Los Héroes. The directors include Pastor Santiago, Deacon Francisco, Catechist Sonia and leaders from the community.

No more than 4 children from a family may receive scholarships at one time. The program is need-based and also performance-based. Students must maintain good grades and read every day. Parents and students attend mandatory meetings. Families participate in worship at the church or give back to the program if their classes conflict with worship (many university students study on Sundays).



Where do students study?

Younger and older students choose different schools based on safety, academic program and schedule (some schedules allow for students to work). Students who are unable to get to church for youth group meetings or worship due to gang issues or Sunday classes are encouraged to participate in other Lutheran Churches and Bible studies in their sectors.

Community Fundraising

The community of Los Héroes raises funds to support special parties, field trips and events for the students. Fund-raisers usually involve making and selling food like pupusas or tamales. Program leaders are working to grow broad community support and expand the benefits of the program beyond the students who receive scholarships.

What are the funding sources for this program?

Families from St. John's, All Peoples (Milwaukee), French River (Duluth) and other Lutheran Churches give sponsor gifts, as do individuals connected with St. John's through family or past membership. The Holly Christina Stahl Foundation sponsors several college students.

Synod Guidelines

Los Héroes, St. John's and All Peoples follow the Greater Milwaukee Synod El Salvador Committee Guidelines for scholarship programs. All funds are routed through our synod and careful accounting is done both here and in El Salvador. Administrative fees are assessed for wire transfers and to help pay for the coordination of the program in El Salvador.



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Los Héroes Educación Para la Vida

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