Worldfund and Credit Suisse: Partnership 2010-2013

Worldfund envisions a future in which all children in Latin America receive the education they need to become productive members of their community. Together with Credit Suisse, we have launched and scaled up programs to train teachers and principals in high-need schools throughout the region. Our work is directly aligned with Credit Suisse’s Global Education Initiative goals of improved access and quality of educational opportunities for disadvantaged children.

“In Worldfund, Credit Suisse has found a partner that has identified a key education need in Latin America – teacher quality – and moved effectively to address it.”

Manny Rybach, Global Head of Corporate Citizenship and Foundations, Credit Suisse

Through its Global Education Initiative, Credit Suisse assists international organizations in giving thousands of children and young people access to education and in improving the quality of educational opportunities through scholarships, learning materials and teacher training in developing countries in particular. As part of the Global Citizens Program, suitably qualified employees share their knowledge and skills with our global initiative partner organizations, working on projects from one week to three months in emerging and developing markets.
Results for teachers and students

BRAZIL: Alexia Mendonça attended high school at one of the first schools to participate in Worldfund’s STEM Brasil (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program, which trains teachers in high-need schools. Her teachers returned with new teaching techniques that got the whole school excited. Before, math and science were dry lectures. “I was very inspired by the assignments and felt excited about learning,” Alexia says. “My grades improved dramatically.”

Today, Alexia is studying law at one of the best universities in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil.

MEXICO: Raúl López Acero grew up in Aguascalientes, one of the smallest and poorest states in Mexico. He became an English teacher. When he attended IAPE training in 2008, it changed his life. “My fellow teachers and I learned the philosophy of the Rassias Method®. We were treated like professionals and we returned to our schools knowing that deep change is possible.” Today, Raúl is the On-Site Coordinator for IAPE in Mexico; he oversees training for some 400 teachers a year from schools throughout the country.

EL SALVADOR: Arely de Maria Galan Velasquez is a top student in 9th grade at Mano Amiga San Antonio, a Worldfund partner school outside San Salvador. Arely has four siblings. Her mother serves on the maintenance crew for the school, and her father is a farmer. Every Saturday, Arely and her parents commute an hour and a half to the city for additional English training. Her parents strain to make the expense, but they know Arely’s future is bright. Her goal is to attend college and become a nurse.

Financial Support

GLOBAL CITIZENS PROGRAM: Worldfund enjoys a robust and integrated partnership with Credit Suisse that includes a skills-based volunteer program. Each year, Credit Suisse employees are selected to go on one-week assignments with our programs that receive funding. These volunteers add enormous value: mentoring students in Brazil, documenting success stories in Mexico and providing marketing expertise. Since 2011, a total of seven Credit Suisse employees have brought their unique skills to our programs on the ground, and provided human resource and marketing counsel to our headquarters in New York.

Scholarships at a Worldfund Partner School in El Salvador // Credit Suisse CFO support has provided scholarship funding for the neediest students at Mano Amiga San Antonio in El Salvador. MA San Antonio is a top-quality school with the capacity to educate 1,200 preschool through high school students. The median family income in the area is less than US$2,000/year. The drop-out rate at MA San Antonio is 1.2%, compared to 11.7% nationally.