

The Challenge...

Many children in El Salvador are unable to attend school because there is no money to buy the supplies they need or they must contribute to the family income by working or farming. With no education, these students have little hope of a bright future and are vulnerable to gangs, organized crime, drugs and prostitution.

The Program...

Seeds of Hope is built on a partnership with Family of Christ Church, Chanhassen, and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. The purpose is to Increase the access of Salvadoran youth to education as a means of equipping them for a brighter future, able to serve their families and communities. The program also provides for the development of ongoing relationships between sponsored students and their sponsor families in the U.S. The Seeds of Hope program has been in existence since 2002 and Trinity has been sponsoring students in this program since 2012. Currently, Trinity sponsors 54 of the 222 students in the program.



Most summers, a group of Trinity members (youth and adult) has traveled to El Salvador to connect with our students, visit their schools and homes and spend time together. We plan to resume this in 2024.

To receive sponsorship, students must

- Attend school
- Show satisfactory progress
- Attend church regularly
- Attend church youth events



The Dream...

Our long-term hope is to bring change to communities, breaking the cycle of poverty through education. Through student sponsorship we are able to remove obstacles currently preventing a child from attending school, provide tuition, supplies, uniforms, and ease the burden on the family. Over the years since Trinity began sponsoring students, we have especially been able to witness the change in the Emaus community where 2/3 of our students live. More students are continuing on to the University furthering their education.



~Roxy- Computer Science graduate!

Since 2002, nearly 200 students have graduated from High School and 35 young people have earned their University degree. Roxy is the first Trinity sponsored student completing University, graduating November 2019 with a computer science degree. Our dream is to allow these students to “pay it forward” helping others in their community. *Our support makes their futures brighter.*

We **dream** of not having to turn away any student who meets the sponsorship program criteria.

The people of El Salvador are our greatest resource and strength. Our youth are our greatest hope and education is the key. You can help most with providing scholarships.”

~Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez



The Details...

- The sponsorship amount for 2025 school year is \$220 for a K-9 student and \$400 for a high school student. This pays for shoes, school uniforms, books, supplies, transportation and other fees. We recruit new sponsors and renewals in the fall and the school-year runs from January through November.
- The amount needed to sponsor a university student for the entire 2025 year is \$1,800. This pays for tuition, books and supplies, equipment, transportation and fees.
- *We also welcome partial university sponsorships (\$250, \$500, \$750, \$1000) or one-time donations of any amount to the University Fund. The funds are then pooled to help sponsor as many university students as possible.



Next Steps...

Please make your sponsorship check payable to **“Trinity Lutheran Church”**
In the check memo line write:
“Seeds of Hope”

Mail your check to:

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Attn.: Seeds of Hope
2060 County Rd 6
Long Lake, MN 55356**

To pay on-line, please go to <https://www.trinitylonglake.org/seeds-of-hope> or text “SEEDS” to Trinity, 952-473-8577.

100% of your money donated is sent to El Salvador. 94% of the money goes directly to the students/families or to the University to pay tuition fees. 6% of the money is used to pay two women in El Salvador who administer the program plus pays supply costs (copying, postage, etc.)

Once your payment has been received, we will send you a follow-up letter including the name, picture and address of your student.

All donations to the Seeds of Hope program are tax-deductible.

Seeds of Hope Committee Members:

Ruth Bash, Camille Pearson-Walz, Chuck Ritchie, Joyce Trio and Tek Swanson

For more information contact:

JillC@trinitylonglake.org

Or see Trinity’s Website:

www.trinitylonglake.org/outreach

Updated: November 2024.



Educational Sponsorship Program in El Salvador

Trinity Lutheran Church