



TGUP Project Details

Learning Resource Center El Triunfo, Tipitapa, Nicaragua

PROJECT NAME: El Triunfo Learning Resource Center Park (LRC)

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The LRC park is made up of three areas: a small kiosk for storing books and supplies, an open-air covered meeting space, and a playground. This project will include four components:



- Convert the **open-air meeting structure** into an enclosed 23'x20' building with the addition of brick walls, windows and doors to offer protection from the weather.
- Build **two latrines with hand-washing stations** to help to keep the site clean and develop good hygiene habits among the community. There are no latrines now available for the center's 5,600 visitors.
- A 400 ft. **chain-link fence** to protect the park area from vandalism, stray dogs and uninvited people. It will also make possible a vegetable garden, to teach modern farming techniques to children and parents.
- **Repairs to the adobe walls** of the kiosk. The stucco of the kiosk walls is crumbling, leaving the adobe exposed to erosion, bug infestation and further deterioration.



These improvements will allow the entire community to benefit from the El Triunfo Learning Resource Center, Park and Playground ("The Little House of Knowledge: a World of Fantasy"). It will become a space designed to provide additional education for children, youth and adults in the community.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

The Global Uplift Project (TGUP) helps American donors build classrooms and other infrastructure projects in the developing world. Since its founding in 2007, TGUP has built more than 140 such projects in 16 countries in Asia, Central America, and Africa. TGUP is an IRS registered 501c3 nonprofit.

Seeds of Learning (SOL) has worked to improve access to education in Central America since 1991. It has constructed 196 classrooms within 61 different communities across Nicaragua and El Salvador. SOL has three offices in Nicaragua, and headquarters in northern California. SOL is an IRS registered 501c3 nonprofit.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

Seeds of Learning

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY:

El Triunfo is located in the municipality of Tipitapa, 9 miles to the north-east of the capital. It was founded around 70 years ago by local workers. Most of the 700 inhabitants of this low-income, rural community work as farmers, either on their own small farms or for large agri-businesses. Others have small businesses in the village or work for free-trade factories in Managua. Recently, a group of women organized a lending cooperative that has developed strong leadership and carried out a number of projects to help improve the quality of life. Over the years, this group and the community have collaborated with the national government and other organizations to dig a well, install electricity, build latrines, a health clinic, and an elementary school.

In 2014, SOL worked with the El Triunfo community to expand the elementary school. Together, they built one new classroom and finished the construction of another. After this experience, SOL decided to support the construction of a park that included

elements of a Learning Resource Center. The community members participated in the construction of a playground and a kiosk made with traditional and environmentally friendly materials like adobe. In the past few years, SOL has enhanced the playground and fostered projects to further vocational training, cultural activities and planted a community garden using technologies to deal with climate change effects.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Established in 2015, this center has provided innovative educational opportunities through reading campaigns, storytelling sessions, agricultural training, entrepreneurial literacy, arts and crafts classes, cultural events, educational games and books lending, research support and tutoring, internet and IT technology access, etc.

This center is comprised of a playground, a small house storing educational resources and a recently constructed open shelter for different activities. It is very popular among community members to meet and share with their neighbors. However, openness has brought some risks. As in most parks of Nicaragua, this one has attracted vagrants and other uninvited people.

The project will bring important enhancements to minimize these risks and increase the opportunities. A 400 ft. chain-link fence will be constructed around the park, which will provide safety, allow better control of access and protect the existing facilities and future projects. The project will also provide resources to build two latrines, repair the adobe-made walls of the little kiosk and build new walls to enclose the open-air structure.



A roofed shelter with cement floor was recently built to provide a better environment for children to meet, play, and implement educational activities. This project has been one of the most successful in the Managua region. 25 children visit the park every day to play and learn and 42 children are enrolled in the different activities that include storytelling, reading campaigns, spelling competitions, traditional games, handcraft making, homework and research support, dance classes, and many other activities. In 2018, the Little House received 4,450 visits, despite the socio-political crisis. Internet access was also recently installed with local resources for community members. This place has become a point of reference families in the community who visit the place for relaxing, playing with their children and chatting with other community inhabitants. Teachers from the local school have recognized the contribution of the Little House of Knowledge. Children who attend the park regularly show better performance than those who don't.

IMPACT:

- A safer and cleaner space for community and educational activities that promote individual and collective development.
- An ideal environment to develop new and innovative hands-on projects for children, youth and adults, including a small vegetable garden, landscaping projects, scientific projects, etc. In this way the center will be promoting a different approach for education, based on learning-by-doing.
- An increase in participation of children, youth and adults in the educational and cultural activities promoted by the park.

42 children and youth are registered as regular users of the *Little House of Knowledge: a World of Fantasy* who will enjoy improved facilities and have a safer space for other hand-on projects, including gardens.

120 children and youth from the elementary and high school in the village and other neighboring education centers, who will access the internet and library services in a safer facility.

500 community inhabitants will feel more secure visiting a community place for recreation, education and human interaction.

7 members of the Self-Help Women Group “Unidas Venceremos” will see their capacity enhanced through the improved facilities by offering additional services to the community.

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION:

We rate this a high priority project. That is based on several factors:

- Existing resources are well used but deteriorating;
- New secure facility will be utilized by multiple groups within the community;
- SOL has an excellent working relationship with the teachers and community;
- TGUP’s productive history of working with SOL.

Summary of project costs (rounded):

Direct materials	\$ 5,841
Direct Labor	\$ 2,514
Funds already raised	\$ - 400
Project Management	\$ 1,591
Total	\$9,546

EL TRIUNFO LRC/PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT 2020

Category	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total cost in US\$
Materials and equipment Fence and Latrines	Cement bags	10.00	20.00	200.00
	Sand (m3)	17.00	3.00	51.00
	Chain-link mesh (100 ft. Roll)	95.00	4.00	380.00
	Quarry stone	1.20	200.00	240.00
	1 1/4" round steel pipe	13.00	82.00	1,066.00
	Steel bars 1/4" qq	38.00	2.00	76.00
	Welding rod box 6011 3/32"	77.00	3.00	231.00
	Cutting disk 7"	3.50	21.00	73.50
	Thinset mix	6.00	13.00	78.00
	Transport	15.00	6.00	90.00
	Latrines	200.00	2.00	400.00
				\$2,885.50
Materials and equipment Kiosk and Open-air Walls	Cement bags	10.00	30.00	300.00
	Sand (m3)	17.00	4.00	68.00
	Gravel	26.00	2.00	52.00
	Cinder Blocks 4"	0.60	400.00	240.00
	3/8" x 6 m. steel rod qq	41.00	1.00	41.00
	Steel bars 1/4" qq	40.00	1.00	40.00
	Tying wire pound	0.75	10.00	7.50
	Wooden board 12" x 1" x 20'	11.35	6.00	68.10
	Wooden board 3" x 1" x 20'	3.00	6.00	18.00
	1" x 1" x 6 m. square pipe	12.85	30.00	385.50
	1x1 1/4" round pipe x 6 m	15.00	6.00	90.00
	Steel expanded mesh	18.00	7.00	126.00
	Welding rod box 6011 3/32"	22.50	1.50	33.75
	Cutting disk 7"	3.58	10.00	35.80
	Anticorrosive paint bucket	60.00	1.00	60.00
	Thinner Gallon	8.00	2.00	16.00
	Paint Bucket	100.00	2.00	200.00
	Paint brushes	1.50	6.00	9.00
	Paint roller	5.00	1.00	5.00
Cement dry wall panel	36.00	5.00	180.00	
Quarries material (truck load)	100.00	5.00	500.00	
				\$2,475.65
Admin Expenses	Transportation	50	8	400
	Food	4	20	80
				\$480.00
Labor	Fence installation (meters)	9	120	1,080
	Meeting room walls sq meters	6	54	324
	Doors and windows mtg. Room	12	30	360
	Field supervision (monthly)	375	2	750
				\$2,514.00
			Total expenses	\$8,355.15
			Funds already raised	-\$ 400.00
			Project Management	\$1,591.03
			Total project	\$9,546.18