

Integral Heart Family School – Antigua Guatemala

Our 5-Year Dream Plan

Updated October, 2024



Education is the heart of our work. Our school is currently home to 65 children with classes in English, Spanish, Homework Help, Art and Playtime and serves 1,500 meals and snacks every month. Since 2010, our programs have delivered classes and support to over 1,200 students and their families in Guatemala. We have also provided over 2,500 food baskets to our 40 sponsored families.

The Integral Heart Family School is a registered charity in the U.S.A and in Guatemala. We are supported by 225 individual monthly donors, 15 major and 750 minor annual donors. Our most recent monthly donor joined us just two weeks prior to writing and our longest standing donor has been with us for over 9.5 years. We incorporated in the U.S. in 2011 and in Guatemala in 2013. For more;

<https://www.integralheartfoundation.org/501c3status.htm>



Dream Plan - The Pet Project

2014-2024: Since we opened our school in 2014, we have, with the help of our staff and students, been able to rescue, spay, neuter and re-home over 500 street dogs and cats.



The Integral Heart Family is fully committed to providing sustenance to those in need. We have been working for the past 11 years with the wellbeing of children and families who have little means of financial stability. Our commitment is fully alive and will continue with equal passion.

But, after years of living and working in Guatemala, we have become involved in the rescue and wellbeing of another very vulnerable part of the population; that of animals.

The streets of Guatemala are full of street dogs and cats trying to survive. On occasion, some of them have had to be rescued from their owners; due to abuse. There seems to be an endless amount of pain and suffering among these lovely creatures and we'd like to alleviate as much of this as possible.

This desire gave way to the birth of the Integral Heart Family PET PROJECT.

This is our Dream
Imagine 65 kids and 65 rescues

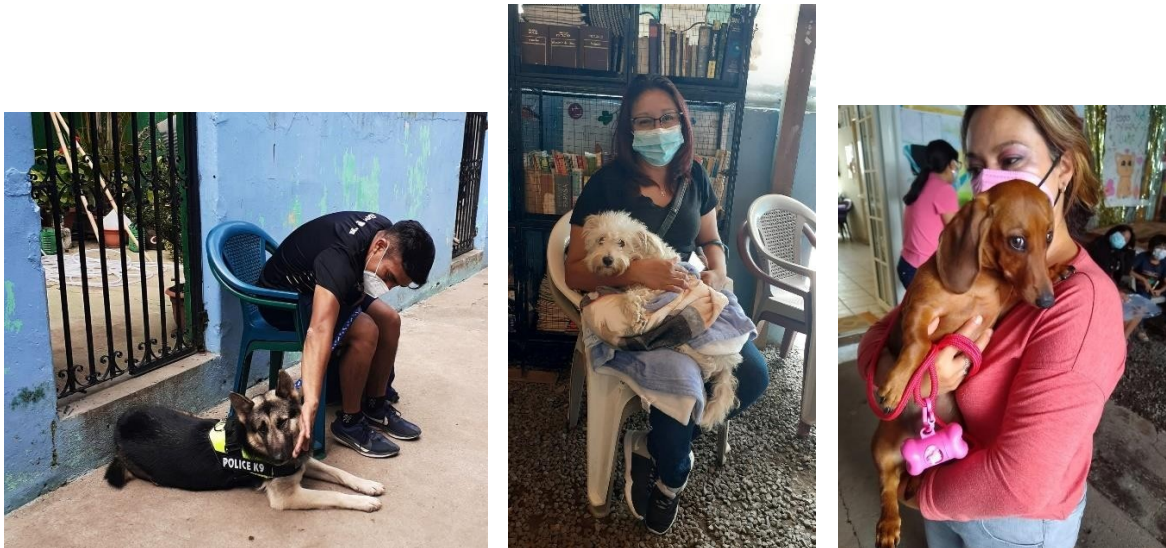
**All together in a loving
and secure location**



On-going history of how we got here; In photos:



2021/2022: We organized 12 spay and neutering clinics at our school



Luring dogs out of their former wild habit.



Getting love at our school.



A street dog shelter that we built.



2014-2019: Since we opened our school, we have also been able to rescue and re-home almost 500 street animals.

The Challenge

Every day more and more cases of abuse, destitution and violence towards animals become evident.

Many of these cases arise from irresponsible owners who keep animals in order to breed them for profit. When they can't procreate anymore these 'owners' just abandon them. The streets are also full of animals, many of whom have never known what it is to have a home.

These animals just survive and procreate bringing new puppies and kittens to the world. Many of them are abused by pedestrians, they are beaten, injured, poisoned, and many times even by children.

The pain inflicted onto these lovely furry friends is heartbreaking.



Debora at the school with 2 rescues



Mick and Deb with Nacho who just needed a dignified passing.

2014-2019: Puppies (9 of them) born at our school to a mommy we rescued from the street. All have new homes now.



Before and after photos of some the Integral Heart rescues.



Lili (above) and Osa (right) were found suckling on their dead mom... here they are 5 months after rescue (above).

Before and after photos of some the Integral Heart rescues.



Pinky was abandoned by his owner because he had a skin condition. We found him, and then rehomed him.

The Solution

We want to create an animal sanctuary where we can take these pets for their recovery, spay/neutering and eventual adoption.

But not just an animal sanctuary; because our students will be taught what it is to care for them.

We are not only removing the pain from these victims but also avoiding more offspring from being born and suffering. We will give them the opportunity of finding lasting love and the warmth of a real home.

On top all of this, if we create the project within the environment of our schools' education programs, we will also teaching the new generations to be kind and compassionate towards animals, and to learn how to treat them as the wonderful beings that they are. By caring for the rescues, our students will learn to give them the respect and love that they deserve.

2018: Street pups born at our school get food, shelter, medicine and love at our school. All adopted to new homes!



Long-Term Impact

Education is the heart of our work. By teaching kids to love all sentient beings, not only we are avoiding present pain but also changing the future.

Our students will become parents, teachers and educators of the new generation and little by little we will all be more kind towards animals and humans, too.

Imagine the impact!



What We Need

Land and Building

We are currently paying rent of \$825 per month. This is actually not a bad price considering the location is in Antigua and that our school director and her family live on-site. But, that's \$99,000 over 10 years.

We can only house a maximum of 7 dogs due to the space (and out of respect for the neighbors).

The first part of our Dream Plan is to purchase a piece of land and build both the school and the sanctuary. The land has to be big enough to host both the classes and the pets with space for a separation/integration of both school and shelter. This land will need to be enclosed completely by a fence or a wall.

The school, based on our experience over the past 11 years needs to have space for at least 7 rooms; one big room for all of the student classes and events, a library room, two bathrooms, kitchen, a storage area, an office, and a living space for the family that takes care of the school. It also needs to have a small playing area for sport activities and games.

The shelter needs space enough for giving a temporary home and good care to an average of 35-65 dogs and a permanent home to those we cannot rehome. In our planning of this expansion, we visited several shelters in Guatemala and have taken the best of what works at each and we plan to integrate this into the Integral Heart Family School / Pet Sanctuary.

This is just one example below of a basic ideal set up for the animal clinic area.



We will need separate areas in the shelter that can accommodate different sizes of dogs and based on their different needs: one for the puppies and small breed dogs, one for the older ones and those who have been injured, one for those who are normal and happy, different gated areas for difficult dogs, a quarantine area for the new arrivals just in case they bring any contagious diseases. We also want to include an infirmary with an outside area with a roof where the dogs can recover, run and play freely.

By law, we need a septic tank which has to be at least 25 meters deep. We need a storage area for food, blankets, cleaning material and so on, a well, a crematorium for the deceased pets. The crematorium can also help us to make our shelter sustainable by charging for those service to pet owners who chose to use it. It will also make them come to our place and open up the possibility of a new adoptions.

We will also need a laundry area that can be put somewhere in the middle between the school and the shelter and offer service to both of them. This will have: two different washing machines in order to clean separately the materials of each one of the projects.

Below you can see pictures of a local shelter that we support from our personal funds, called Amor Animal, to get an idea of what a shelter in Guatemala looks like. We want to model this and improve on their ideas.



Large run area for bigger breeds.



Covered area; this one for small breeds.

Sleeping area.

Laundry and well for water.

Clean blankets always appreciated.





Separate fenced area for difficult or sick dogs.



Septic tank with supply of lime to layer in. Quarantine area for dogs in recovery.

Staff & Operations

Our current full-time school staff of 5 (all Guatemalan) include: two teachers who also help with the cleaning and serving work and share the management of our library and computers; one teacher-in-training; a psychologist (part-time); a Spanish/English teacher (part-time) our school director who is also our social worker, and one chef who, with the help of the team, prepares over 1,500 meals per month.

For the **sanctuary** we would need to add at least 2 additional full-time and 1 part-time person: The two full-time staff main responsibly would be cleaning and maintaining order. Our students will then be encouraged to be involved with the care and love of our animals and in helping us find new homes for them 😊. They will also feed the dogs and make sure they all get their running and play/love time.

We will also need to hire (on contract) a veterinarian (this is a requirement by law). He or she will have to visit at least one day per week to make sure all the dogs are healthy. He will also supply the vaccines, take care of flea control, and de-worm the dogs. He will also be on call in case there is any emergency.

Requirements

Our current annual operating budget for 5 staff, the classes and nutrition programs for our 65 children and the family food-basket program is \$250,000. We expect the shelter to add approximately \$70 - \$90,000 per year in operation cost. The cost of purchasing a piece of land and the construction of the school and sanctuary would be \$300,000 - \$350,000. We have saved 8% of this already. There would be an additional increase in transport cost for our students to and from the new location. As mentioned earlier, we will see savings of \$78,000 over the next ten years in not having to paying rent.

Integral Heart co-founder Mick Quinn used to operate multi-million dollars businesses in N.Y.C and he can easily develop detailed financial projections for this project.

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to see more detailed projections.

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