

Greetings from Venezuela!

In the last couple of years, we in Fundamost (Mustard Tree Missions of Venezuela) have been delivering donated items such as school supplies, medical supplies, baby food, toiletries and toys to people in great need in and around the Maracaibo area.



Rubén & his students

In addition to that we started a scholarship program for Christian students to help pay their University tuition. We know that with a University education young people can get a better job and believe that's the best way to help them out of poverty. Up through last year we could use small donations and part of the money I made teaching to cover the 2 students we had in the program. We managed to do a lot with a little. One of these students (Jose) graduated with a degree in psychology this year and is now seeing clients as part of Fundamost!

This semester the University has increased the tuition tremendously - we need about **\$500 per semester** to cover one student's tuition. Currently we have one person receiving this financial help but we would like to include two or three more young people who need it.



Axel

Axel, our current scholarship recipient, is studying Computer Science. He is 20 years old and comes from a family in which both parents work, but their combined salaries is the equivalent of only \$4 per month. His mother is in need of a pacemaker that costs \$7000 which is impossible under the current conditions. Her wish is for her son to get a University degree that would open doors for him in another country.

There are also 2 young ladies we would like to help. Alejandra is 17 and just finishing high school. She wants to get a technical degree in psychopedagogy (a combination of pedagogy and psychology) in order to help troubled school kids. It is very important for her to obtain this degree as she is the sole provider for herself, her mom and brother.



Alejandra



Victoria

Victoria, another 17 year-old, wants to study psychology. She will be able to get a job as a counselor upon graduation. Here is what she says about her education: *"The reasons why I want to study psychology are diverse: to understand what is behind the actions of a person, to discover why or what leads a person to make certain decisions in the face of different situations, and to recognize the multiple differences and uniqueness that exist within each person. Beyond satisfying my curiosity and expanding my understanding, my vision is to learn how to help people from where it all begins (from what I consider for now): the mind."*

We cannot offer these scholarships without your help. In July I accepted a teaching position in Ciudad Ojeda on the east side of Lake Maracaibo, about an hour's drive from my home. This pays \$300 a month, but it takes \$1,000 a month just for food and transportation. Thankfully, I have a few psychology clients, some tutoring jobs and some internet classes that help cover some expenses. I have been able to take a small portion of my income and, along with the donations we receive, cover a small part of these tuitions, but it is not enough. In order to move ahead we need to raise more funds. I invite you to keep participating with us. Whatever you send will add up and help these bright students secure a more promising future. They are the future of our country and no matter how bleak things look right now we cannot give up on educating the next generation!

May God bless you,

Ruben Turtulici Arrieta, M.Ed.  
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