



Help Educate

International Education Aid Service
www.helpeducate.org

Help Educate and Peace Corps Nicaragua Partnership:

Expanding Scholarship and Leadership Training Opportunities to New Communities

Partnership Objective: Peace Corps volunteers have the opportunity to partner with Help Educate and community leaders in their own sites to develop and manage a scholarship and leadership training initiative. The initiative will empower new Peace Corps communities to provide scholarship and leadership training to young community leaders, while adhering to Help Educate's mission and objective.

Background on Help Educate: Help Educate is an international development organization built on the idea that education has the power to transform individuals and communities.

- We work with local Nicaraguan community leaders to identify students with the greatest potential and provide them scholarships to regional Nicaraguan universities. We currently have partnerships with UCAN, UCATSE and Martin Lutero;
- Our students are from rural communities who attend nearby Nicaraguan universities while living and working at home;
- The scholarships cover tuition at regional universities, typically \$250-\$500 per year and students are expected to cover transportation/food costs, etc;
- Students also receive leadership training and connect with other scholarship recipients from nearby communities;
- Community leaders manage the scholarship selection process and community service projects through a grassroots approach.

Scope of Partnership: In 2013, Help Educate launched a pilot project with Peace Corps Nicaragua that aimed to expand to five additional communities in two years. We were able to successfully add two new communities in 2014 and one in 2015 as well. Once Help Educate opens its scholarship program in a community, the organization continues to provide one new scholarship per community as long as the committee continues to operate transparently according to Help Educate guidelines – a legacy for both the Peace Corps volunteer and the founding committee!

PCV Involvement: Working in conjunction with well-established community-based organizations or local committees, PCVs would help facilitate their community's application process, oversee the establishment of the local selection committee, train the selection committee in setting up Help Educate's program according to pre-established guidelines, and act as a liaison between Help Educate and the committee during the startup phase. The PCV is encouraged to continue engaging with the Community Selection Committee and is invited to collaborate with Help Educate after s/he completes service.

Application Process: Applications from rural communities in Las Segovias (Nueva Segovia, Madriz, y Esteli) will be considered. PCVs who are working with well-established community based organizations or committees can apply to enter Help Educate's program. The outline of the process is listed below.

1. PCV consults with community and fills out application form. The application deadline is **November 20, 2016**. Please email applications to Melissa at mmatlock@helpeducate.org.
2. The Help Educate team will review all applications and decide on finalists.
3. Help Educate's Nicaragua-based Program Manager will visit finalist communities.
4. Help Educate will make a final decision and let communities know by December 31, 2016.
5. The Program Manager will visit and train the community committee on our selection methodology and the first scholarship selection will happen in January 2017.

For any questions, please contact Melissa Matlock at mmatlock@helpeducate.org.