
MAIA (formerly Starfish): Featured (2012), Sustained (2016-2018)



Project Title: Connecting talent with opportunity among Girl Pioneers in rural Guatemala

Project Summary: Leverage Starfish's success and female leadership to create an all-girl flagship school to empower and educate a generation of female leaders in rural Guatemala.

Project Objectives: At the conclusion of this three-year project, Guatemala will have its first all-girl middle school to prepare high-aptitude, first-generation "everything" girls to be competitive at a local, national, and international level. The school would be unique due to its ability to combine rigorous academics with an equally intentional focus on the elements of culture and community, thus ensuring the empowerment of each girl within and outside of her indigenous culture.

Direct Reach: 2500 girls

Grant pays for:

Human resources

Professional development

Material resources

Direct student costs

Why we love this project: By being born poor, rural, Mayan, and female in Guatemala, a young woman confronts quadruple discrimination within a system designed without her needs in mind. This initiative will empower and unlock the talent of adolescent female leaders in rural Mayan Guatemala capable of enacting and leading transformational change in a country in desperate need of its female human potential.