

August 2018 Featured Grantee ConTextos



Izalco, Sonsonate , El Salvador

Introducing ConTextos



ConTextos reimagines incarceration as an opportunity for reflection and rehabilitation. It recognizes the unique demands and opportunities for women raising their children in prison. ConTextos believes in the transformative power of stories. Its Soy Autor and Soy Lector programs give incarcerated women and their children the skills to write their stories for themselves and the public and to immerse themselves in the written word.

Where in the world?

- **El Salvador**
- **Homicide capital of the world**
- **Deadliest country in Latin America**
- **Smallest, most densely populated country in Central America**
- **20% live abroad after fleeing civil war between 1979 and 1992**
- **18% of GDP is money sent home**
- **35% live in poverty**
- **Sterilization rate in women among the highest in Latin America**
- **Steep birth rate decline since 70s**



Life Challenges of the Women Served



- Endure sexual, physical, and psychological violence
- Statutory rape is widespread
- 70% of sexual violence victims are girls under age 20
- Highest rate of femicide in Latin America
- Child marriage was only made illegal in 2017
- Women often end up in prison because of crimes committed by their husbands and boyfriends – this is considered “normal.”

Life Challenges of the Women Served



- **Children are raised in a violent male-dominated society**
- **No social supports exist**
- **Only 20% of schools have adequate reading materials**
- **Reading at school is infrequent and almost non-existent at home**
- **Sense of hopelessness: “That’s just the way it is.”**

What are we supporting?



A 3-Pronged Program for Incarcerated Women and Their Children:

- **Training 35 Literacy Leaders**
- **Initiating Soy Autor (I am an author) and Soy Lector (I am a reader) workshops**
- **Developing and maintaining a library**

Direct Impact: 35 women and 184 children ages birth – 5 years

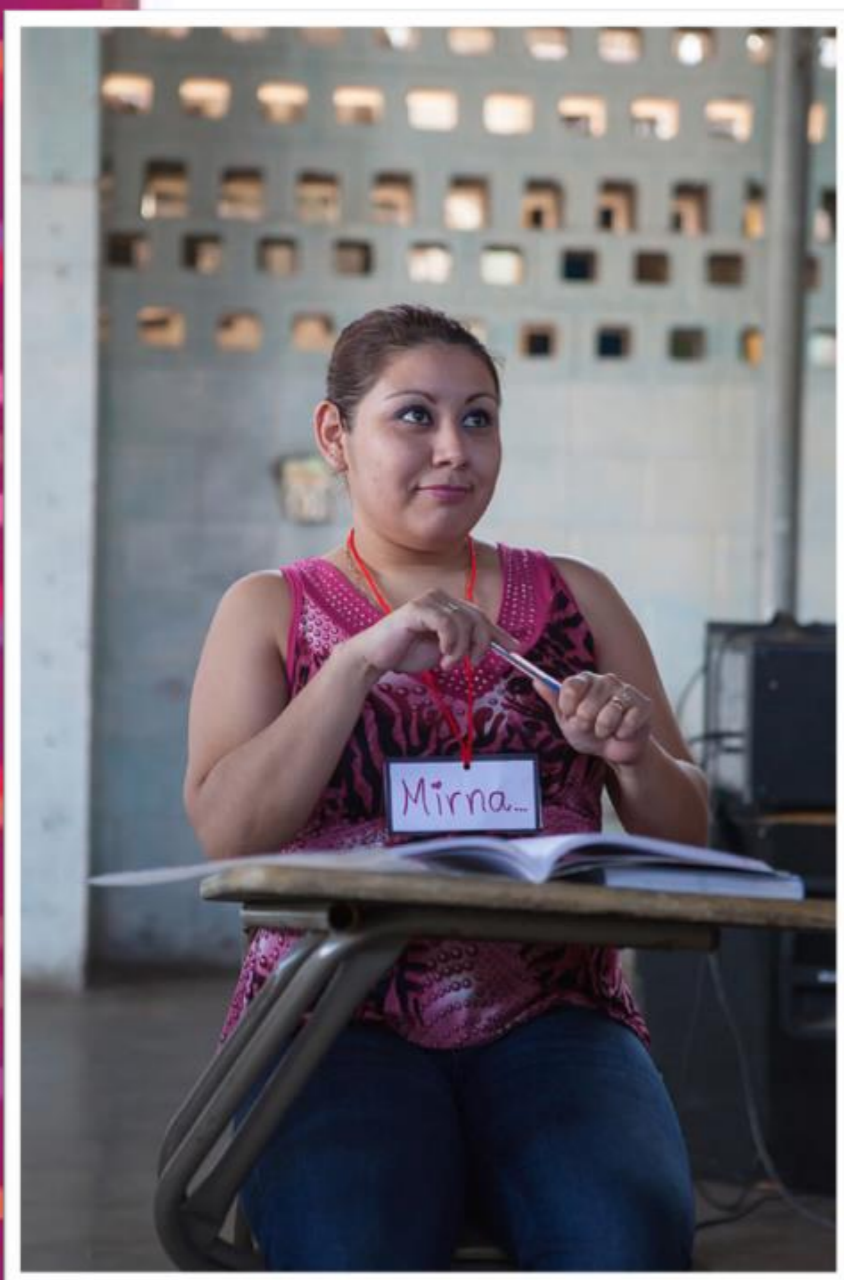
Indirect Impact: 418 women

Budget

How DFW's grant of \$49,763 will be used

| Item | | Total |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Personnel | Headquarters – Administration and finance, development and communications | \$4,752 |
| Personnel | Programming – Teacher trainers, coordinators, associates, monitoring and evaluation coordinator, graphic designer, security and logistics assistant | \$21,821.76 |
| Travel | Transportation to implementation site, travel for purchase of program materials | \$1,571.40 |
| Program Supplies | Books, shelves, paint, printing and publishing, computers, refreshments, awareness events | \$21,618 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | \$49,763.16 |

About the Featured Grantee



- **Founded in 2010 by Debra Gittler and Zoila Recinos**
- **3-yr teacher training program trains K-9 teachers in literacy best practices**
- **The Soy Autor Social Emotional Learning Curriculum targets young people affected by violence and trauma**
- **After ConTextos, students use books every day and engage regularly in read-alouds**

Share Your Thoughts

1. How do you think reading and writing will be therapeutic to the beneficiaries of this project?
2. What societal changes might occur after the public is made aware of the prisoners' stories?
3. Once released, how might these women take what they have learned into their communities?

 Changing the world one dinner at a time