

SB Scholarship Program

The SB Scholarship Program provides finances and support to gifted young people from poor backgrounds who are affiliated with one of our partner organizations. Young men and women at social risk between the ages of 16 and 18 who lack family ties and in some cases have suffered abuse or abandonment are targeted for the program.

Background

Our partner organizations are typically unable to provide sufficient financial support to the young men and women in their care to pursue higher education studies. For this reason Sustainable Bolivia has set up a scholarship program, the aim of which is to facilitate the provision of quality higher education thus improving their opportunities in the future while potentially helping them and their families financially.

The Scholarship Program focuses on providing substantial financial assistance to a group of young people each year so that they can complete courses in higher education. The scholarship generally covers the following: inscription, tuition and graduation from the relevant institution, as well as other essential costs like transport and materials.

The Program supports those who wish to study at the San Simón University, Cochabamba's principal public university (and the most prestigious in the country) or a technical institute recognized by the Ministry of Education. Sustainable Bolivia, together with the relevant partner organization, selects each young person according to the following criteria: academic performance, socio-economic background, family situation, and future ambitions.

Who we work with

The three organizations supporting young people who we are working with for this Program are:

La Colonia
Mosoj Yan
CAICC

La Colonia is a center providing school help to adolescents aged between 15 and 19 with family problems from a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Cochabamba. One of the focal points of the center is to provide the necessary tools for these adolescents to lead independent lives and access study and work opportunities in the future. All of the adolescents go to school and many are high achievers. A large proportion wish to continue their studies at university.

Mosoj Yan offers rehabilitation and prevention services to young women who live or who have lived on the street. With two homes for at risk girls aged between 12 and 18 years old, the organization aims to reintegrate them into society through the development of their life skills and professional opportunities. One of the major challenges in the last stage of their rehabilitation is to help them gain decent employment, to allow them to support themselves, their children and their families. Unfortunately many

of these young women do not receive sufficient help to be able to study and without the necessary professional training are not able to secure work in the future.

CAICC tackles the problem of children and adolescents from Cochabamba who have suffered the effects of the migration of their parents abroad or who live with their families in prisons. The center offers a safe environment for approximately 120 young people aged between 7 and 18, where they receive help with their school work, participate in extracurricular activities in art, music, sport and cooking, and are provided with food. Many of these young people have important plans for the future such as to study university degrees, but are not able to realize their dreams due to the lack of financial support.

Format of the program

1. Application

Any young person who has received support from one of the three organizations we are working with on this Program (La Colonia, Mosoj Yan or CAICC) from 2009 may apply for a scholarship. The application process consists of the following:

- Application form
- Provision of documents such as birth certificate and ID card
- Autobiographical essay
- Interview with two members of the SB team

The selection of scholars is made following consultation between Sustainable Bolivia and the partner organization. Both parties reserve the right to reject an application.

2. Scholarship amounts and donors

The studies cost approximately \$850 for a year-long technical course and \$4000 for a 4-year university degree. These totals include enrolment, tuition, graduation, transport, exams, books and additional materials required by the student.

The scholarship covers the above items but does not cover costs of accommodation or food. Other costs may only be covered if strictly linked to the young person's studies and approved by Sustainable Bolivia.

The funding of the scholarships will come from individual donors and institutions which support programs assisting disadvantaged young people. It is hoped that links will be developed between donors and the young people who directly benefit from their contributions.

3. Conditions

3.1 Communication

Sustainable Bolivia's model of intervention is based on maintaining an excellent level of communication with its partner organizations and also with the children and adolescents whom it supports. We value the importance of formal and informal meetings with our partners because they allow us to keep abreast of

their achievements and challenges; and together in partnership we can generate better systems of support and mutual gain.

For this reason we propose close and regular contact with the recipients of our scholarships through the following:

- A monthly meeting between the scholar and a member of SB staff
- The student is expected to present all certificates of course marks, academic reports and/or evaluations by his/her supervisor

3.2 Other Requirements

The scholarship program proposes certain requirements to be met by the students. These requirements have the aim of motivating the students to complete their studies successfully, and making them aware that we have expectations related to the progress and eventual completion of their studies. We also want to show our individual donors the progress of each student, providing information on the development and outcomes of their studies in a transparent way.

Attendance

We require that each scholar has a 100% attendance record throughout the course of study. Circumstances such as illness and family commitments will be taken into account, provided that the foundation is notified.

Academic Performance

We propose that each student is in the top 20% of his/her class. We will offer individual support in case of difficulties. It is hoped that this will incentivize the students to maximize their potential as well as have a clearly defined goal throughout their studies.

Completion

It is hoped that each student will complete his/her studies and gain the relevant diploma or degree. We acknowledge that without this, the student will not have the qualifications required to gain appropriate employment in the future.

For further information about the SB Scholarship Program, please write to information@sustainablebolivia.org.