

"I was rescued from my destiny."

**Nayeli Ruiz**

From the slums of Agua Prieta, México  
to a University degree in Industrial Engineering

**RANCHO FELIZ "GUARDIAN WARRIOR"  
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP  
SPONSOR PROGRAM**

**Educational Partnership  
Funding Request**

Rancho Feliz Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
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"Education is the most powerful weapon to change  
the world."

**Nelson Mandela**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## WHY IS THIS A “PARTNERSHIP” FUNDING REQUEST?

Rancho Feliz is a grassroots organization **VOLUNTEERING** since 1987 in the struggling border community of Agua Prieta, Mexico (population 150,000 and a 4 hour drive south of Scottsdale, Arizona).

Over the decades we have nurtured enduring cross-cultural relationships that allow us to operate efficiently in a complex international setting. We have one agenda – to leverage our time and donations for the greatest global good.

What if you could partner with a proven group of determined volunteers and donors?

**Your funds - partnered with our funds, time, energy, passion and a lifetime of experience.**

## HISTORY

Experience has taught us that the single largest return on our charitable investment is **EDUCATION**. And the best education is a carefully composed curriculum emphasizing English and computer skills taught by well-trained teachers.

## OUT OF REACH

Unfortunately, the average factory wage in Agua Prieta hovers around \$10 per day - \$3,000 per year. Yet the cost of goods is 80% of ours here in Scottsdale. Most students and their families simply cannot afford quality education. And once a child’s schooling is compromised his or her fate is sealed. High drop-out rates, illiteracy and grinding poverty breed a life of hopelessness. Drugs, prostitution and illegal immigration flourish in this garden of despair.

## SOLUTION

In 1999 Rancho Feliz established a “Culture of Education” by building a visionary 3½-acre residential community commonly referred to as “Vecinos”. Here children are educated from 40-days of age at our on-site Child Care Facility. In addition, Rancho Feliz formed an educational alliance with two private bi-lingual schools: Colegio Americano Anais, for grades kindergarten, elementary and junior high and Colegio Benemerito de Las Americas for high school.

## RANCHO FELIZ’S EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Agua Prieta Schools	Mexico Grade	USA Grade	Years	Approximate Ages
Vecinos Child Care	Infant Brain Development	N/A	3	40 days - 3
Colegio Anais	Kinder	Kindergarten	2	4 & 5
Colegio Anais	Primaria	Elementary	7	6 - 12
Colegio Anais	Secundaria	Junior High	3	13, 14, 15
Benemerito	Colegio/Preparatoria	High School	3	16, 17, 18

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

To fund these private educations\* Rancho Feliz established the "Guardian Warrior" Private Scholarship Sponsor Program. This Program averages 65 students per year. And the results are unprecedented. All Vecinos children now speak English and conduct their schoolwork on computers.

\*Rancho Feliz also sponsors approximately 200 public high school scholarships per year. This effort is known as the Barrio Scholarship Program.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Rancho Feliz does not believe in, nor practice, welfare. To acquire and maintain a Rancho Feliz scholarship requires, among other responsibilities: initial and yearly essay applications, minimum grade point averages, monthly volunteer work, parental/guardian financial statements, parental/guardian co-pay and active student solicitation of supplemental scholarships. It is important to Rancho Feliz that both the student and his or her parents/guardians are personally invested in the child's education.

**"Each additional year a child stays in school  
increases  
his or her earning capacity by 10%."  
World Bank**

## **UNIVERSITY - A DREAM NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE**

Over the last decade Rancho Feliz's scholarship programs have been so successful that many students are now graduating high school eager to enter university. For most this is a dream never thought possible. Accordingly, Rancho Feliz has established the:

### **RANCHO FELIZ "GUARDIAN WARRIOR" UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR PROGRAM**

Rancho Feliz encourages its scholarship students to study in their home country of Mexico. In this way, future generations can help Mexico transition from a third world country into a first world country - providing educational and employment opportunities for all its citizens.

## **STATE UNIVERSITIES IN MEXICO**

The educational quality of state universities in Mexico is recognized as high. Accordingly, Rancho Feliz offers scholarships to any state sponsored university in the country of Mexico. There are over 80 such universities available to Rancho Feliz "Guardian Warrior" University Scholarship students.

**"With over three decades of charitable work on the  
Mexican border we have learned that our progress at  
Rancho Feliz  
can be no faster than our progress in education."**

## **MINIMUM GRADE POINT**

Academic grading in Mexico employs a decimal system, from 0 to 10, to measure the students' scores. (1 low – 10 high) A minimum grade point of 8.0 is required to be eligible for and to maintain a Rancho Feliz “Guardian Warrior” University Scholarship.

## **RENEWAL**

Once a student is accepted into the Program they need to re-apply each year. However, all scholarships are reviewed on a per semester basis. In this way the students' grades are monitored allowing for responsive intervention should problems arise.

## **PARENTAL CO-PAY AGREEMENT (Cross-Border Partners in Education)**

Rancho Feliz does not believe in welfare. Accordingly, each family must sign a Parental Co-Payment Agreement and contribute \$30 per month towards their child's tuition. In the Agua Prieta economy this is a significant contribution. And while monetarily it's not much to Rancho Feliz, it's the concept of contribution that the charity is promoting. This is not a hand-out. Parents are investing in the education of their children.

**NOTE:** Working between USA dollars (“dollars”) and MX pesos (“pesos”) is a challenge. We collect from sponsors in dollars and collect the parental co-pay amounts in pesos. The exchange rate between these two currencies can adjust daily – sometimes hourly. In an effort to be fair, Rancho Feliz uses a five (5) year “look back” to establish an average exchange rate over that period of time. The year the scholarship is issued (all scholarships are issued only one year at a time), will determine the “look back” exchange rate and the monthly peso amounts due for that year. Because of the fluctuating currencies, the monthly peso amounts will change with each new year. But by using a 5-year average there should be no dramatic annual increases or reductions.

## **PAYING IT FORWARD**

Rancho Feliz believes that education is the only viable solution to the poverty and economic inequity that cripples Mexico. An educated populace can demand transparency, accountability and opportunity. To further achieve this vision, each scholarship recipient must agree in writing to fund a 7-year, public high school and university curriculum for an upcoming deserving student. This “Pay it Forward” obligation totals \$2,260.00US and can be paid in full, or in installments, within 4 years of graduation.

Many students in the USA graduate owing student loans. The “Pay if Forward” commitment is viewed as the Rancho Feliz equivalent. So when you fund a Rancho Feliz “Guardian Warrior” University Scholarship you set in motion an educational ripple effect. Your gift will keep on educating for countless generations to come.

## **CHARITABLE LEVERAGE**

Unlike many charitable projects, the Rancho Feliz “Guardian Warrior” University Scholarship Program leverages enormous value from your sponsorship investment through:

- Coordination through its IRS registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit status so your charitable donation is tax-deductible

- Rancho Feliz's volunteer-based, low-overhead format allows your investment to support the Program, not administrative perks and life-styles
- Local expertise in negotiating reduced tuition rates
- The cross-cultural knowledge and dexterity that comes from working on the border for 3 decades
- The value proposition of the U.S. dollar to the Mexican peso
- A "Pay it Forward" obligation that insures your donation will result in ongoing scholarships

It costs so little to educate a boy or a girl, but it costs the planet a fortune not to educate them.

## **INVESTMENT**

University eligible students have worked through staggering border-town challenges. Help us get them across the educational finish line.

The university curriculum in Mexico is nine (9) semesters (4½ years). The total per year Scholarship requirement is **\$4,500**, which includes contributions towards tuition, housing, books, food, travel, field trips, etc. This tax-deductible donation can be paid in one lump sum or in monthly installments of **\$375**. Scholarship Sponsors can include individuals, families, businesses, churches, schools, civic groups and even a selection of friends.

Upon becoming a Sponsor you will receive a photograph and biography of your Sponsorship student, periodic letters and e-mails written in English by your student, grade reports and other updates of interest. Many of our Sponsorships have developed into lasting international friendships.

**Students' futures are waiting for you:** Go to: [www.ranchofeliz.com](http://www.ranchofeliz.com)

Pick out a child under "University Scholarships" and fill in: "Donation & payment details"

**"With our University Scholarship Program in place we can now shepherd the educational destiny of these children from 40 days of age up and through university.**

**This is how we change the world."**

**Rancho Feliz**