



Literacy Changes Lives

Project Proposal

XPLORE #201502



Why El Salvador?

El Salvador is in high need of educational resources.

Estimated illiteracy rate is 12%. Some public school class sizes have student counts as high as 50 children per class.



What can the impact of reading resources have?

Books are learning tools, they are gateways to new experiences and they help expand our knowledge of the world around us.

What can books mean to school children in El Salvador?

Books provide opportunities. Opportunities to grow, learn, and spread knowledge.

What does literacy mean for a community?

Literacy encourages growth for an individual and the world around them. Stronger communities promote equality and awareness of local and global issues.

The Plan

I will be visiting a primary and secondary school in El Salvador. Upon my arrival at each school I will bring a box of books to distribute to teachers and students. I will document this process with pictures and notes of reactions from the students and teachers.

I have contacted a few organizations that have expressed an interest in helping me distribute books to schools in El Salvador.

Colleagues will be able to follow the journey on my blog. I will be speaking to teachers and students to create a sense of literary needs and the impact of donating books has on a school in need.





There are schools all over the world that need additional resources, even some in our own communities. I have seen the generosity though, of organizations in our area, rising up to help schools. With individuals, organizations, and classroom teachers contributing to make reading accessible for their schools.

My hope is that colleagues will see the impact that it makes in an extremely high need area. An area, like others across the world where individuals, organizations, and teachers do not have any additional funds to supplement classrooms.

I would like my blog to bring awareness. Many of us travel to beautiful locations around the world and have limited interaction within integral parts of a community. This is a small step to change that.

Two passions that I have are traveling and reading. Surfing is a physical activity that I have enjoyed over years and has taken me to different destinations and the opportunity to explore different areas both near and far.

I heard a student once tell his teacher that reading is fun and something you can relate to your own life. Reading is indeed not just a way to learn information but a way to relate towards others and their ideas.



When the XPLORE project was shown to us, I thought about the things I enjoy doing and how I can spread that joy to others. Several of the surfing destinations I have traveled to are in countries that are in high need of outside help. Many of us find ourselves in countries that offer affordable, beautiful accommodations and resources for fun-filled vacations.

These same countries are often struggling economically. This brought up the big question...what can I do? How can I contribute to a community that has given me a wonderful traveling experience?

I can become involved. I can share books with communities in need and share my experience with others.



My personal goal, is to start contributing to the communities I visit. My hope is that my project will bring awareness and generosity forward in others.

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

— Winston S. Churchill

“A book is a gift you can open again and again.”

—Garrison Keillor

