



The Gen Now Youth Impact Leaders program, implemented by Fundación Crisálida (d.b.a. Glasswing, International), laid the foundation for the Central American Service Corps (CASC). CASC will provide youth, ages 15-29 with opportunities to advance and contribute to the development of their communities, giving them stronger roots, resilience and hope.

Glasswing engaged youth, private sector, academia, think tanks, civil society organizations, and local and national public administration institutions in the co-creation of the CASC model. In addition to diverse stakeholder engagement, a robust learning agenda that generated evidence-based information on youth initiatives informed the design of a business model and standard operating procedures to implement CASC.

Based on lessons learned from pop-up service experiences and a Youth Community Service Pilot, USAID/Guatemala will scale its CASC implementation to reach 25,000 youth nationally over five years, with an investment of \$50 million dollars and a 1:1 leverage match. CASC will provide youth with academic, technical, and soft skills training; engaging them in meaningful community service and social impact experiences; and linking youth to continued educational opportunities, civic engagement, and employment.

RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH AND DESIGN PHASE:

Stakeholder Engagement

Guatemala and Honduras

- Individuals engaged: 1,358
- Institutions engaged: 122
- 300 youth interviewed 1,400 of their peers.
- 2,000 individuals engaged in pop-up service experiences.

Pilot Program

- 60 youth volunteered as reading and math tutors.
- 1,755 third grade students tutored.
- 94% of students attained a minimum grade-level proficiency in reading skills.
- 78% of students attained a minimum grade-level proficiency in math skills.

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PILOT

The Youth Community Service Pilot trained 60 youth in soft skills, social-emotional learning, and the Teaching at the Right Level methodology to prepare them to tutor elementary school students in reading and math; and provided youth volunteers with a stipend while they participated in the pilot. Learn about the community service experience from our volunteers:

Sandra F. (29 years old)

**Aldea Buenavista, Municipio de San Juan Ostuncalco,
Quetzaltenango**



Participating in the Central American Service Corps after the USAID Puentes project was an unexpected turning point in my life. My name is Sandra, my world revolves around my 5-year-old daughter and I aspire to obtain a degree in education. From the first interview with Glasswing, I realized that my role as a volunteer would not be conventional. Working with children in a non-traditional setting excited me, and soon I found myself immersed in a project that not only

addressed academic needs but also promoted personal and community development.

The Central American Service Corps became an enriching experience as I integrated social-emotional learning into my lessons, going beyond teaching mathematics and language arts. The children, with their open hearts, responded with joy and affection. Seeing them work together towards common goals, overcoming barriers and stigmas, has been a touching testimony to what volunteer service can achieve. If I could convey something to young people, I would tell them to dare to participate, to break down barriers, and to contribute to their community and the country as a whole. The Central American Service Corps not only transforms lives but also strengthens the social fabric of the community and builds a more hopeful future for everyone.

Fabio M. (22 years old)

Quetzaltenango, Cantón Choqui Bajo

Before joining Glasswing's Youth Impact Leaders, I had modest aspirations and barely paid attention to my community. The leadership program opened my eyes, revealing the pressing needs in my community and motivating me to look beyond my initial complacency.

I began to think about how I could contribute to the well-being of others. The Central American Service Corps provided that opportunity, so I

decided to take on the challenge of teaching children, not only because I know how important education is, but also because I wanted to shatter conformity and nurture a different mindset, one that fosters a positive outlook in life for these children.



My involvement in the Central American Service Corps has been transformative, molding my attitude, fostering democratic leadership, and instilling a positive outlook. I

gained far more than workforce skills—it has been an opportunity for personal growth. Thanks to CASC, I have strengthened community ties and actively contributed to the well-being of children in my community. The most moving part of my volunteer service is seeing how enthusiastic the children are to study with me, and it motivates me to see them so attentive and eager to learn.

Mariana Alejandra (27 years old)
San Marcos Cabecera,
currently residing in Quetzaltenango

Since I was little, I wished to develop empathy within myself. I experienced a lot of bullying as a child, which led me to understand people and accept them as they are. I moved to Quetzaltenango to study at university, and chose Industrial Psychology for its focus on understanding human behavior.



When I began volunteering as an academic tutor in the Central American Service Corps, it came as no surprise that I immediately took notice of a little girl named Kristel who was

quiet and did not participate in class. I discovered that she had medical issues that made speech and hearing difficult, and that she was ostracized by her classmates for being different. I decided to start teaching everyone sign language. The other girls were interested in learning and began to include Kristel who slowly came out of her shell.

Perhaps what I did is not noteworthy, but even if what I contributed is only a small grain of sand, it was fulfilling to help someone. My hope is that I planted a seed of compassion in the students. I now want to learn Braille and advocate for children and inclusion. The opportunity to volunteer with the Central American Service Corps has made me more committed to making a difference in the lives of others.