



Glen Nimnicht Scholarship Fund:

A real contribution to Colombia's early childhood public policy

Early childhood, the stage in life cycle between gestation and six years of age, is key in the development of every human being. There is strong empirical evidence showing that the **attention and care** received by children during these early years have a significant impact on their health, learning capacity, quality of life and successful performance in society. Investments in early childhood are the best and most cost-effective alternative for the creation and qualification of human resources.

The support and guidance provided by adults -fathers, mothers, teachers and caregivers- to children under six is a **window of opportunity** to promote physical, intellectual, moral, social and emotional development. The **challenge** is to improve the capacities and skills of the adults so they can provide quality care for vulnerable children.

The **Glen Nimnicht Scholarship Fund (GNSF)** was created in 2006 by two Colombian non profit foundations: the International Center for Education and Human Development - CINDE, and the Fondo para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez.

The fund is a real contribution to two objectives of the national policy for Early Child Care and Development: (a) qualifying service providers with the purpose of enhancing quality; and (b) promoting human talent, training and research in early childhood.

The Scholarship Fund recognizes the commitment of Glendon P. Nimnicht with child development in the Americas and particularly, in Colombia. This renowned researcher and international consultant founded the first nursery school in Greeley, Colorado, United States, in 1963. The school offered programs for children of Spanish-Indian descent, who faced harsh social exclusion. The institution became a training center for educators from the well known program *Head Start* and was later adopted as a model by many school districts in the United States of America. In the late sixties, Nimnicht and his Colombian wife, Marta Arango (PhD in Education and Sociolinguistics), returned to Colombia and created the International Center for Education and Human Development- CINDE. CINDE Foundation has trained thousands of specialists working for the wellbeing of children in Central and South America.

CINDE and the Fondo brought together their extensive experience in research and early childhood education, fund administration and demand driven processes in order to guarantee the effective and transparent management of the Scholarship Fund.

GNSF receives and evaluates applications for scholarships from **people with low incomes** or with **limited opportunities for education**, and allocates training and research grants in early childhood. Scholarships are assigned on a competitive basis throughout the year. These calls for proposals are widely publicized through the website www.cinde.org.co/fondodebecasgn, in regional workshops and mass media.

The fund's monitoring and evaluation system **registers and reports** progress in management, results and impacts.



- ✓ Represents a valuable opportunity for human resource training and early childhood research, providing access to people who lack the means for this;
- ✓ Significantly improves the capabilities, skills and knowledge of the grantees, enhancing the quality of the services they provide to families and children under six, primarily in poor and marginalized communities;
- ✓ Demands a serious commitment from the scholars;
- ✓ Supports different educational modalities depending on the conditions and possibilities of each region of the country;
- ✓ Positively influences the creation of new quality educational alternatives by academia and other sources, and
- ✓ Has a clear potential to influence public policy.

GNSF has a sustainable financial mechanism that allows for long-term investments in support of public policy. The fund is backed by an endowment sub account, created within the Account of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI), managed by the Fondo para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez. The financial returns from this sub account are used to leverage resources from other interested parts, such as CINDE Foundation.

The fund has three **main challenges**: (1) to incorporate new private and public partners, both as contributors of capital to the sub account and as co financers of the scholarship programs; (2) to achieve a broader geographic coverage, especially in places where children face higher vulnerability and the institutional supply is lacking; and (3) to develop creative strategies in order to stimulate more and better research proposals.

We invite you to participate in this initiative.



“(…) the Scholarship has been an opportunity for my growth, qualification and learning of new skills; it has allowed me to explore other processes, meet people and change paradigms from my feelings and thoughts, which of course I have done my best to implement not only in my life, but also in my work as a community promoter. The Scholarship strengthened my knowledge on the responsibility I have towards families and, especially, towards boys and girls.

It has made me realize that I need to continue this learning process, to allow me to become, every day, better in the life project I have chosen. Serve others and, I will say it again, especially boys and girls”.

(Dora Jannett Osorio)

Glen Nimmicht Scholarship Fund
Calle 77 Sur No. 43 A 27 - Sabaneta
PBX: 4+444 84 24 ext 120 (Bogotá: 533 52 19 ext 120)
Mobile phone: 300 4849455
Skype: hernanrestrepocinde
Web page: <http://www.cinde.org.co/fondodebecasgn.htm>
Institutional email: fondodebecasgn@cinde.org.co