



## BUILD in GUATEMALA

"Guatemala is a country of many **contrasts**... There are two worlds here...there is a society of **survival**, a society with many **needs**..." -former Congressional Vice-President, Guatemala City

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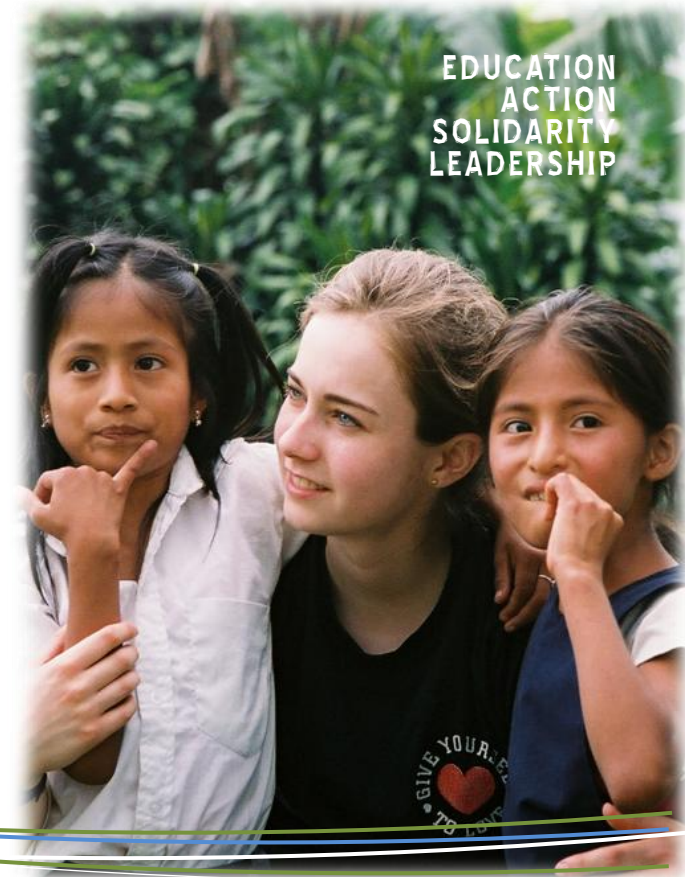
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Theta Delta Chi



**TecsChange**  
Technology for Social Change



EDUCATION  
ACTION  
SOLIDARITY  
LEADERSHIP

### The BUILD Philosophy

Intercultural understanding is crucial when working towards sustainable development around the world. BUILD believes that the development process itself, with time, fosters that crucial sense of international mutualism and understanding. Small initiatives and small connections that our generation makes with people in the developing world will inevitably lead to an increase in the number of sustainable and empowered communities as well as a greater global network of cooperation and respect. BUILD, as a student initiative, holds that by acting in the sustainable development process, we can achieve not only a more equitable, just world, but we can create a sense of understanding between dissimilar populations, and our mutual understanding will influence the way that we view the world and the way that we, as future leaders, will choose to act in it for the benefit of others.



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“We have to transition from a culture of confrontation to a culture of cooperation” -UNDP, Guatemala office

Building Understanding through International Learning and Development (**BUILD**) is an interdisciplinary student program of the Institute of Global Leadership at Tufts University. BUILD seeks to educate and immerse students in the theory and practice of sustainable development by partnering with rural communities in the developing world to research and implement sustainable initiatives for human, social, and economic development.

## program pillars: education.action.solidarity.leadership

### EDUCATION

BUILD strives, through pre-trip preparation and a semester-long course, to educate students on sustainable development, a term and process combining economics, anthropology, political science, and principles of social and environmental justice.

### ACTION

The Program fosters direct interaction between its students and those living in developing communities, where students spend time working and researching in order to gain practical experience, deepen their knowledge of local needs and histories, and to cultivate ideas for future projects.

### SOLIDARITY

Direct interaction and collaboration with the BUILD partner community produces a crucial sense of solidarity between Tufts undergraduate students and those in the developing world.

### LEADERSHIP

The research and projects conducted through the program enable BUILD students to develop their leadership abilities in a context similar to that of a small development organization. Grant writing, literary reviews, logistical planning, and fundraising are all responsibilities of BUILD students during their time in the Program.

## The Evolution of the BUILD Program

The BUILD Program was founded in 2002 by two Tufts undergraduates passionate about economic development in Latin America. The pair of students designed a course through the Experimental College on the subject to pursue the issues in an academic setting with their peers. After bringing their fledgling program under Tufts' Institute for Global Leadership, they led a team of students over winter break to Nicaragua to participate first hand in the development of a rural community in the Siuna region. The BUILD Program continued in this pattern for six years, sending students each January to work with Bridges to Community, a New York-based NGO that facilitated a variety of development projects in which Tufts students could directly participate with members of their partner community in Siuna.

In 2008, BUILD began to evolve under new leadership which sought to provide a more direct and challenging experience to BUILD students, both in the field and in the academic setting. To facilitate this change, BUILD made the decision to switch its location to Guatemala, a country with poverty, malnutrition, and illiteracy rates some of the highest in the Western Hemisphere. In May and June of 2008, ten students went to Guatemala and began researching with NGOs, politicians, and rural communities directly involved in the armed conflict and reconstruction process, with the ultimate goal of finding a new partner community with which BUILD could form an independent, lasting relationship.



BUILD is sponsored by the EMPOWER program of the INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

EMPOWER, a Clinton Global Initiative commitment, seeks to promote social entrepreneurship among Tufts' students