

School, Office, and Assorted Furniture from Columbia University Alberto Cabrales School, Nicaragua

The Alberto Cabrales School in Nicaragua provides 727 children with their education from preschool to 6th grade. IRN partnered with Columbia University and the American Nicaraguan Foundation (ANF) to provide this learning center with the essential tools towards a better education.

Most of these classrooms were previously equipped with desks and chairs that were broken, or simply non-existent. IRN, Columbia University and the American Nicaraguan Foundation were able to connect previously unneeded equipment to the school – all at the simple cost of not putting these items into the landfill.

Does reuse make a difference? You bet it does. In the words of ANF:



Wilmer Antonio Zamora, 12 years old and in 5th grade (shown left), is sitting at a chair-desk from IRN and Columbia. Before these chairs arrived, he told ANF staff that he had to rush to get first into class, in order to have a chance on a good chair. Otherwise he would have to be resigned to sit on some old broken chair. Sometimes this caused conflicts among Wilmer and his classmates, because they would all go for the best chairs. Now he and his classmates have their own chairs; he is happy he won't have to fight any more and enjoys doing his school work comfortably in his own chair.

Another student, Justin Brayan Martinez, 14 years old, was getting low grades due to many errors he made while doing his school work. He explained to ANF staff that this was caused by the fact that he always had to sit on a chair that was broken or without a writing surface. He is happy now that he can always have a good chair and desk, and hopes to improve in his studies during the school year.

Even the library where students and staff have all benefitted from desks and seating from IRN and Columbia. Before, there were few tables where the students could read and write. Now there are enough for all students using the library.

