

David Mather

FOUNDATION

Raising aspiration in disadvantaged communities...

How can you help?



...join our Family of Schools.

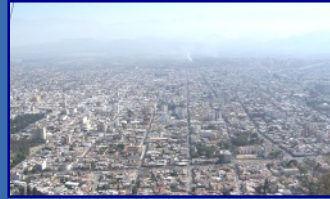
Who, what, where...?

Who are we?

We are The David Mather Foundation. A young charity, founded in 2008, we have recently become registered charity number 1131333 - progress!

What do we do?

We support young people in disadvantaged communities to achieve their aspirations to higher education by helping them to overcome economic, social and political barriers.



Why is this important?

Only 16% of the indigenous population are able to start higher education and of those a mere 4% successfully complete them (UNDP 2005). We are inspired by Irma Miranda, an amazing woman who changed her life by attending university. To get to know her and others like her, go to our website. Through these individuals, the whole community can benefit.

Where are these communities?

In Salta, North-West Argentina, where urban poverty is high for indigenous groups.

How do we do it?

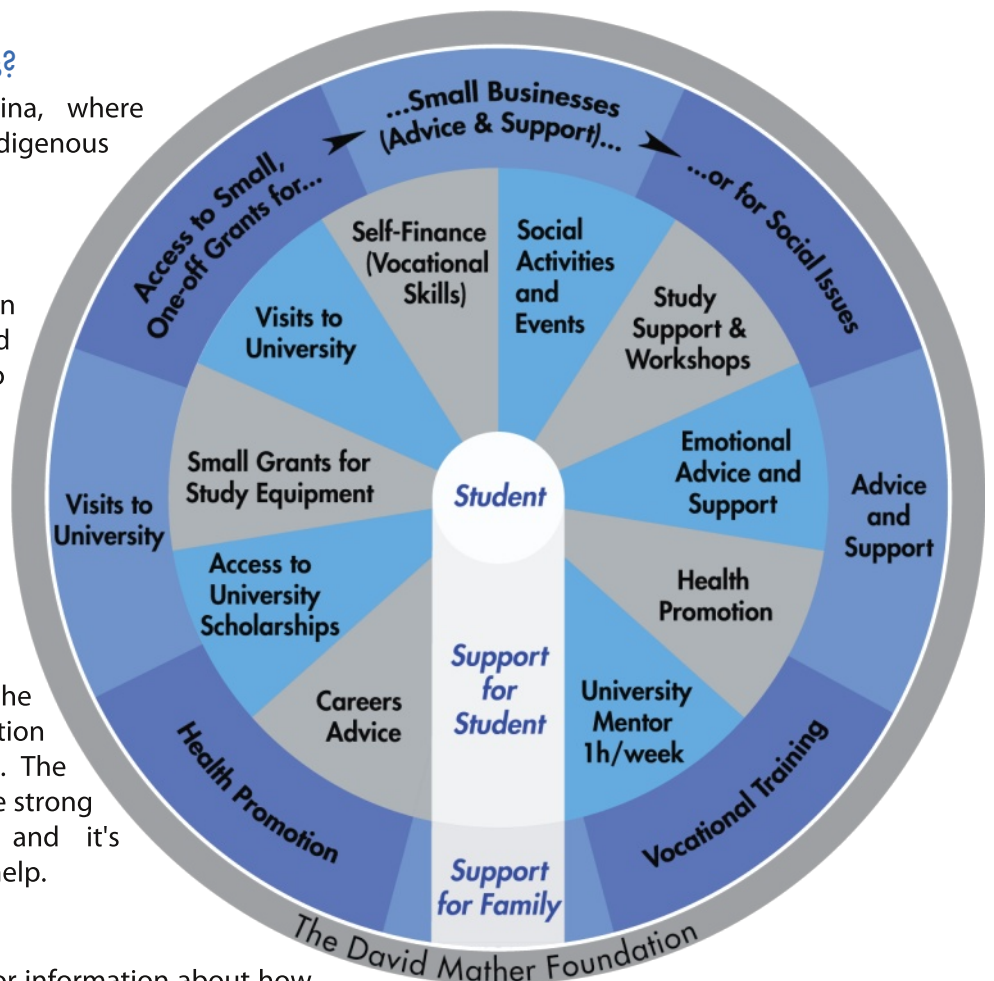
We assist bright young people in overcoming the financial and social obstacles in their paths to a better quality of life. Our help is in the form of support tailored to the individual and his/her family. The main areas are outlined in the diagram on the right.

Why start in Salta?

It's where David Mather, the namesake of the Foundation tragically lost his life in 2008. The area is important to us, we have strong links with the community and it's somewhere that we can really help.

How do I get involved?

Check out the page opposite for information about how your organisation can help out. Then read the last page of the booklet to find out how you personally can join forces with us!



The Foundation Family of Schools

What's the situation?

We are concentrating on two schools to start with - Fe y Alegria, in the Solidaridad neighbourhood (or 'barrio') and the Dr Miguel Ragone school in the Autodromo area. Despite recent improvements, their facilities are inadequate. Tiny libraries, almost non-existent computer and internet access and extremes of temperature affect study in both summer and winter.

The barrios are very basic and consist of a mixture of shacks and corrugated iron-topped breezeblock buildings interspersed with tents made from plastic sheeting. To find out what life is like growing up in these areas, have a look at some of our students' stories on our website.



What are we doing?

Our efforts are currently focused on 29 students we have taken onto the programme. In addition to individual support we are helping to expand and improve the facilities of the schools themselves. Plans for a Foundation-run study space are also currently being implemented.



Our 'Family of Schools' is bringing together schools in Britain with those in Argentina. Both sets of students will benefit from the shared experiences and ideas this will generate.



What can your school do to help?



Once we have arranged internet access for our students, we'd like to get them in touch with British students. Would yours be interested in learning from people with a different way of life?

Your students can become 'Student Champions', befriending and supporting one specific participant in the programme.



We will be holding an annual conference for our student members. This will provide a forum for discussion of the problems facing young people around the world and possible solutions to them. To build awareness and participation for this event we need your help!



Money goes much further in Argentina. Your students' fundraising efforts could help us, as a small, young charity to help the young people of Salta grow into leaders that in turn can change the communities they live in. Are they up to the challenge?

What are the benefits for your school and students?

International collaboration develops awareness of different cultures, opportunities and situations.

Students of Spanish have the opportunity to communicate with Latin American speakers of the language, broadening their linguistic horizons.

2010 marks Argentina's Bicentennial year – a great opportunity to get students engaged with the history, geography and culture of the country.

All of the above contribute to your school's achievement of the DCSF International Schools Award.

Any support we receive from your school and students will be recognised by us not only through our media channels but also with an award of Foundation materials to demonstrate our gratitude.



What next?



Please get in touch with us through our website to tell us what you think and how you'd like to help. Sophie Charleson, our School Liaison Officer, is waiting to hear from you!

If you are interested, the Foundation will happily send a representative to discuss our cause with students and staff.

Get Involved!



Our Inspiration

Following his untimely death in Salta due to a paragliding accident on New Year's Eve 2008, David Mather's family and friends wanted to establish a fitting and lasting legacy for him. This was to reflect his love of travel and his desire to help others. The Foundation is now filling this role, with its first set of students having embarked on their journey with us.

Will you help us build this living, breathing tribute to a much loved young man who wanted to give something back to those disadvantaged by their circumstances?

Donate!

It's what keeps the gears turning - money. To us though, every pound means a lot because we are such a young organisation. Our yearly running costs total about £15,000 and £100 is enough to support one student for a whole year! If you'd like to support us financially, please follow the instructions on our website. Thank you.

Another thing we need is your expertise. The Foundation is looking for people with experience in all sorts of fields related to what we do. Our work needs to be made as efficient and effective as possible to make use of the limited resources we do have. Does this sound like something you could do? If so, we're waiting to hear from you!

Events


From rock gigs to friendly feasts, all sorts of events have been held in support of the organisation. We'd love to hear what you have planned for the next one! Alternatively, come along to an event you like the sound of - find more details on our website.


Sponsored Somethings

Marathons, bike rides, climbs, hikes - just do it! Let us know what you decide to do and we'll sort out some Foundation-branded gear for you. Of course we'll also tell anyone who'll listen about how brilliant you are!

Interact!

Your ideas, opinions and willingness to participate are priceless to us. Please share them.

 Join our group on Facebook - 'The David Mather Foundation'

 Hear all the news first by following us on Twitter! Tweet at us - @The_DMF

And don't forget to bookmark our website - it's the address at the bottom of the page.

Contact Us

The Foundation website is the first port of call for information and enquiries. It also features the most up-to-date contact information. Below are our current details.

Website - www.davidmatherfoundation.org

E-mail - schools@davidmatherfoundation.org

Donate online - www.davidmatherfoundation.org/donate.html



We look forward to hearing from you!

www.davidmatherfoundation.org