



**Creating Opportunities**  
for Guatemalans

**Asociación Creando Oportunidades**

**2022-2023**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Message from our Leadership

Dear friends,

As we transitioned out of the pandemic over this past year, Creating Opportunities for Guatemalans faced challenges and met them with resilience. Through the latter half of 2022, our own staff undertook the majority of the teaching to our sponsored students because schools continued operating on a 'Pandemic' schedule. They operated only few hours a week, with some virtual classes, and distributed printed guides in the place in person lessons. Even with these challenges, all of our sponsored students passed their grade in school. Thankfully, the new school year in January 2023 started with all of our sponsored students attending their school program in person and full time. We are excited that two of our high school graduates are now attending San Carlos University, studying Chemistry and Accounting.

Over the past year, our facility in San Antonio Aguas Calientes has undergone transformations that are allowing us to expand our services. A generous donation enabled us to expand our space and provide us with a larger homework and computer room, which allowed us to admit 22 additional students to our after-school program in January 2023. Our old computer space now houses our in-house library. [Libraries for the World](#) guided and supported us in developing our library and in training our own librarian. Their volunteers organized our library space and catalogued our donated books. All this work with the goal of opening the library to our whole community during the coming year, a development that we cannot wait to share with you.

This year, we initiated three additional vocational programs: Welding, Construction Skills and Computer Repair Training. These programs provide professional training to adults who were unable to complete their education. In addition to technical training, they receive guidance on how to create a resume, apply for jobs, and interview for a position. As a result of these programs, many graduates have secured decent paying, steady jobs.

On the horizon for the coming year, we are excited to announce that four of our high school graduates have been accepted by the Spirit Education Foundation to pursue an intensive English language program in preparation for attending university. This program will help them achieve English fluency and make them competitive candidates in the job market and in their future studies.

The growth of the past year and the opportunities we provided were only possible through the generosity donors. We thank you immensely for supporting the work we do and making a difference in the lives of children living in poverty.

With gratitude,

Vicki Horsfield  
Executive Director



Andrea Chisholm  
President

# ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Creating Opportunities for Guatemalans is on a mission to lift children out of poverty by providing them with an education. Founded in 2014 by Vicki Horsfield and William Garcia, our organization supports students facing poverty-related barriers to education to stay in school. Children living in poverty are sponsored to go to school and receive the educational support they need to pass their grade. Sponsorship covers the costs of tuition, school supplies, uniforms, and medicine if the child falls sick. At our after-school program, students receive homework help, math tutoring and English classes. All of this thanks to the generosity of our donors who are making a difference in the lives of children, one sponsorship at a time.

## OUR VISION

To empower Guatemalans to break out of the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient as a result of receiving an education.



# MEET SOME OF OUR AMAZING STUDENTS

## Meet Cecilia

Cecilia came to our organization having been out of school for two years already. Both her parents had passed away at a young age, so she lived with her two older sisters. They had little means to support themselves because her eldest sister already had three young children and whose husband had no stable income. Poverty meant that Cecilia suffered numerous delays in her education, and at the age of 21, she had 3 years of high school left to complete.

One morning, Vicki was conducting a home visit to a family on Cecilia's street when she was approached by the older sister. The sister explained their situation and expressed that Cecilia desperately wanted to continue studying but did not have the means. Vicki visited Cecilia's home and determined that Cecilia was eligible for sponsorship. Monthly sponsorship for school supplies, uniforms, tuition, and medicine allowed Cecilia to graduate from high school with a specialization in accounting. She went on to complete a 1-year practicum at our organization, after which she was hired on our permanent staff as a part-time accountant and part-time assistant to the Director.



Completing her education allowed Cecilia to land a stable job and receive a steady income. She believes that without sponsorship, she would still be struggling with the job insecurity that afflicts so many Guatemalans. The opportunities that this organization provided her with have allowed her to build a better future for herself, and she only hopes that others enrolled in the program at this organization will also realize their own dreams.

## Meet Kevin

Kevin studies in the 10th grade and is incredibly accomplished for his young age. He was elected as the first president of our youth Rotary INTERACT Club, a service club made up of our junior high and high school students that leads service projects in our community. When he was president, the Rotary Interact Club delivered food to families in need, rescued and adopted out abandoned cats and dogs, and planted trees in the mountains around San Antonio. He wants to be an engineer when he grows up.



Every sponsored student must attend our after school program and achieve a minimum of 70% in all of their courses. But in addition to being a community leader, Kevin is a talented 'futbolista' who plays for a soccer team in Antigua. With soccer practice every day of the week, he has received special permission from our Director to keep playing soccer and not attend the after school program, but only on the condition that he achieves at least 80% in all of his courses. This year, Kevin went above and beyond, achieving over 90% in most of his courses, and was named top student in his class. We can't wait to see what this amazing kid does.



# Meet Brenda

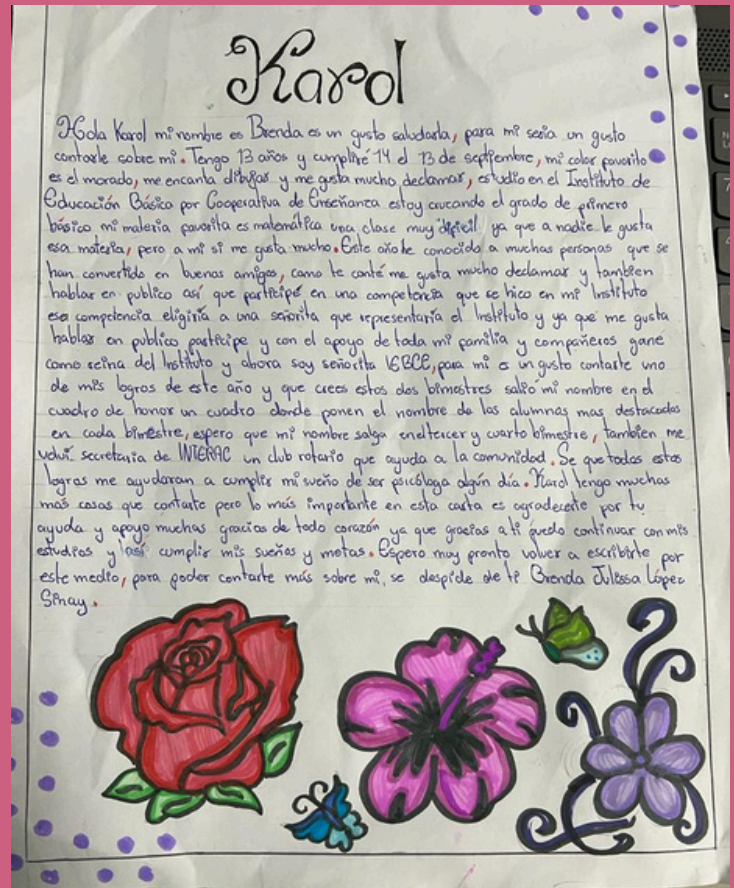
In her own words, written to her sponsor, Karol.

My name is Brenda.

I am 13 years old and will turn 14 on the 13th of September. My favourite color is purple. I love to draw and I like to participate in public speaking. I study at El Instituto de Educación Básica por Cooperativa de Enseñanza. I am currently in first year of junior high and my favourite subject is a mathematics - it is very difficult class and nobody likes that subject, but I do like it a lot.

This year I have met many people who have become good friends. I really like talking and speaking in public, so I participated in a competition that they had in my school. It was a competition to choose a young lady to represent the school in public speaking. Because I already liked public speaking, and with the help of all of my family and my schoolmates, I won to become the queen of the school. Now I am Miss IEBCC, so it is a pleasure for me to tell you of my achievements this year.

The past two semesters, my name has been on the honor roll. There is a plaque where they put the name of the honor students in each bimester. I hope my name comes out in the third and fourth bimester. This year I am the secretary of our Rotary INTERAC Club that helps the community.



All of this will help me fulfill my dream of becoming a psychologist one day.

I want to thank my sponsor for all the help and support, to thank her very much with all my heart. Thanks to my sponsor, I can continue my studies and fulfill my dreams and goals.

# Rotary Interact Club



Our Rotary Interact Club continued to give back to their community in the past year. These youth leaders undertook numerous projects to promote sustainability initiatives in San Antonio. To counter deforestation in Guatemala, they planted trees in the mountains that surround San Antonio. Together with Bruce Benson and Rotarians from Antigua, members of our Rotary Interact Club took to the streets to collect litter and clean up our community.

Rotary Interact sold jello, donuts, and second hand clothes to fundraise for their initiatives. With this money, they were able to buy food packages and deliver them to community members suffering from food insecurity. Their fundraising also allowed them to donate school supplies to a school in need.

**We can't wait to see what these young leaders do next.**



# OUR IMPACT

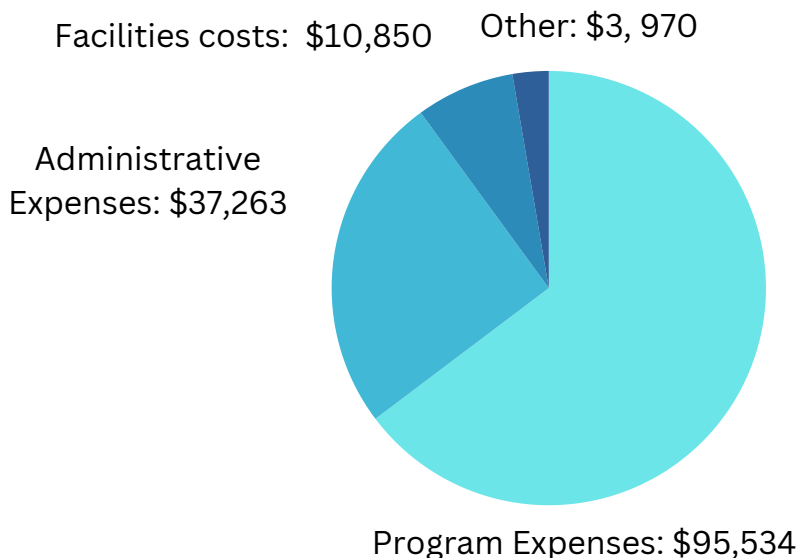
## In our last financial year...

- 52 students were sponsored to stay in school.
- 21 unsponsored students received educational support in our after school program.
- 39 students achieved above 80% in their courses. All sponsored students achieved above 70% in their courses.
- 60 students, sponsored and unsponsored, received essential dental care that included cleaning, filings, seals, extractions, and x-rays.
  
- 4 students graduated from postsecondary.
- 1 graduate started university. 1 graduate continued their university studies.
- 7 graduates entered a university preparedness program.
- 11 graduates started working and earning income.
  
- 3 mothers continued their employment as staff.
- 10 women developed a sewing Cooperative, named [Manos de Maya](#).

# OUR FINANCIALS

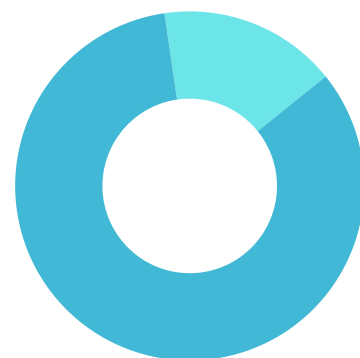
## Total Expenses: US\$147, 617

(Due to donations received in previous year to be expended in the current year)

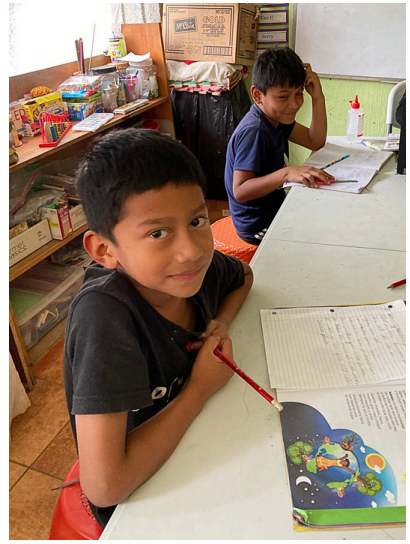


## Total Donations: US\$117,437

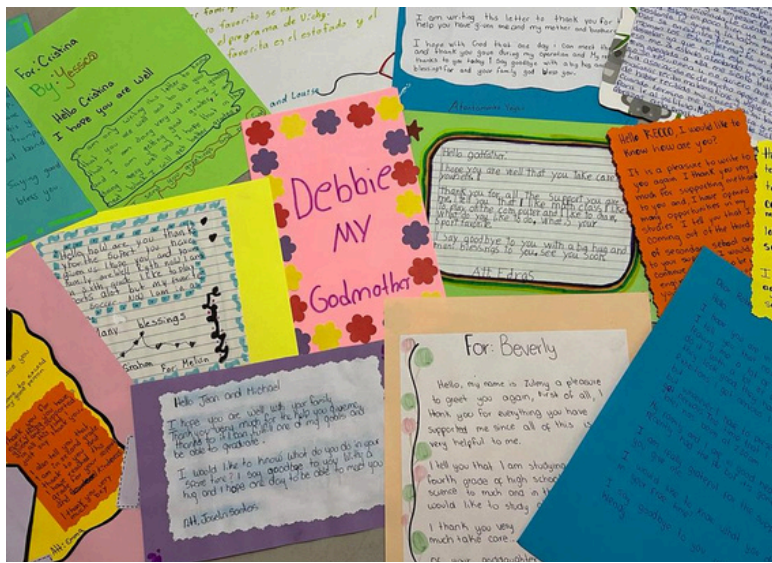
From Rotary International, Other Organizations, and Donation Platforms: \$19,408.90



From Individual Donors \$98,028.10



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GUATEMALANS.



# YOUR DONATIONS ARE CHANGING LIVES.

