



**Creating Opportunities**  
for Guatemalans

**Asociación Creando Oportunidades**

**2023-2024**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Message from our Leadership

Dear Friends,

This year has seen new developments as well as strengthening of our existing programs.

Seventy-nine (79) students started the new school year with us in January, 2024 – from preschool all the way to university and vocational training. One of the challenges we face as an organization is to continually help parents and students alike to understand the difference that a completed education will make. Poverty, with its ongoing challenge of food-sufficiency, often makes it difficult for them to look into the future. Unfortunately, 7 of these initial children dropped out of our program.

Libraries for the World organization donated books and guided and supported us in developing our library and in training our own librarian. Their volunteers organized our library space and catalogued all our donated books. All this work enabled us to open our library to our whole community, with reading programs for children as well as adults!

Two of our students continue their studies at San Carlos University and are doing very well in their programs of Chemistry and Accounting.

Our vocational programs of Welding, Construction Skills and Computer Repair Training continue to provide skills training to adults who were unable to complete their education. As a result of these programs, many graduates have secured decent paying, steady jobs. The beautiful products made by the moms in our Sewing Cooperative, Manos de Maya, are being sold in several countries around the world, with the help of volunteers.

Four of our high school graduates entered into an intensive residential English language program provided by Spirit Education Foundation. They have since achieved a high level of English fluency and consequently secured jobs in a call center. This experience is enabling them to develop work skills as well as earn money to add to their support for their university studies next year.

Six of our families received improvements to their homes. A water-catchment system, cement floors and repairs to leaking roofs all provided health benefits to these families. All this thanks to volunteers from the Massachusetts Marine Academy, Rotary and Habitat for Humanity.

The generosity of our donors and volunteers provides opportunities to students and their families living in poverty – opportunities that will change their future to one of sufficiency and dignity. We are immensely grateful to all of you for supporting the work we do.

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 ANGELICA

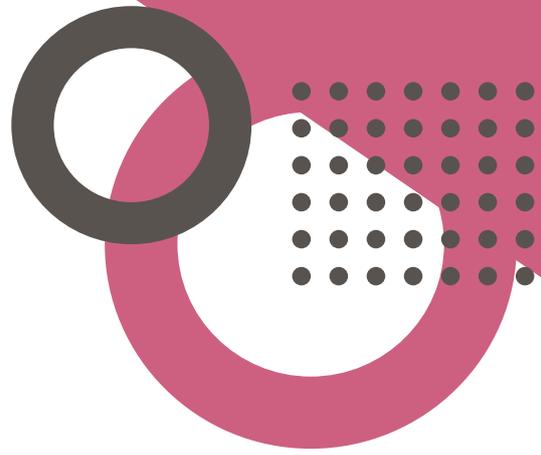
Angelica is one of 2 children to a single mom, a mom who also takes care of her elderly mother as well as a sister who suffers from severe seizures. Angelica is in her last year of junior high school and is one of the top students in her class, with grades in the 90's.



Angelica is very involved in serving our community. She is on the board of directors of our in-house Rotary Interact Club and has participated in their service projects. Installing fuel-efficient stoves in the homes of families who previously cooked over an open fire on a dirt floor has not reduced the amount of firewood a family consumes but has also reduced the amount of smoke in the home and increased the safety for small children. She participated in the group's activity of painting chairs and tables for a nursery school and picking up litter in our village. Angela is also a youth leader in her church.

In Guatemala, when students enter high school, they have to choose a career path and find a school that provides that program. Angelica has chosen to enter a business administration program in high school because her dream is to study Legal and Social Sciences in University.





## Meet Ismael



When we met Ismael, he was 8 years old and had not yet started school because his mother couldn't afford his school supplies. He is the youngest of 4 children and his father had died in an accident when he was 2. Because the father had been a day-laborer, his wife was not eligible for any benefits, and she was struggling to feed her children.



Ismael always has a smile on his face. He is an enthusiastic learner who is doing well in school and loves coming to our project. He has excelled in learning English in our program and often helps other students who are struggling.

# MEET A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM



## Meet Jessica

Jessica is one of 5 siblings whose family lives in our village of San Antonio Aguas Calientes and whose younger sister has been sponsored through our organization.

When the pandemic hit and our primary school students received only photocopied guides for their schooling, we knew we needed extra help to actually teach them their lessons. Jessica was in her first-year university, studying on the weekends, and was the perfect candidate to help our students learn their curriculum.

Jessica has since stepped into the role of our Librarian. Libraries for the World Organization has come to give her training as well as help her set up our beautiful library. Jessica has developed reading programs for our sponsored students at all levels as well as programs for children's groups in our community. She also runs a moms and tots reading program and a program to teach illiterate adults to read and write. Jessica loves to instill an excitement for reading in all those she works with.



# Rotary Interact Club



Our students in our Rotary Interact Club have done several service projects to help people in our community. This past year, these youth leaders installed fuel-efficient stoves for families in San Antonio who previously were cooking over an open fire on their dirt floor. These families are now able to reduce the amount of firewood they use, keep their children safe and keep their homes free from harmful smoke.

These dedicated young Rotarians also helped out with a spay/neuter clinic, painted furniture for a nursery school and continued to do frequent litter clean-up days in our community.

**These young leaders  
continue to look for ways  
they can help their  
community!**



# OUR IMPACT

In our last financial year...

- 53 students were sponsored to stay in school.
- 19 unsponsored students received educational support in our after-school program.
- All sponsored students achieved above 70% in their courses.
- 39 students achieved above 80% in their courses.
- 4 graduated entered a Residencial Intensive English program and subsequently obtained jobs in a call center.
- 2 graduates continued their university studies.
- 15 graduates are now working and earning a decent income.
- 3 mothers and 2 of our graduates are employed as staff.
- 10 women continue to operate a sewing Cooperative, named Manos de Maya. With the help of volunteers, their beautiful products are sold in several other countries.

# OUR FINANCIALS

**Total Donations: US\$152,534**

From Rotary Clubs and Donation Platforms:  
US\$28,947

From Individual Donors  
\$ 123,587

**Total Expenses: US\$140,074**

Program Expenses: \$87,140

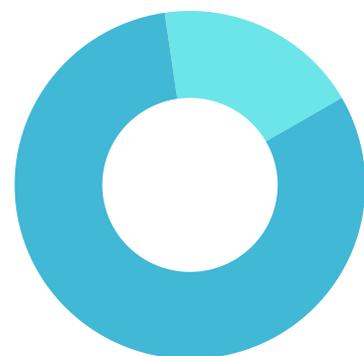
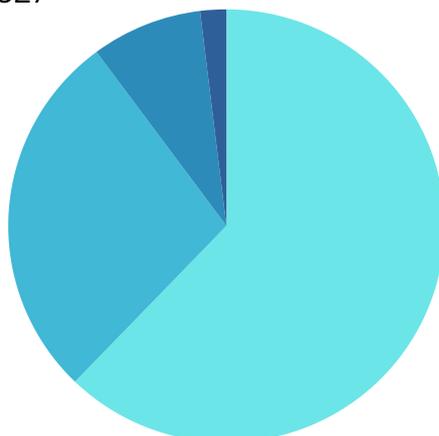
Facilities costs: \$11,527

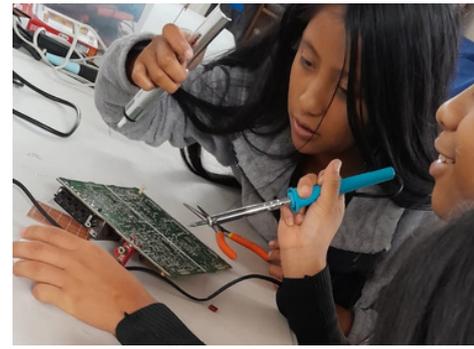
Administrative  
Expenses: \$38,706

Other:

Transportation: \$1226

Volunteer expenses: \$1475





**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
GUATEMALANS.**



**YOUR DONATIONS ARE  
CHANGING LIVES.**

