

TOGETHER WE CAN GUATEMALA

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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OUR VISION

That all Guatemalans have access to quality education and the opportunity to earn a living wage within a healthy environment

OUR MISSION

To provide educational support and environmentally sustainable economic opportunities to disadvantaged Guatemalan youth



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I am so proud of what we accomplished in 2021 in the face of the continuing pandemic.

Faced with another year of schools being closed because of the pandemic, we teamed up with two other NGO's, SERNiña and Las Manos de Christine, to rent a small house. Now dubbed the El Hato Community Center, it serves as the hub for our programs.

We also teamed up with Las Manos de Christine to deliver almost-daily tutoring to primary school students. Our schedule filled up quickly and stayed full the entire year. The program's positive impact has been clear. No words can describe how proud we feel when we hear the appreciation expressed by the El Hato moms.

In 2020, Finca Azotea notified us that they needed the space occupied by the Garden of Hope. After considering many options, we realized that we already had the best option: the El Hato Community Center. Moving was not easy, but thanks to the many generous donations we received, we successfully moved to El Hato. We look forward to extending our gardening program to the El Hato community in 2022.

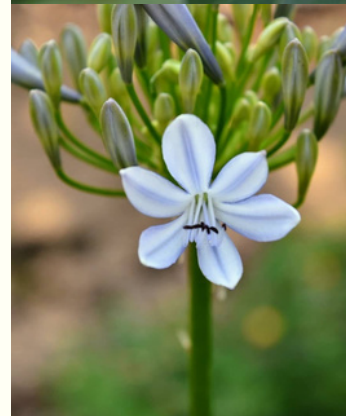
In 2021, Sonya Waldthausen was no longer able to serve as executive director in Guatemala. Fortunately, we found a great replacement in David Santa Catalina. With the ongoing pandemic and garden move, David couldn't have taken over at a more difficult time, but has provided energetic and dynamic leadership. We thank Sonya for her contributions and at the same time welcome David to our cause of helping Guatemala's children.

In health,



Salina Duncan

President, Together We Can Guatemala



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OUR STORY

Together We Can Guatemala (TWCG) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in Pennsylvania, USA. Asociación Juntos Podemos (AJP) is a nonprofit association registered in Guatemala. Both were founded in 2018 to provide financial, programmatic and administrative oversight to two principal projects: The Garden of Hope Permaculture Center and the El Hato Literacy Center. We continue to accomplish our organizational mission and vision by supporting these projects.



Garden of Hope

The Garden of Hope Permaculture Center began in 2015 as a community garden, accessible to families in Jocotenango, with the mission to provide a safe green space to connect with nature, foster, joy, and develop life skills.

El Hato Literacy Center

The El Hato Literacy Center originated in 2012 as a project of the nonprofit Las Manos de Christine to address the needs of first-generation readers in El Hato.

2021'S HIGHLIGHTS



... We moved our garden to El Hato



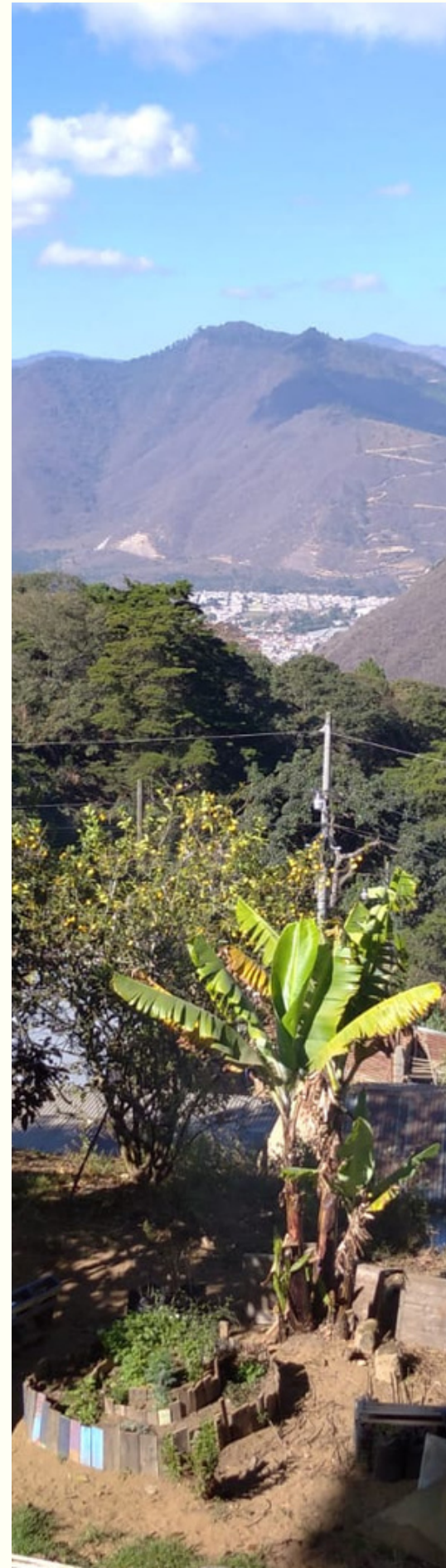
... We reached our goal in the "Save the Garden of Hope" campaign



... We built a new garden, an outdoor space and a kitchen



... 100% of our students passed their grade!



GARDEN OF HOPE

Goal 1: Increase environmental stewardship, improve nutrition, and improve key life skills of students through school garden programs

Goal 2: Community-building: Provide a communal green space for the families of El Hato and opportunities for them to learn and share local plant and food knowledge



Garden to kitchen: This amazing program allowed us to share with locals tasty and nutritious vegan recipes. Every session a new recipe was introduced and prepared by the participants, and everyone took home the result of their effort to share with their families.

Community days: Our community days have been an extraordinary way to get involved with the community by sharing time together and enjoying wonderful, nutritious and organic snacks to share.

Vacation camp: Our vacation camp this year was full of fun. Participants enjoyed and learned about medicinal plants, the environment and gardening. When word of the fun got out, more children arrived!





GARDEN IMPACT *under COVID restrictions

Garden to kitchen program

People reached **165**
Hours cooking **45**
Learnt recipes **15**



Vacation camp

Registered children **37**
hours enjoyed **42**
Average attendance **20**



Garden implementation

Participants **19**
Planted plants **888**



"The garden is really good because it gives us the opportunity to produce vegetables next to our houses so we don't have to spend money travelling to Antigua"

Marco Antonio

"It's great because we are learning new recipes that are very good for us and our children"

Vilma Yolanda Gerónimo Pacay

LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

The potential of our Garden of Hope project is enormous and with only few months in our new location we have already made a wonderful impact in El Hato.

This upcoming year we will increase our reach and impact in the community by implementing more garden programs and by increasing production and local involvement in the process.

In order to ensure stability and allow growth we will hire a new Garden Coordinator and a Garden Assistant. We will also keep seeking new grants and partnerships and reinforce our impact measurement.

We are looking forward to achieving so much in 2022. Our team is really motivated and committed, and we are ready to get to work!



LITERACY CENTER

Goal 1: Improve academic performance and graduation rates of primary school students at El Hato.

Goal 2: Improve literacy, critical thinking, and appreciation for reading among primary school students.

Goal 3: Provide access to resources for parents to improve literacy and computer skills.



In 2021, with the El Hato public school closed the entire year, we directed all our efforts to our tutoring program. Primary school students in El Hato's public school received very limited instruction time from their regular teachers, but each participant in our program received up to 147 additional hours of in-person instruction, resulting in all of them passing their grade. The incredible work of our Library Coordinator Adriana Chacón and by Nicole Shoc (of our partner Las Manos de Christine) resulted in extraordinary support for the children of El Hato and their families.



LITERACY IMPACT *under COVID restrictions

Tutoring program

Registered students	33
Delivered half-day sessions	302
Students passed to next grade	100%

"Adriana's work is really good and important. I really trust Adriana and her work"

María Ofelia Mauricio

"I can't help my daughter with her studies and that's why I'm so grateful for the program. Before her participation and especially since Covid started, she was always frustrated. This year, thanks to Adriana and the program, my daughter passed her grade"

María Esperanza Chavac



LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

2021 proved that the support provided by our tutoring program during these challenging days is critical to the families in El Hato.

In 2022 we will give maximum priority to the implementation of the tutoring program. We are going to develop a new tracking tool to individually assess our beneficiaries and improve our approach to gathering qualitative data.

We will strengthen our relationship with the primary school and the parents, and we will continue our work seeking grants that would financially support our Literacy Center.

In 2022 we want to make our program replicable so that, when the opportunity arises, we will be ready to help other towns in need by providing a complete, stable and strong program.



TOGETHER WE CAN GUATEMALA

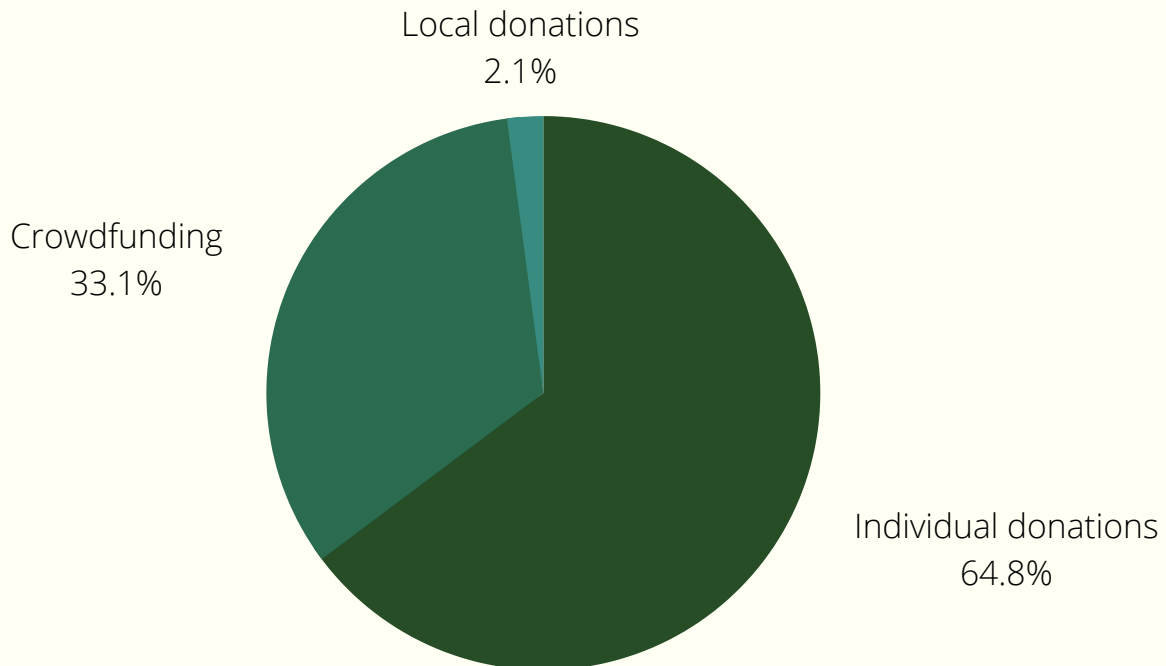
OUR REACH



627
People
Impact under Covid restrictions



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



The majority of our 2021 revenue was received through individual donations and crowdfunding (including GoFundMe campaigns, Facebook donations, Amazon Smile, and the PayPal Giving Fund). A small portion of revenue was also generated through local Guatemalan events and donations.

Together We Can Guatemala revenue 2021

<i>Donor-designated projects</i>	\$29,354.30
<i>General crowdfunding</i>	\$2,652.45
<i>Monthly donations</i>	\$920
<i>Other individual donations</i>	\$929.98
<i>Local Guatemalan donations</i>	\$740
TOTAL	\$34,596.73

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OUR TEAM IN 2021

Staff

Adriana Chacón
Library coordinator

Donna Trimm
Grant writer

David Santa Catalina
Director

Volunteers

Micaela Turzi

Jessie Luca

Renancio Socoreke

Melisa y Cesare

Armando Schoc

TWCG and AJP Board members

Sónya Waldthausen

Claire Henkel

Salina Duncan

Michelle Berkowitz

Jenniffer Pérez

Peter McManus

Nancy Kuster



SPECIAL THANKS



TWCG would like to formally give thanks to our financial supporters and sponsors. We have been working for two years under the restrictions and difficulties caused by COVID-19, and we are incredibly inspired by the support of individuals and grantors such as The Pollination Project, A Well-Fed World and ProVeg International. This year would not have been successful without

the help and assistance of donors like you! We would like to dedicate a very special thanks to all individual donors and supporters, new and old, who have stood by TWCG, the El Hato Literacy Center, and the Garden of Hope throughout this trying year. Once again, thank you for your commitment and dedication to youth development in Guatemala!





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Aldea El Hato
La Antigua Guatemala
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