



TOGETHER WE CAN GUATEMALA



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR





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OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

TOGETHER WE CAN GUATEMALA

2022 was a successful year of stability, resilience, and growth, thanks to our skilled, consistent and compassionate team in El Hato.

Adriana and Nicole (of Las Manos de Christine) continue to work side by side, supporting students and families in their learning journeys. With growing experience and inspiration, they have been able to guide students in their learning goals with great success. The educational environment so carefully created by this team is bright, joyous, interesting, and fun.

Lety has taken on more responsibilities and her skills and knowledge in garden care continue to grow. She has been a great addition to the team.

We continue to work in partnership with Las Manos de Christine and SERniña. Through regular communication and inter-organizational sharing, our programs both complement and support each other, resulting in a holistic support for El Hato families.

As intended, The Garden of Hope has acted as a safe outdoor gathering space for the community, while also providing food cooked with new and nutritious recipes and enjoyed as a group.

With consistent programs and a demand from the community, we have expanded our program site, by renting a new house for the El Hato Literacy Center. This space will allow all programs more flexibility in providing needed services to the community.

With the opening of the public school after almost three years of closure, we continue to communicate and work with the school, while staying independent as a community space in order to serve whole families with fewer constraints.

We are very fortunate to have David Santa Catalina continuing as the executive director with his exceptional leadership skills.

Thank you for your continued support!

Salina Duncan

President, Together We Can Guatemala



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 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 began in 2014 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.

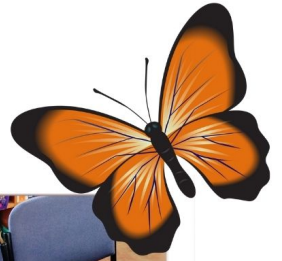
El Hato Literacy Center

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.





2022 PHOTO GALLERY



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



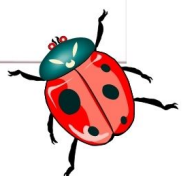
October



November



December





GARDEN OF HOPE



GARDEN OF HOPE

MAIN AIM

To improve nutrition, key life skills, and environmental stewardship of the children and families of El Hato through sustainable, closed-circle gardening, plant-based cooking, and nutrition courses utilizing our communal green space.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
2. Provide El Hato children and families with communal green spaces where they can connect with nature, foster joy, and develop life skills.
3. Increase environmental stewardship.
4. Utilize garden produce to provide nutritious snacks to the students enrolled in our El Hato Literacy Center.
5. Identify community members of all ages with a natural interest in nutrition, gardening, and environmental stewardship and invest further in these individuals with specific training to help prepare our students to transfer their skills into jobs in fields such as hospitality, farming, and produce sales.





Garden to Kitchen Program: Every week a small group of mothers meets to learn a new recipe, resulting in the ability to easily recreate four healthy, culturally competent family meals at home by the end of each month. Our hands-on cooking sessions utilize our garden produce and are delivered in our center, which is equipped with a kitchen, a refrigerator, an oven, and several mini stoves. This design reaches a larger audience of beneficiaries and influences the diet of families and the community at large. In 2022 the implementation of 100% vegan Garden-to-Kitchen programming has deepened our focus on long-term impact and helped us understand where we are going and how we will get there.





Garden Sessions Program: We teach a fully sustainable model designed to improve nutrition, local plant and food knowledge, and environmental stewardship. Our closed-circle system uses our communal garden to teach local school children and their parents how to grow organic food, care for the soil, cultivate seeds for next season, weed, prune, harvest crops, cook a creative and nutritious plant-based menu, and fertilize the soil naturally by composting the scraps. The harvested food goes directly into participants' kitchens and diets, supports the implementation of our Literacy and Garden programs and also generates earned organizational income by selling a portion of the produce to local shops, allowing them to pay a lower price and avoid traveling to the Antigua market in the expensive and time-consuming public transport system.





Community Days Program: We strengthen relationships with the community through 12 once-a-month Community Days to play and learn together participating in fun and interactive activities while utilizing a humane education lens to teach about local plants, plant-based diets, nutrition, games and environmental stewardship. Through this program, we present a wide array of plant-based dishes to enjoy together.



IMPACT

Garden to Kitchen program

<i>Participants</i>	27
<i>Hours cooking</i>	86.30
<i>Learnt recipes</i>	34
<i>Total reach</i>	136

Community Days program

<i>Participants</i>	106
<i>Sessions</i>	9
<i>Average attendance</i>	30

Garden Sessions program

<i>Participants</i>	30
<i>Sessions</i>	32
<i>Planted plants</i>	862
<i>Production used in programs</i>	60%
<i>Production donated</i>	27%
<i>Production sold</i>	13%







EL HATO LITERACY CENTER



EL HATO LITERACY CENTER

MAIN AIM

To improve literacy and graduation rates through tailored, individual tutoring and literacy services with an additional focus on nutrition and humane education.

OBJECTIVES

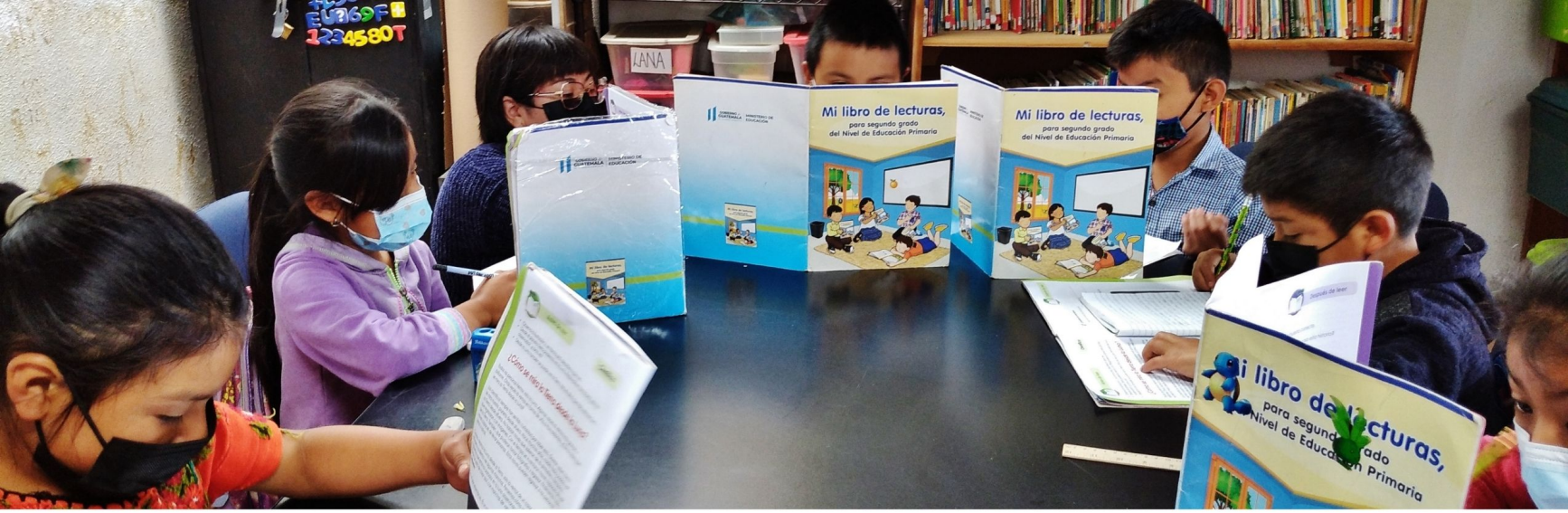
1. Increase the quality of education leading to greater learning, good grades, improved academic performance, and higher graduation rates.
2. Improve literacy, critical thinking, and appreciation for reading.
3. Provide library access for children and adults, equipping them in the areas of technology, reading, writing, and entertainment resources.
4. Improve nutritional intake in support of cognitive development.
5. Equip students with the knowledge and tools necessary to make informed and socially responsible choices that resolve real-world problems through improving compassion for people, animals, and the environment.





Tutoring Program: We believe that every El Hato child deserves the best possible start to their lives. In our Tutoring Program we provide students with in-person instruction in a safe place for them to learn the self-sustaining life skills of reading, writing, and compassion for people, animals, and the environment while facilitating academic success. Observing appropriate pandemic protocols, our staff sit with the children and teach the material in the school content, supervise the completion of homework, help the students understand their errors, and provide access to technological resources to enhance comprehension and equip the students to function in an advanced global environment.



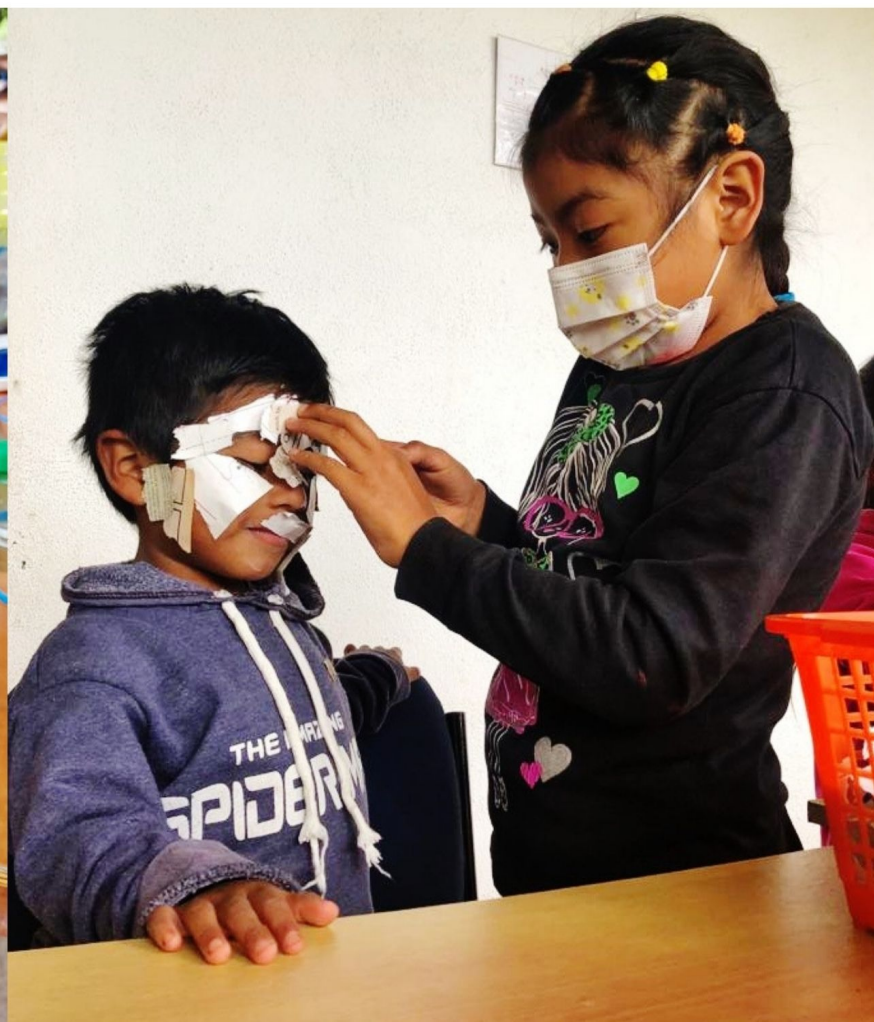


Community Library: We serve children and adults by providing access to resources to improve their literacy and computer skills and play, with the additional aim of fostering a love for books. This is currently housed in our center where El Hato neighbors are welcome to use our space or check out resources to take home.





Vacation Camp: At the conclusion of the school year, we run our very popular Vacation Camp, running from November 1st through December 15th for six weeks. Our camp provides in-person gardening sessions, vegan cooking classes, art activities, games, sports and healthy snacks for participants in a healthy and green environment where the main rule is to have great fun.



IMPACT

Tutoring program

<i>Participants</i>	62
<i>Hours tutoring</i>	1044
<i>Student success</i>	99%
<i>Total reach</i>	228

Vacation Camp program

<i>Participants</i>	63
<i>Sessions</i>	16
<i>Average attendance</i>	24

Library

The resources in our library have been of crucial support to the implementation of our Tutoring, Vacation Camp and Community Days programs. However, the Library remained closed in 2022 due to the pandemic restrictions and recommendations during most of the year in Guatemala. The year 2023 will see our library reopened in our new space.







HUMANE EDUCATION

Woven throughout all our programs is our compassionate approach to solving real, everyday problems. When students struggle with relationships, we use empathy skills to encourage them to strive to understand others, actively encouraging peaceful discourse.



We extend this compassion to animals and the environment, working to show they are more than mere vehicles for personal survival. We teach that animals are worthy of compassionate treatment, and then model that by caring for the many stray animals that populate the El Hato streets. We incorporate readings, videos, and games that reinforce the long-term benefit of humane treatment of the earth's soil, air, and water, and the value of partnering with nature instead of working against it. This spirit permeates all we do and helps make our center one of the most popular places in the community.

Empathies promoted

Empathy towards others

Empathy towards animals

Empathy towards the environment

Beneficiaries **113**

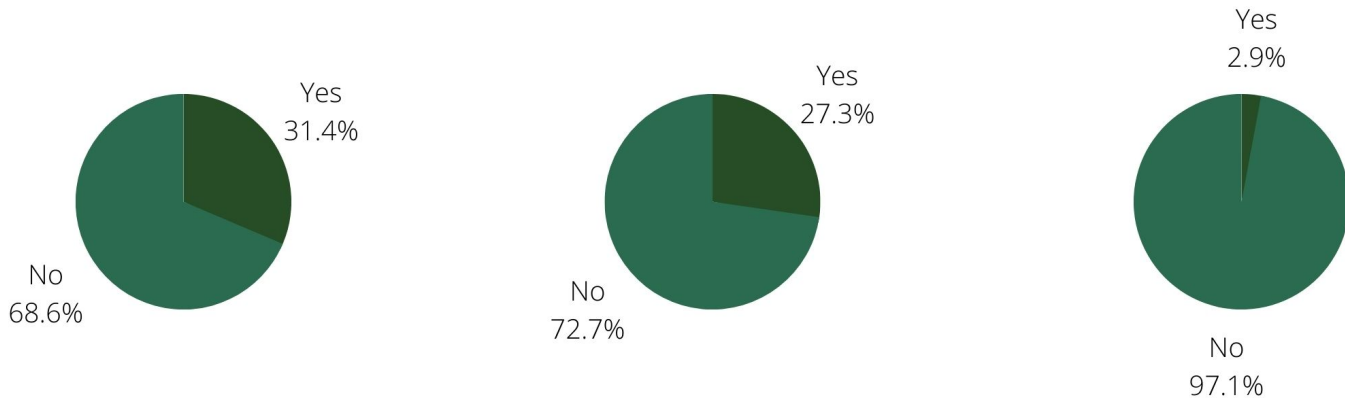
Sessions **104**

Curriculum developed **1**



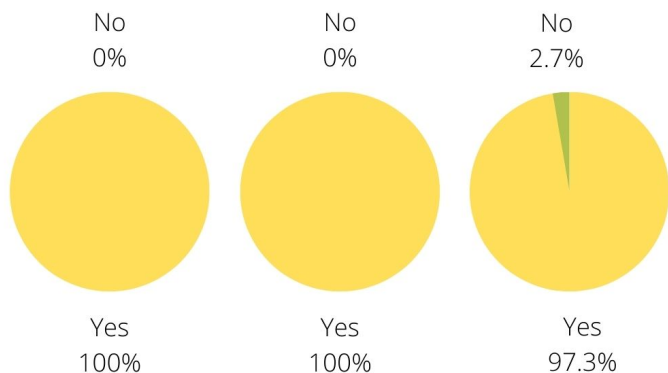
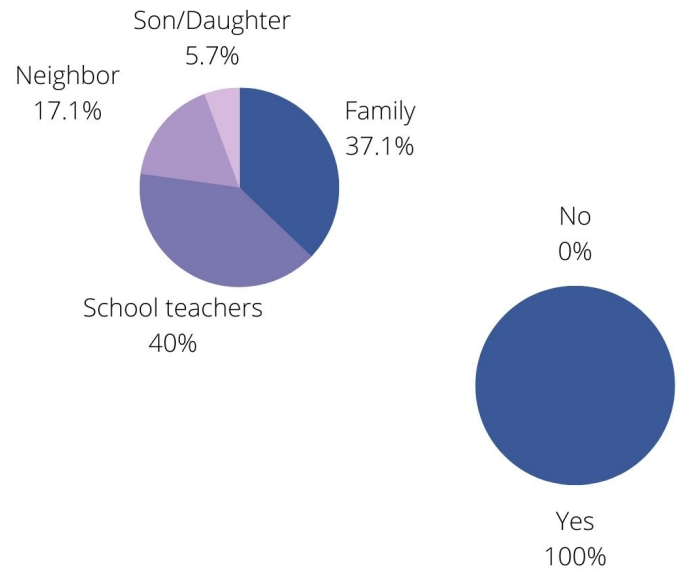


SHARING VOICES



After meeting with the beneficiaries' parents of our Tutoring Program, we learned that **68.6%** can't read and write well, that **72.7%** didn't finish their primary education and that in the households of the **97.1%** there is no one able to consistently support their children with their studies.

In a survey implemented among the beneficiaries in all of our programs we learned that **40%** of the people found out about us after a school teacher recommendation and **37%** after a family member recommendation, and **100%** stated that they have only heard positive comments about us



100% of the children participating in our programs said they feel good when coming to our center, **100%** said they feel good with the teachers and **97.3%** said they feel comfortable with the other beneficiaries in our programs

BENEFICIARY COMMENTS

"It's the second year my daughter is here with you and I can say you are helping her because I've seen her progress and she says she feels happy that she can attend the program".

Lilian Araceli Hernandez

"I think the project is very good for us because our children learn in the tutoring program and we also learn in the kitchen program and in the garden".

Aura Elizabeth Por Velásquez

"If I see someone mistreating an animal I feel bad because they are like us. They have feelings too".

Ailyn Jazmin Chan Cosajay

"My sons say that you teach them how to plant and they really like it. They said they learn to share with the others and what I see is that they say good things about you to their friends and ask them to join".

Marina Angélica Por

"The only thing you could do to improve the project is have more space. The programs are great as they are".

Elsa Marina Chacón

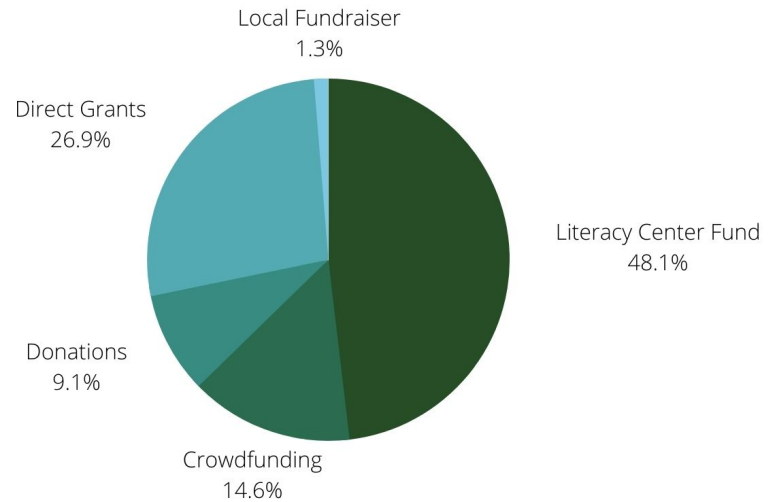




FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

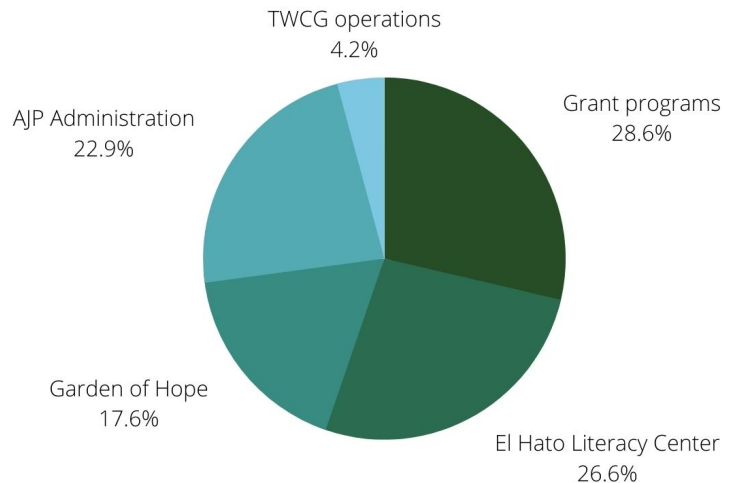
Combined Revenue

<i>Literacy Center 2023 Fund</i>	\$16,000
<i>Literacy Center 2022 Fund</i>	\$9,000
<i>Crowdfunding</i>	\$7,570
<i>Monthly donations</i>	\$1,520
<i>Other donations</i>	\$3,189
<i>Direct grants to AJP</i>	\$14,000
<i>Local Guatemalan fundraising</i>	\$663
TOTAL	\$51,941



Combined Expenses

<i>Grant programs</i>	\$9,293
<i>El Hato Literacy Center</i>	\$8,626
<i>Garden of Hope</i>	\$5,716
<i>AJP Administration</i>	\$7,439
<i>TWCG Operations</i>	\$1,361
TOTAL	\$32,436



In-Kind Donations

<i>Volunteer hours</i>	\$3,139
<i>Board hours</i>	\$12,279
<i>Material donations</i>	\$621
TOTAL	\$16,039
GRAND TOTAL	\$48,475

The majority of our 2022 revenue was received through grant opportunities, committed donations and crowdfunding (including GoFundMe campaigns, Facebook donations, AmazonSmile, and the PayPal Giving Fund). A small portion of revenue was also generated through local Guatemalan events and donations and income generated from the Garden of Hope project. **The revenue section includes a Literacy Center Fund for 2023.**



OUR TEAM

Staff

Adriana Chacón
Library coordinator

Nicole Shoc
Garden Programs Assistant

Juanma Pérez
Garden Coordinator

Donna Trimm
Grant Writer

Leticia Por
Garden assistant

David Santa Catalina
Executive Director

Volunteers

Laura García
Nilda Caumont
Verónica Méndez
Bruno Yegros
Armando Schoc
Fabiola Rojas
Eduardo Rosales

Abby Warmann
Isa Secaira
Geoffrey Presa
Armando Schoc
Alfredo Diéguez
Tono Cobar
Paulina Garzaro



TWCG and AJP Board Members

Salina Duncan
Peter McManus
Nancy Kuster

Michelle Berkowitz
Jenniffer Pérez
Sónya Waldthausen
Claire Henkel



SPECIAL THANKS

TWCG would like to formally give thanks to our financial supporters, partners and sponsors. We have been working for three years under the restrictions and difficulties caused by COVID-19, and we are incredibly inspired by the support of individuals and grantors such as 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!





Thank You
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

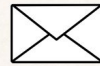
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