

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Yo'o Guatemala, civil association

*The time has come
to take over education!*



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OF YO'O

29 2022
CHALLENGES



INTRODUCTION

The pandemic brought us big challenges, but it also taught us huge lessons. In this time, we reaffirmed that facing a crisis is more bearable if we work together, rather than trying to do it individually. **Yo'o Guatemala** brings together that collective work which is characterized by having diverse social capital. That diversity is formed by a group of volunteers who relate to the philosophy of accompanying our community with respect and dignity.

We know that the health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic left a wide gap in education around the world, especially in rural communities lacking resources. That is why, together with community and beneficiaries, we made the decision of taking concrete actions, prioritizing the most urgent needs. Adaptation to change included "sacrificing" activities that required in-person attendance. We decided to focus on the establishment of a quality educational program as well as on the attention of health and food security needs.

That is how we started 2021, taking one of the most important steps ever: **taking responsibility for attending the educational needs of students who receive scholarships**. The students were girls, boys and young people with whom we have been working in different comprehensive training programs and whose education was mostly in the hands of public institutions and in special cases, private schools.

In coordination with private and public sectors, we reconditioned the facilities of the Bernardo Lemus Mendoza Library and refitted it with technology to help students attend study circles. We named the new technology center **"Qa Tzoleb'aal - Our School"** and supported over 60 students from elementary to high school in having distance learning, receiving virtual classes as well as in-person attendance.

PRESENTACIÓN

Professionals and friends of the project contributed with computer equipment, funds to buy quality supplies, healthy breakfasts and transportation for students from distant communities. Our partners in the private sector facilitated the access to indispensable resources such as high speed Internet, uniforms, and teaching materials.

With the support of *Humanistas Guatemala* and *Kaleidoscopios*, we implemented the innovative program called **"Science in Our School"** with workshops where the students of Our School created a variety of projects oriented to STEAM disciplines -Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics-.

In the area of health, together with the Municipality of Purulhá, the Center for Permanent Attention, and Refuge International, we had the first free medical mission to give continuous care and medicines to people with chronic

diseases, achieving an excellent coordination in profiling patients who reside in rural communities far away from the urban area.

We recovered the practice of family vegetable patches in each home to contribute to families' food security. This 'return to the earth' activity promoted good ancestral practices for sowing and consumption of native agricultural products.

As the Program Director of Yo'o Guatemala, I am infinitely grateful for the support and trust that are given to our organization by donors and community members.

Thank you very much for your support!

Brenda Lemus
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

WHO WE ARE

OUR VALUES

LOVE



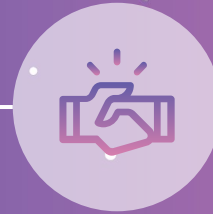
RESPECT



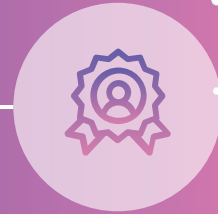
SOLIDARITY



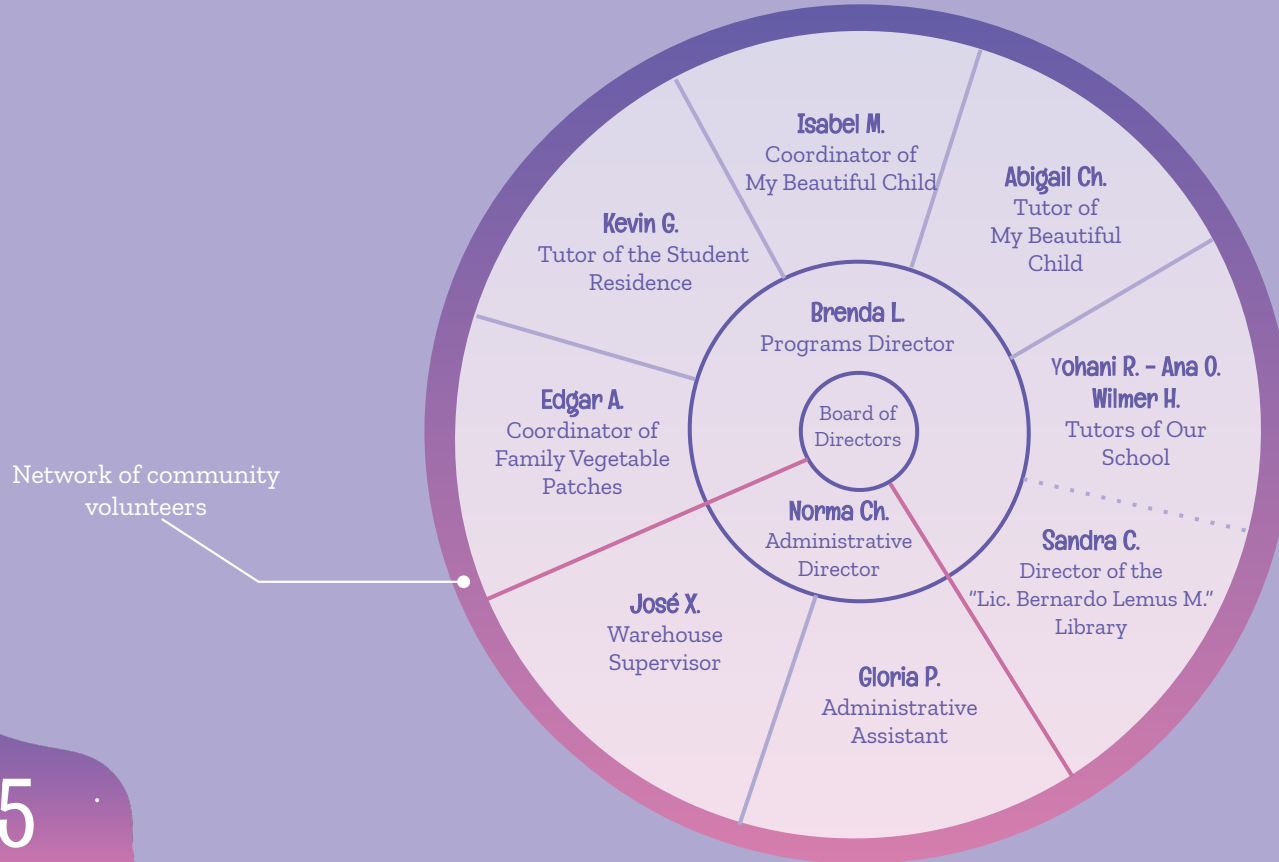
COLLABORATION



RESPONSIBILITY



OUR TEAM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Iván Mendoza
President

Wendy Bolaños
Vice President

Brenda Gálvez
Treasurer

Norma Chonay
Secretary

William Castillo
Board member

Brenda Lemus
Board member

Alicia Díaz
Board member

Lucrecia Rodríguez
Emeritus member

RESULTS

PILLARS OF ACTION



EDUCATION AND READING

We seek to strengthen the skills of children and young people in rural areas so that they can access better development opportunities.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

We provide additional sustenance to the daily diet of the children who attend our programs, helping to maximize their intellectual, emotional, and social performance.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We promote the full participation of all people in community life for the collective construction of a fairer, cohesive and equitable society.

WE DO ORDINARY THINGS WITH EXTRAORDINARY LOVE

The magnitude of our work would not be the same without the hard work of our entire **network of community volunteers**, who each year assumes this commitment with responsibility, love and dedication.

Volunteers of all ages, new members of our programs and many others who have been with us for several years, are a constant example for the community, showing that **collective work is fundamental for the construction of the common good.**



+3,500
hours of volunteer work



EDUCATION AND READING



QA TZOLEB'AAL or "OUR SCHOOL"

In the facilities of the Lic. Bernardo Lemus Mendoza Library, **we provide a safe space** for students who take classes in distance-learning institutions. In addition to the computers available for the students, they receive daily nutritious school snacks, which are prepared by **mothers** from the community, who volunteer their time.

At *Our School*, we also have **tutors** who accompany primary, secondary, and high school students in person, which **reinforces and guides learning in a personalized way**. Tutoring also assisted with continuous teaching - even during times in which we had to close the facilities in compliance with health restrictions.



31%
Boys

69%
Girls

97%
Promoted

64
Students

100
STEAM
workshops



EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Our school scholarships improve **students' access and their permanence** in educational centers. It also helped to improve the quality of life and the economy of the most vulnerable families in rural townships.

We provide access to **quality education** for young people of different educational levels, including: coverage of registration fees, school supplies, uniforms and other supplies, according to the specific needs in each case. Yo'o Guatemala provided year long support to ensure students could maintain a high level of quality educational performance.

90% of our scholarship students were enrolled in distance education institutions and attended school tutorials at Qa Tzoleb'aal: Our School.



16%
Middle
school

73%
Elementary
school

6%
High
school

5%
University

63
Scholarship
holders



DONATE YOUR SCHOOL LEFTOVERS



To protect the health of our volunteers and work team, the collection of **school leftovers** is still suspended, as it involves long hours of collective work to classify, recondition and transport the donations.

This year, we focused our efforts on acquiring **new school supplies** in local bookstores, to contribute to the economic recovery of small Purulhá merchants and reduce the logistical activities necessary for distribution.

School supplies were delivered to students of **Our School** and **Chilascó**. All the benefited boys and girls made eco-bricks in exchange for their school supplies, as a part of their commitment and effort to also contribute back to their community.

6
Participating
volunteers

126
School supplies
• lists delivered



HEALTH AND NUTRITION



HAVING LUNCH TOGETHER



With this program we provide lunch for selected students who are part of our educational programs, and who have little chance of receiving a **nutritious meal** at home.

For some time we had to change the modality of having lunch together, due to the forced distancing. However, in 2021 we were able to resume the activity in our facilities. We organized lunches by shift and served beneficiaries in small groups.

In this way, we gradually recovered physical coexistence, because we know how important it is to share moments together because it nourishes the soul.

19
Direct
beneficiaries

4,769
Shared
lunches



NUTRITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Girls and boys, who attend our school tutoring program and suffer from malnutrition, receive a food supplement thanks to nutritional scholarships. Every week we give them rations of **fortified food and drinks** so that they can have a nutritious breakfast before leaving to school.

With these nutritional supplements we seek to counteract to a certain extent the high nutritional deficiency that affects the inhabitants of the Baja Verapaz region, where **7 out of 10 children suffer from malnutrition**.¹

¹ Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), National Institute of Statistics (INE), ICF International, 2017. National Maternal and Child Health Survey 2014-2015. Final report. Guatemala, MSPAS/INE/ICF

43

Beneficiaries'
families

81

Grant
recipients

4,739

Delivered pounds
of food



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



STUDENT RESIDENCES FOR GIRLS

This program offers **safe housing for girls**, who find it difficult to attend school for different reasons, such as the absence of parents or the distance from which they live. With legal authorization from parents, the girls enter the student residence on Monday mornings and return home on Fridays.

We offer this alternative as support to families so that girls have the opportunity to **continue their studies** without carrying the responsibilities of an adult woman, as is the case culturally. The benefits girls receive are: healthy food, comprehensive training, school tutoring, psychological support, plus medical and dental care.



6

Beneficiaries'
families

32

Hours of
psychological
accompaniment

11

Direct
beneficiaries



MY BEAUTIFUL CHILD



This program provides **quality care for preschool girls and boys** whose mothers work in informal economy sales in Purulhá market.

Due to health restrictions, this year we modified our opening hours, with some periods in which we delivered the groceries to the mothers of the family.

In December, we were able to resume regular service hours on market days. To take care of everyone's health, mothers committed to complete their vaccination scheme

23
Direct
beneficiaries

19
Participating
volunteers

21
Beneficiaries'
mothers



FAMILY VEGETABLE PATCHES



Due to the pandemic, we had to suspend the annual activities of our *Vacation School*, because of the big amount of kids who participate with us in the in-person mode. Instead, we started the *Family Vegetable Patches* Initiative in homes that were selected as a pilot group.

Thanks to the financial support of **FUNSEK** we provided **supplies, knowledge and support** to elaborate plots and compost. We also passed out **native seeds of nutritious vegetables**, enough to cover the basic dietary needs for each family.

869

Accompaniment
visits

338

Indirect
beneficiaries

71

Beneficiaries'
families



ADOPT A GRANDPARENT



We continued our program which cares for the elderly, giving food and care to adults who live in a vulnerable situation.

The monthly delivery of groceries was carried out thanks to the commitment and community effort of the National Committee for Literacy's (CONALFA, as per its initials in Spanish) teachers and young volunteers from the community. Thanks to the donations of goods, this year we were able to deliver beds, warm clothes and geriatric vitamins.

We honor the memory of our grandparents who passed away this year, their memories will remain in our hearts. We are honored to have been able to accompany them with respect and dignity in the last stage of their lives.

70,680

Delivered pounds
of supplies

32

Participating
volunteers

62

Direct
beneficiaries



FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS



It is vital to us to offer support to families that, despite their financial limitations, **make extra efforts to support their children's academic improvement.** At certain times those families went through a crisis that made it difficult for them to continue providing for their children's education. Historical inequality, injustices and other inequities that hinder the development of the most vulnerable groups, are just some of the causes that give origin to these family crises.

That is why we decided to accompany particular cases of young people in our community, generally to **prevent their definitive school dropout**, and in the special case of a young person with Down syndrome, to offer him **access to work and school inclusion.**

12
Indirect
beneficiaries

3
Direct
beneficiaries



MEDICAL MISSION



This year was the **first free medical mission** for the most vulnerable population of the municipality of Purulhá. From September 19th-23rd, volunteer doctors coming from the United States, who are members of **Refuge International**, treated people of all ages and gave away medicines and vitamins at no cost.

This activity was possible thanks to the coordinated work of an alliance formed by the community, public and private sectors. We are proud to be part of this alliance, and to have been the bridge to consolidate its work, so that it can bear fruit.

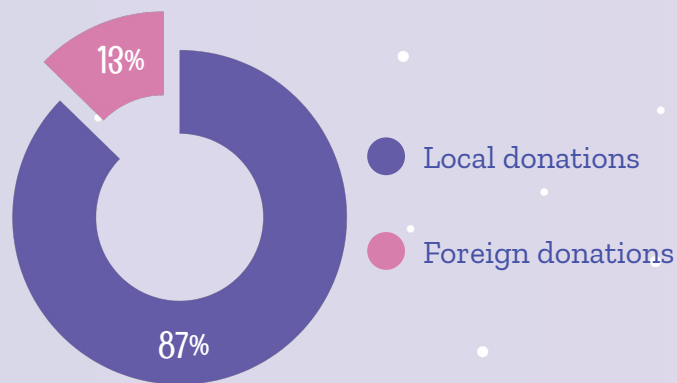


FINANCES

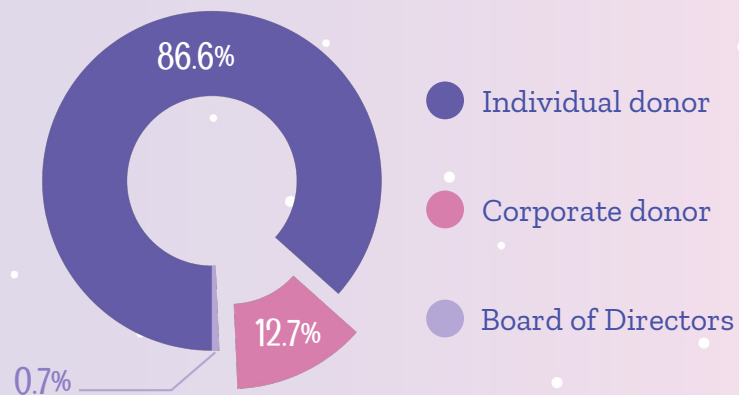
MONETARY INCOME

USD 67,171.70

Origin of donations



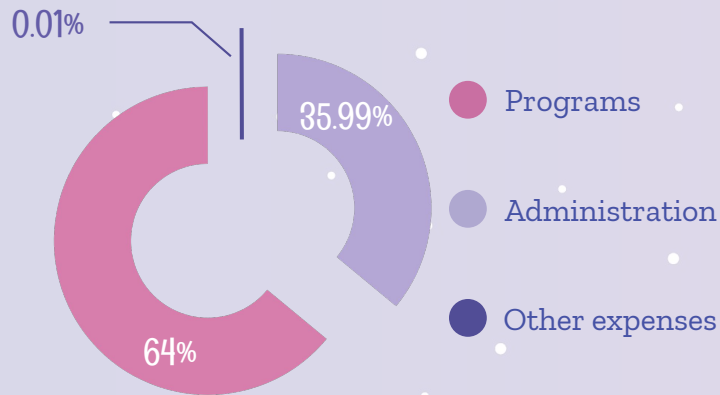
Type of donor



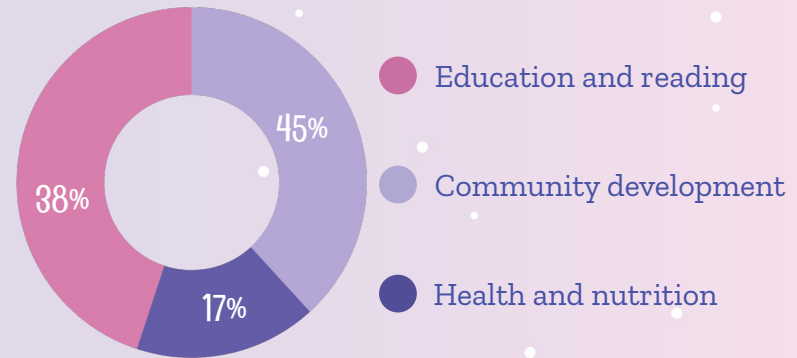
EXPENDITURES

USD 79,843.71

Expenditures by area



Expenditures by program



FRIENDS OF YO'O



We are very grateful for being able to count on a solid **support network**.

Volunteers, donors and allied organizations: we are honored for being able to call all of you **Friends**, and for you to be part of this wonderful community. Your commitment, trust and support have made possible the continuation of our programs so far.

We especially want to acknowledge the unconditional support of members of **Yo'o Inc.**, our sister organization based in the USA, who have accompanied us since we were founded so we can keep creating opportunities for the children and youth of Guatemala.

Thank you very much for being part of our community!

2022 CHALLENGES

The last two years have been a long way of adaptation to new models of attention so we can keep offering worthy opportunities, oriented to cover the main needs of the population of Purulhá, Baja Verapaz. These changes in turn, have brought significant financial sustainability challenges to the continuity of our programs.

Our commitment to the children and youth of the rural area stays firm. That is why, combined with the hard work we have been doing to systematize

processes, this year our purpose is to increase the efforts in diversifying our sources of income, having hybrid models of ethical financing.

We are looking for allies who share our principles and values, people committed to building a fairer society and convinced, as much as we are, that education is a firm bridge that allows connections to better opportunities for those who were born in conditions of poverty and extreme poverty.



JOIN US
TODAY!

CONTACT US



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We are the dream
of a better future!