



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

TWCG

TOGETHER WE CAN GUATEMALA

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The Garden of Hope is in great need of community support to continue making an impact. Help us find a new location!



2020 IN REVIEW

Dear Friends of Together We Can Guatemala,

It is no secret that 2020 has left a lasting impression on us all and will surely go down in history books. For many, it was a year of hardship, a year of self-reflection, and a year of immense courage. To the friends, family, and loved ones we have lost and to those fighting to push forward, we stand with you as a community.

Though slowed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Together We Can Guatemala put our best foot forward to continue creating an impact in the country that pulls on our heart strings, Guatemala. Thanks to you, we were able adapt and implement programming to address the changing needs of our communities in Jocotenango and El Hato.

As many of you know, Guatemala is a country that faces immense disparity, and the virus only further widened these gaps. Rates of poverty, malnutrition, and lack of access to an adequate education have drastically increased over the 2020 year.

As we move into 2021, we will continue to do our best in addressing these immense needs. We ask for your continued commitment, support, and hope for a better tomorrow for those in Guatemala. Together we can overcome the lingering challenges that COVID-19 presented in 2020. Together we can make a difference in 2021.

In Health,

Salina Duncan
Salina Duncan,
President, Together We Can Guatemala





ABOUT TWCG



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.



INTRODUCTION



Together We Can Guatemala (TWCG) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit registered in the state of Pennsylvania, USA. TWCG and Asociación Juntos Podemos (AJP) were formed in 2018 to provide financial support, as well as programmatic and administrative oversight, to two principal project sites: the Garden of Hope Permaculture Center and the El Hato Literacy Center. We currently aim to accomplish our organizational mission and vision by supporting these program goals.

Garden of Hope Permaculture Center

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.

Goal 1.1: Garden Education: Increase environmental stewardship, improve nutrition, and improve key life skills of students through school garden programs

Goal 1.2: Community-building: Provide a communal green space for the families of Jocotenango and opportunities for them to learn and share local plant and food knowledge

El Hato Literacy Center

The El Hato Literacy Center developed organically to address the needs of first generation readers under Las Manos de Christine (nonprofit) programs in 2012.

Goal 2.1: Student support: Improve academic performance and graduation rates of primary school students at El Hato

Goal 2.2: School Library: Improve literacy, critical thinking, and appreciation for reading among primary school students

Goal 2.3: Parents Library: Provide access to resources for parents to improve literacy and computer skills

Goal 2.4: Creative arts: Students develop skills to express themselves through creative art



THE GARDEN OF HOPE

As 2020 has come and gone, we enjoy looking back on all the things we have been able to accomplish despite the challenges and struggles faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, the Garden of Hope greatly modified and restructured activities and educational programs in order to address the needs of the Jocotenango Community.

Activities

- Garden Grill and Chill
- Agricultural Festival “Falling in Love with Earth”
- Intro to Permaculture Workshop
- Volunteer Days
- Community Days “Vegan Awareness”
- Remodel of garden beds and watering system

Educational Programs

- After School Gardening Class EFTC
- After School Gardening Class Lavosi
- Antigua Green School Workshops “People and Lands in the Americas”
- Colegio Boston Workshop “Forest Reforestation”
- Quarantine Container Gardens benefiting EFTC, Lavosi, El Hato
- Garden-to-Kitchen: Vegan Cooking and Nutrition Classes
- PINA Award Video: 3 Ethics of Permaculture in Sign Language, Spanish, and Kaqchikel
- Online Vegan Cooking classes for kids



DIRECT IMPACT
1,147 people



“I liked the vegan food workshop because they taught me things that I did not know... they taught me that we can reduce our expenses by not buying meat and buying vegetables instead to be healthier. I really liked the course.”

GARDEN-TO-KITCHEN: VEGAN COOKING AND NUTRITION CLASSES
PARTICIPANT





EL HATO LITERACY CENTER

As schools were completely shut down by Guatemala's Ministry of Education due to the pandemic, El Hato Literacy Center was also required to adapt to community needs.

El Hato Literacy Center was able to continue normal programming until March 2020, when classes were closed. At this point in time, the Center devoted efforts towards general community aid in El Hato.

El Hato Community Aid

- Distribution of educational packets
- Distribution of nonperishable food products
- Distribution of additional bulk grains
- Distribution of Quarantine Container Gardens kits

Activities

- Remodel of Literacy Center floor

Together We Can Guatemala hopes to devote more time and effort to programming in El Hato Literacy Center in 2021 due to the impact the pandemic has had on the already suffering education system in Guatemala. Please stay tuned for ways you can help this initiative!

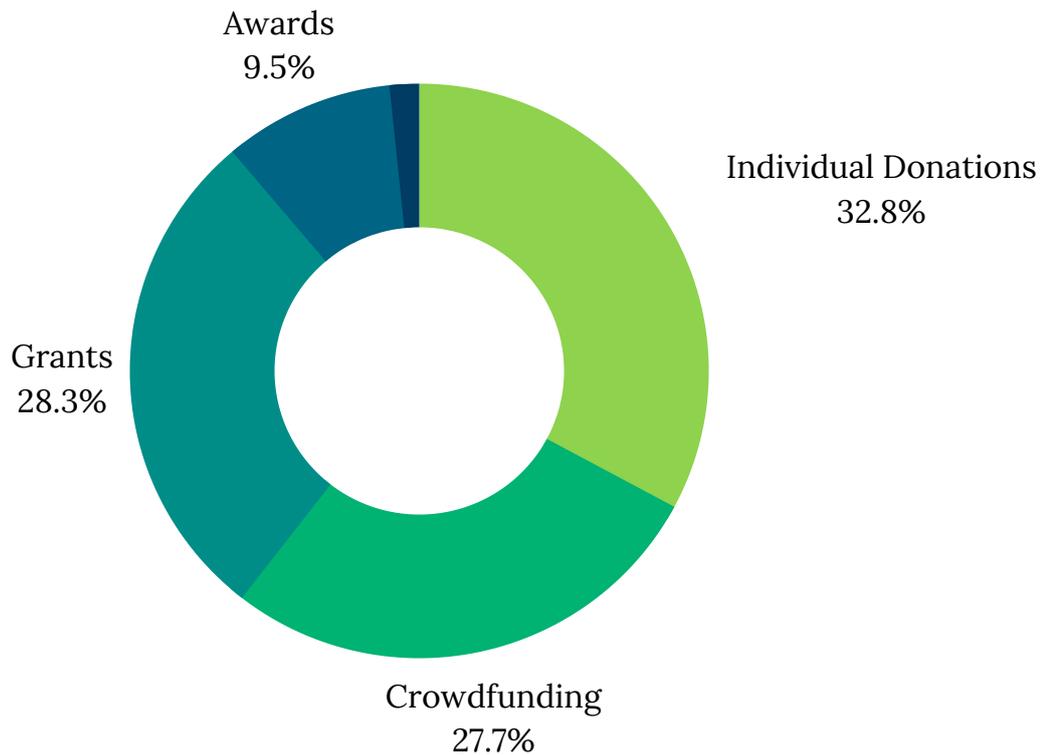


DIRECT IMPACT
1,204 people

2020

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TWCG & AJP REVENUE 2020



*Reflects combined revenue for the 2020 financial year

For the 2020 financial year, TWCG and AJP brought in a combined revenue of \$38,836.39.

The majority of this revenue, approximately 88.8%, was received through individual donations, grants, and crowdfunding (including GoFundMe Campaigns, Facebook donations, Amazon Smile, and the Paypal Giving Fund.)

A small percent of revenue was also generated through the acceptance of awards and local Guatemalan events and donations.



SPECIAL THANKS



TWCG would like to formally give thanks to our financial supporters and sponsors. Though, like many, TWCG experienced financial struggle this year due to COVID-19, we were able to stay afloat thanks, in part, to grants and awards we graciously accepted from The Pollination Project, A Well-Fed World, ProVeg International, Permaculture Institute of North America, and the GoFundMe Foundation.

Additionally, 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, El Hato Literacy Center, and the Garden of Hope throughout this trying year.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to youth development in Guatemala!



Permaculture
Institute of
North America

♥ THANK YOU ♥



Garden of

CALL TO ACTION 2021



The Garden of Hope is being asked to relocate from our space in Finca La Azotea.



Existing within Finca La Azotea allowed us the opportunity to connect with crucial community members, families, and schools that, over the years, have helped to build the Garden of Hope. Now, we are on the search for a similar space to help us meet our mission and grow.

We deeply believe that access to nature and healthy food are rights, not privileges, and should not be limited to people with lots of money to enjoy. To lose the Garden of Hope as a program and space would be a great loss for the community of Jocotenango and beyond.

Help us save our beloved project. If you can, please donate to our GoFundMe campaign. Every amount helps us to transition our programming to a new space.



Donate today!

If there is one thing that we have learned, it is the power of community. Community is what built the Garden of Hope, and it will be community that will save the Garden of Hope and help us find a new home. Thank you!

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/save-the-garden-of-hope/togetherwecanguatemala>



HELP US SAVE THE GARDEN OF HOPE.

AJP Director



Sonya Waldthausen

TWCG & AJP Board Members



Salina Duncan



Peter McManus



Nancy Kuster



Michelle Berkowitz Sultan



Claire Henkel

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Stay up-to-date with Together We Can Guatemala's exciting initiatives through our social media pages! Follow us at:



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www.facebook.com/Gardenofhopegt



www.instagram.com/gardenofhope/



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