



Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation

P.O. Box 1954
Sequim, WA 98382
501 (c) (3)

2017 Annual Report

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 21 women and girls are currently on scholarship, 3 of whom are at university
- We received the Great Nonprofits highest rating for the 5th year in a row



- 17 women/girls had eye exams and 6 received glasses
- 30 pairs of reading glasses were distributed
- Our 5th children's program began in January, and our 6th and 7th children's programs began in September
- Scholarship recipients attended four 1½ day workshops
- A projector was purchased to aid in community presentations
- Our four fund-raisers were great successes, including Men with Guitars which had standing room only.

Our Mission Statement

We are dedicated to partnering with and empowering indigenous women in Chiapas, Mexico, by providing them with access to education. Our goal is to help break the cycle of poverty, build self-esteem, and create positive role models.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2017 was our 12th year, and it was rewarding. We are delighted with the new children's programs. Our scholarship program is going strong. We continue to fund workshops for the cooperative with whom we partner. We were sorry to see the end of our 6-year adult literacy program, but the widespread teacher strikes made it impossible for our teacher to continue. One of the new children's programs has started in the same remote community.

Profile of the Indigenous Women of Chiapas

The women with whom we partner are indigenous Maya who speak Tsotsil, Tzeltal, and Tojolabal. About 50% speak Spanish, their second language, well. They live in extreme poverty. Many have dirt floors and rudimentary latrines. 39.2% of the general indigenous population is illiterate while illiteracy of indigenous women is estimated at 50% or higher. Girls, in particular, are unable to attend school for many reasons: having to work to sustain the family; deferring education to males in the family; lacking funds to cover educational expenses; and continuing long-standing traditional roles of a woman in the culture. (Source: INEGI 2010, CONAPO 2010)

What We Do Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation, founded in 2006, partners with an indigenous seamstress and weaving cooperative (established in 1996). We provide access to education in the form of scholarships, workshops, Saturday children's programs, , laptop computers, and eye exams and glasses. The women assess their own needs, develop programs and make proposals to us, which we fund as we are able. In addition, in the past few years, we have funded a women's center in San Cristóbal de las Casas and provided 20 eco-friendly latrines to 20 families.

Who We Are We are a small grassroots organization with a working Board of Directors. We host an annual Día de Muertos dinner and silent auction as our primary fundraiser. We also hold an annual garage sale, a "Men with Guitars" concert and a Mexican breakfast. Funds are solicited from our individual donors only once a year. All travel to Chiapas, Mexico, is paid for by the directors themselves so that a high percentage of donated funds (please see next page) go to projects and programs for the indigenous women and girls. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Judith Pasco, Board Chair
Cathy Van Ruhan, Secretary

At large: Molly Rivard
Martha Rudersdorf

Linda Finch
Steve Gilchrist

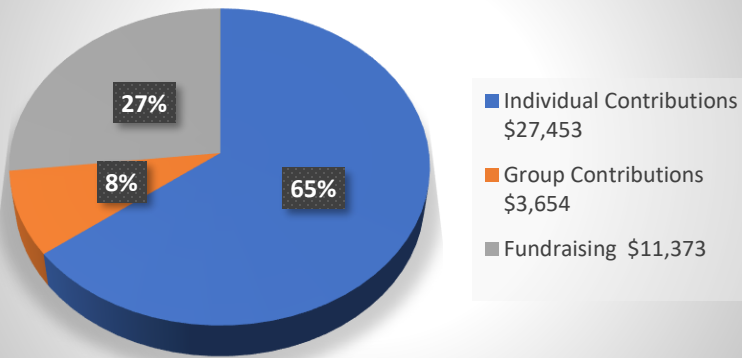
For additional information go to: www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org or contact mujeres@olypen.com

Donations may be given through our website or by mail to: Mujeres De Maiz Opportunity Foundation, P.O. Box 1954, Sequim, WA 98382



2017 Scholarship recipients

Total Income 2017



Total Expenses 2017

