



## *Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation*

P.O. Box 1954

Sequim, WA 98382

501(c)(3) Tax ID 20-4289123

### *2018 Annual Report*

#### **2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 23 women and girls are currently on scholarship, 4 of whom are at university level, 6 at preparatory, 9 at secondary (grades 6-9) and 4 in technical classes
- We received the Great Nonprofits highest rating for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row



- 18 women/girls had eye exams and 8 received glasses
- 30 pairs of reading glasses were distributed
- Our 8<sup>th</sup> children's program began in January
- Scholarship recipients attended three 1½ day workshops
- Two sewing machines were purchased for instructional purposes
- Alternative Gifts International honored us for the 6<sup>th</sup> time by choosing us to be in their annual catalog

#### ***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**

2018 was our 13<sup>th</sup> year, and it our programs continue strong. We funded 8 children's programs in communities.. Our scholarship program continues to function well, and recipients run the children's programs. We continue to fund workshops for the cooperative with whom we partner. Our relationship with the cooperative is inspiring to us. New board members Kathy Purcell, Beth Fetrow and John Boetsch are welcome assets.

## ***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, funded a government accredited literacy program in a rural community for 6 years, 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 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: Beth Fetrow Kathy Purcell John Boetsch  
Martha Rudersdorf Steve Gilchrist

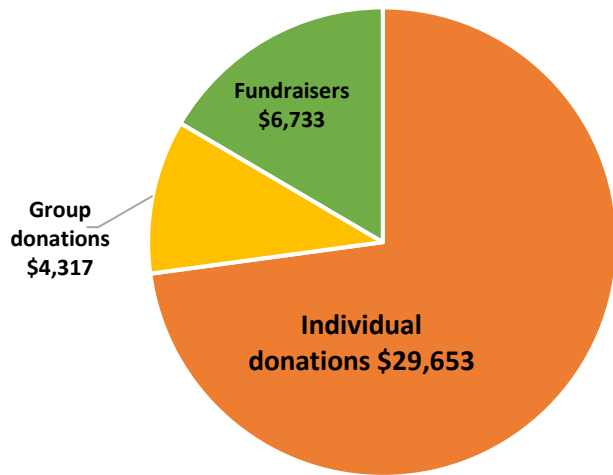
For additional information go to: [www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org](http://www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org) or contact [mujeres@olypen.com](mailto:mujeres@olypen.com)

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

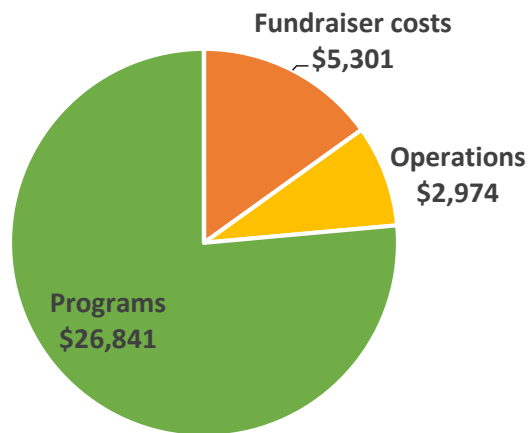


**Zinacantan Children's Program July 2018 1**

## Total Income 2018



## Total Expenses 2018



**Notes:** Fundraiser expenses were high because we were accepted into the Alternative Gifts International catalog. This requires a publication fee of \$3800. The turn-around time on that investment is 16 months, and we always receive at least 3 times our output at that time.

We brought back more items from Chiapas to sell as we were participating in the Soroptimist Gala Gift Show in December. Unfortunately, sales at the Gift Show were extremely low. In addition, we changed the format of our annual auction, which also resulted in much lower proceeds. However, fundraiser costs should decrease in 2019 as we don't need to purchase items in Chiapas this year. **Operations** were higher this year as we are having a new video made. All the costs associated with the video have been donated, except a \$600 flight expense for the photographer.

Without those expenses, the combined fundraiser and operation expenses would be \$3875, or 14%.