

## *Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation*

*P.O. Box 1954*

*Sequim, WA 98382*

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

### *2019 Annual Report*

## **2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 18 girls and women on continuing scholarships
- 1 new scholarship awarded
- 3 successful events: Dia de Muertos Dinner and Auction, our Mexican Breakfast held in March and the Men with Guitars concert held in May
- Great Nonprofits awarded us the 2019 top-rated badge for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.



- We are a Gold Star member of Guidestar
- 7 weekly children's programs continue
- A small literacy program in Las Ollas was started
- 6 women and girls were given eye-exams and 2 received glasses and 3 received eye drops
- We premiered our new video, filmed by Eric Rust. See it on our website. Be sure to watch it full screen and turn up the volume.

## ***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**

2019 was our 14<sup>th</sup> year, and our programs continue to be effective. We funded children's programs in 7 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 and that relationship is captured in our new video.

## ***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. 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

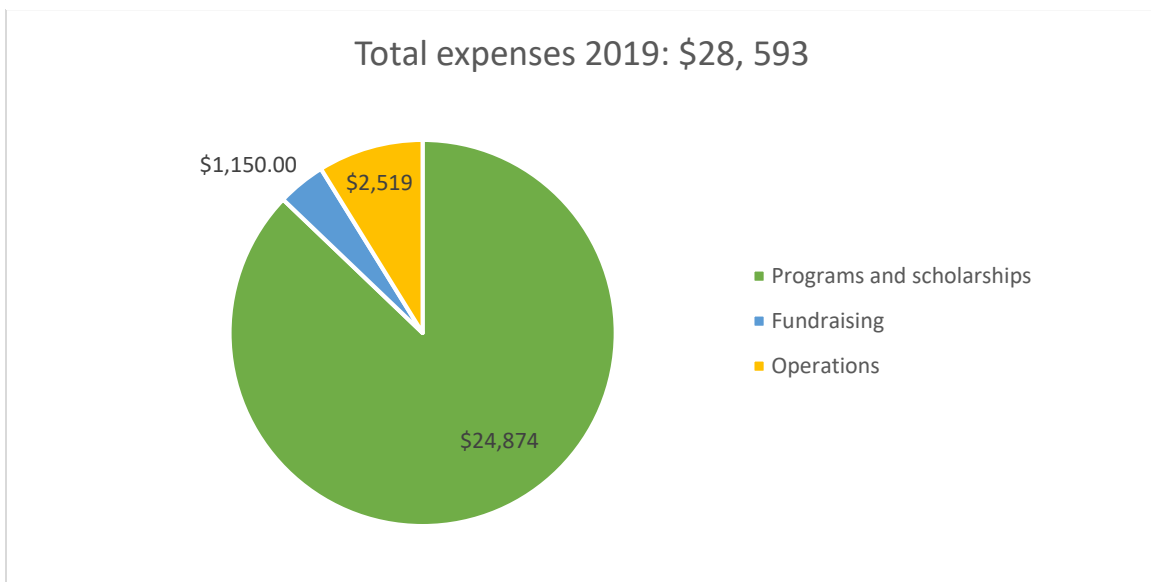
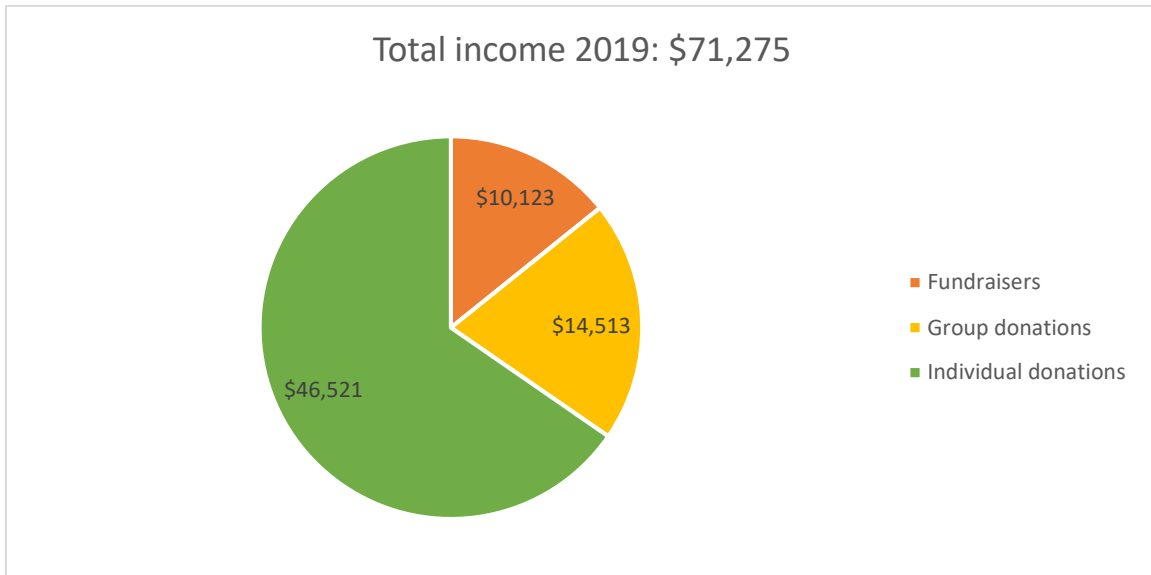
For additional information go to: [www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org](http://www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org) or contact [mujeres@olypen.com](mailto:mujeres@olypen.com)

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 2019



Note: Our expenses were several thousand dollars less this year. We received \$11,267 from Alternative Gifts International, as a result of our \$3800 investment with them in 2018. We were also the beneficiary of some large individual donations, and we are most appreciative. We see our work going forward well into the future.