



Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation

P.O. Box 1954

Sequim, WA 98382

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

2020 Annual Report

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 17 girls and women are currently on scholarship and we've added one new scholarship recipient
- 6 communities have weekly children's programs
- We are funding a small literacy program in Las Ollas.
- Sold 90 facemasks that we imported from Chiapas
- Our annual breakfast was a huge success as we fed 181 hungry people
- We were awarded Great Nonprofits top-rated badge for the 8th year in a row!



- We earned the Guidestar Seal of Transparency 2020



- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and with the permission of certain donors, we sent relief aid to the women in the cooperative. In two disbursements, \$26,000 was sent. 66 women received \$400 each.
- We are funding mini-libraries in the communities with children's programs.

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

2020, our 15th year in existence, was a difficult year for everyone. The virus closed children's programs for several months.

Scholarship recipients shifted to online learning. Workshops were postponed. By the end of the year, Chiapas had some of the best virus statistics in Mexico. But the indigenous communities were hard hit, and the majority of cases were not reported. The good news is that things are easing up and it is hoped that schools will reopen soon. Women in the cooperative suffered losses of income due to the inability to sell handicrafts to tourists. We are thankful to be able to help them purchase food and medicine during this difficult and challenging time.

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 hold a "Men with Guitars" concert and a Mexican breakfast as part of our fundraising. 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: Steve Gilchrist
Martha Rudersdorf

Kathy Purcell

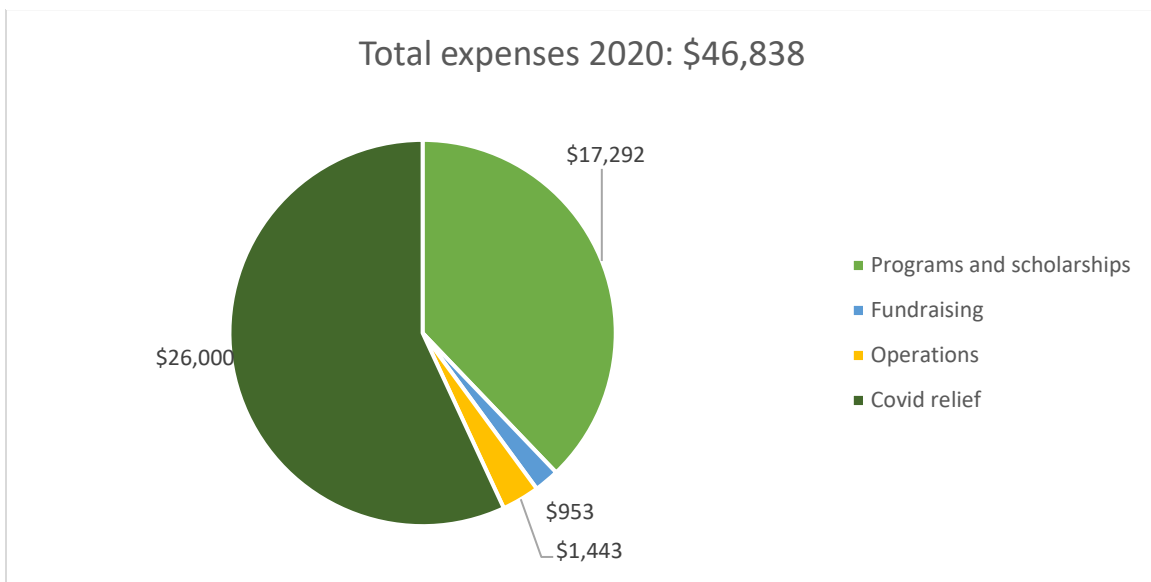
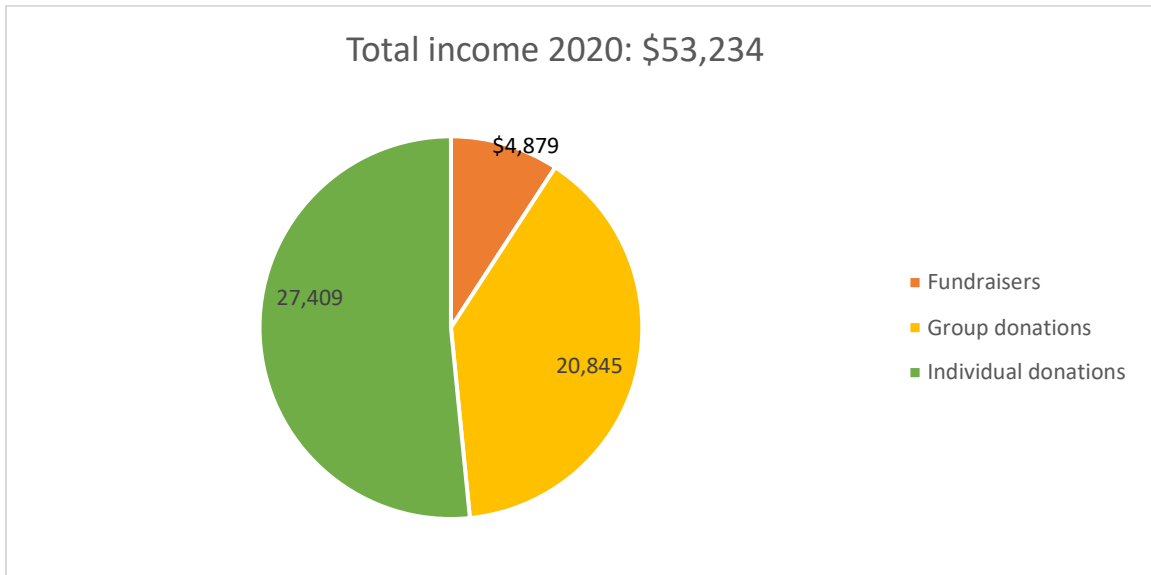
For additional information go to: www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org or contact mujeres@olypen.com

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



2020 Workshop Icebreaker

Total income and expenses 2020



Note: We are so appreciative of our generous and loyal donors. In addition, this year we were the recipient of a \$20,000 contribution from The Buchanan Programme and Luke Boucher of Orbis Investments. We extend heartfelt thanks to them.