

## *Mujeres de Maiz Opportunity Foundation*

*P.O. Box 1954*

*Sequim, WA 98382*

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

## *2022 Annual Report*

### **2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 14 girls and women are currently on scholarship and we've added one new scholarship recipient
- 6 communities have weekly children's programs
- 1 community has a weekly program for adult women
- We funded 2 laptops
- 9 girls had eye exams and 3 received glasses
- We doubled the number of books added to the libraries for the children's program
- Workshops were funded for both the cooperative members and for the girls who are receiving scholarships
- The process to renovate the women's center in San Cristobal has started

Mujeres is in its 5 year wind-down program. We are not actively soliciting donations (hence our much reduced income) but we don't turn them down! We are assuring that scholarship recipients will be able to complete their academic careers and working toward making the children's programs self-sustainable. We will be funding a good portion of the remodeling of the center. Other programs will continue as we are able. We are so grateful to all our donors as our stable financial program is due to them.

### ***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**

2022 was our 17<sup>th</sup> year in existence. The Covid pandemic has lessened and students returned to in-person classes. The children's programs are back to pre-Covid attendance. A visit to Chiapas in December 2022 was gratifying, as all programs, etc. are doing well. We see continuing evidence of girls and women in leadership positions in their communities and in the cooperative.

## ***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. Until Covid, we held 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

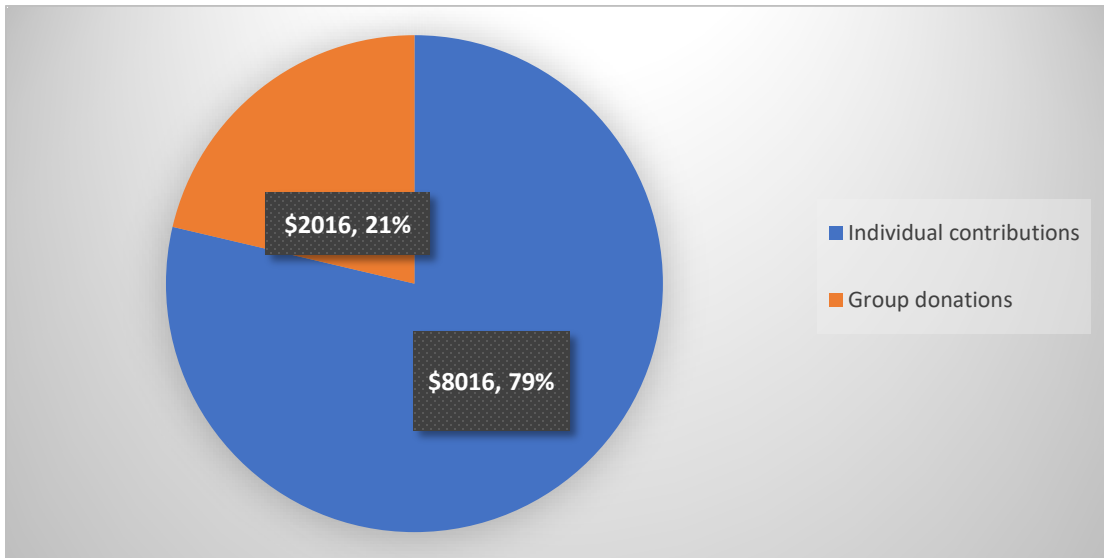
For additional information go to: [www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org](http://www.MujeresDeMaizOF.org) or contact [mujeres@olypen.com](mailto:mujeres@olypen.com)

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 2022 \$10,094



Total expenses 2022 \$24,791

