

Foundation Todos Juntos

Annual Report 2020



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Mother and baby from the Nutrition Program
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

Founded in 2001, [Foundation Todos Juntos \(FTJ\)](#) supports educational, health, public health, social, and environmental projects which aim to improve the daily life of residents of the Western Highlands of Guatemala as well as effect long-term, generational change.

Established in 2018, our partnership with Asociación 32 Volcanes, elevated the funding relationship that began with Asociación Pop Wuj. Through this collaboration, we continue to support projects which have contributed to improving the quality of life for so many in Xela and the surrounding rural communities.

Projects Supported by Foundation Todos Juntos in 2020

- 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program
- El Centro de Apoyo Familiar Todos Juntos (Family Support Center)
- 32 Volcanes Nutrition Program
- 32 Volcanes Clinic
- Various Environmental Programs



Founders of Asociación 32 Volcanes
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

Asociación 32 Volcanes

In December 2018, Carmencita de Alvarado and Roney Alvarado retired from Pop Wuj Spanish school in order to focus exclusively on social service, education, and health projects. The team, including Dr. Carmen Rosa Alvarado Benítez and others, founded Asociación 32 Volcanes, a Guatemalan non-profit association that seeks local and international community sovereignty and autonomy for environmental and social justice.

The core commitment and people involved in the work that FTJ and our generous donors' support did not change. Rather, 32 Volcanes brought with it a renewed sense of purpose to lead opportunities to work comprehensively in Xela and the surrounding rural areas.

32 Volcanes was founded on January 2, 2019, with established programs and robust principles including: food sovereignty and nutrition; health; education; bio-regeneration, adaptation to climate change, and waste management; and culture including collective memory, identity, thought, and access to art. They carry out the mission through the strengthened Scholarship Program, Family Support Center, Nutrition Program, 32 Volcanes Clinic, and several environmental projects.

In 2020, Foundation Todos Juntos supported the operations of 32 Volcanes with a grant of \$31,607.43

2020: COVID-19

As occurred across the world, due to the global pandemic, COVID-19, 32 Volcanes' projects were affected in terms of participation and resources. In general, Guatemala suffered economic/jobs crisis due to COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, an influx of Guatemalans made attempts to migrate to the United States.

In 2020, 32 Volcanes made as many project modifications as were possible to continue supporting the communities they committed to serving, while adhering to safety regulations and restrictions. For the greater part of 2020, educational programming was interrupted, thus affecting the Scholarship Program. Upon beginning virtual education, some schools operated without clear guidelines for instructional and curricular expectations nor criteria for evaluating student performance, leaving many families confused by the modifications. Further, many families did not have the resources needed to receive homework or participate in virtual learning. Access to the internet, additional education-related expenses, and lack of knowledge or time to learn teaching tools, were some of the primary challenges.

Due to limited economic options, some children had to leave school to enter the workforce and contribute to family incomes. Among the most common work for children was collecting firewood for cooking. As the Scholarship Program was established to encourage education and support education-related expenses, some funding traditionally used for education-specific expenses was used to offset income students would earn if they did not attend school. Scholarships assisted students' families to afford Internet access, food, and other necessities for students to continue their studies through e-learning.

While some traditionally delivered services were not possible due to the pandemic, the Nutrition Program and Family Support Center participants benefitted from having 32 Volcanes staff members who lived in their communities deliver modified support services.

El Centro de Apoyo Familiar Todos Juntos



Yolanda and her students at the Centro de Apoyo Familiar before the pandemic
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

El Centro de Apoyo Familiar Todos Juntos (Family Support Center or FSC) is located in Llano del Pinal, a Maya K'iche' community south of Quetzaltenango. The FSC serves as a childcare center and after-school program for 31 children, from toddlers to 6th grade, including children with special needs. Although there is a range in the family background and history of the children at the FSC, all come from Indigenous, low-income, rural families. In 2020, one new child, a graduate of the Nutrition Program, joined her three sisters already attending the FSC. Most of the children also receive scholarships through the 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program.

Historically, most of the children attended school in the morning and then the project for a hot, nutritious lunch and an afternoon of homework and activities, while children too young for school arrived in the morning and remained all day. However, in-person activities were discontinued in mid-March 2020. Instead families arrived at staggered times to meet with staff and pick-up supplies. Home visits were conducted as needed to reach some families. In 2020, 32 Volcanes provided perishable and non-perishable food, educational materials, and hygiene supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, and soap in addition to financial support to families each month (approximately US\$13) to buy fresh food.

In years prior, Carmen de Alvarado, who heads the project, met monthly with the mothers of participants to discuss various educational (a FSC primary objective), public health, environmental, and social issues. Due to safety restrictions, Carmen de Alvarado and the FSC staff supported the students via phone or internet and held weekly Zoom meetings.

The teaching staff of the FSC is comprised entirely of former FSC participants/scholarship students from Llano del Pinal. They provide an inspiring example for the current FSC children.

El Centro de Apoyo Familiar Todos Juntos is largely funded by the Foundation, with a total grant of \$22,203.15 in 2020. Donations made directly in Guatemala also support the Family Support Center.

32 Volcanes Scholarship Program



Scholarship Students from San Juan Ostuncalco
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

The 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program provides funds and support for Guatemalan families to send their children to school. In 2020, the program provided partial scholarships for 108 Guatemalan students, from elementary school to university. Ten of these students graduated from primary school. Ten students graduated from básico (the equivalent of 9th grade), and five students graduated from high school. There were no college graduates in 2020, however there were a total of twelve scholarship students pursuing university education. Due to complications caused by the pandemic, Foundation Todos Juntos and 32 Volcanes agreed to continue the scholarships for all students who enrolled in school in 2021.

Most of the scholarship students are part of 32 Volcanes' established community groups in Chiriquiac, Llano del Pinal, San Juan Ostuncalco, and Xeabaj II. Other students live in the rural community of Olinstepeque and the city of Quetzaltenango.

In addition to financial support, 32 Volcanes staff and volunteers meet monthly with the families, providing parent education and helping families navigate the educational system. Given the education disruptions due to the pandemic, 32 Volcanes staff bridged communication with scholarship families by coordinating phone meetings as in-person meetings were not possible and travel was limited. Community facilitators, including university scholarship students, helped distribute the scholarship funds.

The 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program is funded almost entirely by Foundation Todos Juntos, with a total grant of \$28,465.48 in 2020. Donations made on site in Guatemala also support the Scholarship Program.

32 Volcanes Nutrition Program

In 2020, the Nutrition Program served 382 children, aged 6 months to 5 years in the rural communities of Llano del Pinal, Buena Vista, La Victoria, and Xeabaj II. This represents nearly a 275% increase from the number of children served in 2019, in large part due to the increased need created by the pandemic.

In partnership with [Timmy Global Health](#), 32 Volcanes staff and volunteers provided monthly education, growth monitoring, nutrition consults, medical consults for sick children, referrals for lab work and specialist care, various nutritional supplements, and food including eggs, amaranth and sesame seed atole, Incaparina, broad beans, lentils, and chickpeas.

Due to the pandemic, group meetings were not possible and the program required additional funding for transportation expenses as well as extra food and nutritional resources.

Prior to the pandemic and in collaboration with the [Mathile Institute](#), 32 Volcanes conducted a broad survey of the health and living conditions including access to water, feeding practices, and income of the families in the Nutrition Program. In March 2020, the Nutrition Program began using [Chispuditos](#), a corn and soy blend that provides micronutrients, as its primary supplement; expanded the community vegetable gardens; and included the use of Vitamin A supplements and anti-parasitic treatments every six months. Education and individual nutritional counseling continued.

In 2020, after six months in the program, twenty-five children graduated from the program with a healthy height and weight. The program started with 28% of children at high risk of death based on a diagnosis of acute malnutrition (wasting) and ended the year with zero cases of wasting. The revised Nutrition Program continues to be monitored and evaluated.

Foundation Todos Juntos supported the Nutrition Program with a grant of \$6,981.54 in 2020. Donations made directly in Guatemala and support from Timmy Global Health also funded the Nutrition Program.



A Nutrition Program participant with her mother
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

Environmental Projects

Asociación 32 Volcanes implemented and expanded several environmental projects, with modifications due to the pandemic.

Recognizing that food sovereignty and health are intertwined, 32 Volcanes began a training program for facilitators/community leaders. The program aims to strengthen the network of leaders and beneficiaries to build a community that can create new knowledge based on Mayan cosmovision, memory, and innovative solutions, such as regenerative agriculture, to address food insecurity and health issues.

Creating food gardens, water harvesting systems, and providing environmental, health and nutrition counseling are components of the project expansion.

The goal is to strengthen the community's ability to adapt to climate variability, increase agrobiodiversity, improve soil quality, ensure access to clean water and nutritious food, and generate income through trade in regional markets.



Harvesting one of the community gardens
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes



Urban Garden in Xela
Photo by Carmen Rosa Alvarado Benítez

The environmental activities included the creation of family, community, and urban food gardens; reforestation; recycling; environmental education within the other 32 Volcanes projects; organic garden workshops on compost, and oyster mushroom cultivation to support consumption of home-grown food and encourage a more nutritious diet with a reduced ecological footprint. These activities were possible thanks to the support of local university interns, local and non-Guatemalan volunteers, and mothers who participate in other 32 Volcanes' projects,

In 2020 FTJ supported the environmental projects with a total grant of \$292.03. Funds from [Timmy Global Health](#) and [SEEDS](#) also supported these projects.

32 Volcanes Clinic

32 Volcanes provides medical and health services via its clinic, mobile clinic, and chronic and referral patient care. These programs are funded in part by Timmy Global Health, income generated by the Clinic, and a grant from Foundation Todos Juntos.

Prior to the pandemic, [Timmy Global Health](#) brigades visited Guatemala five times per year and served the communities of Buena Vista (Maya Mam), Xeabaj II (Maya K'iche'), Pujujil (Maya Kakchikel), and Llano del Pinal (Maya K'iche'). Staffed by two local doctors, a local nurse, and local and non-Guatemalan volunteers, the clinic served approximately 18 patients per week in 2020. 32 Volcanes continues to assist with specialist referrals and chronic patient care as needed. Health education is also provided at the clinic.

Due to the pandemic, Timmy Global Health only conducted the January 2020 brigade and the remaining four brigades were canceled. In their place, 32 Volcanes Clinic staff conducted small mobile clinics to the rural areas when possible to provide medication, education, and personal protective equipment such as masks for the more vulnerable patients.

The clinic is free to anyone who participates in other 32 Volcanes projects. Other individuals are charged a small fee of Q50 (approximately \$6.55 USD). The fee includes a medical consult with a doctor and medication as needed.

In 2020, the 32 Volcanes Clinic treated 2,572 patients. One time visits were made by 831 patients. However, 1,741 of the patients returned for follow-up visits and continued medical care. The returning patients had an average of four visits per patient in 2020.

In 2020, Foundation Todos Juntos supported the 32 Volcanes Clinic with a grant of \$3,580.77.

Asociación Abriendo Caminos/Pathways

Asociación Abriendo Caminos (Pathways) is a Guatemalan non-profit organization created to meet the needs of youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families in and around Quetzaltenango. In 2016, Foundation Todos Juntos partnered with Abriendo Caminos as its fiscal sponsor.

In 2018 Abriendo Caminos began a re-structuring process to adopt a broader scope and a systematic approach to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. Since then, no donations had been distributed to Abriendo Caminos.

In 2020, Foundation Todos Juntos voted to dissolve the partnership with Abriendo Caminos and, after notifying the Board of Directors and Abriendo Caminos donors, absorbed funding for 32 Volcanes projects.

2020 Financial Summary

Revenues:

Private Donations	\$93,432	100.0%
Total Revenues	\$93,432	100.0%
Beginning Fund Balance	\$61,976	
Total Available Resources	\$155,407	

Expenditures:

Asociacion 32 Volcanes	\$31,607	32.6%
32 Volcanes Scholarship Program	\$28,465	29.3%
Centro de Apoyo Familiar (Family Support Center)	\$22,203	22.9%
32 Volcanes Nutrition Program	\$6,982	7.2%
32 Volcanes Clinic	\$3,581	3.7%
32 Volcanes Environmental Projects	\$292	0.3%
Total Programmatic Expenditures	\$93,130	95.9%
General Administration Expenses	\$3,953	4.1%
Total Expenditures	\$97,084	100.0%

Ending Fund Balance ¹	\$58,323
Total Commitments/Fund Balance	\$155,407

¹The funds available at the end of the year were largely committed to 2021 projects.

Note: Starting in 2015 Foundation Todos Juntos financial reports have been compiled using Cash Basis Accounting for both income and expenses.

Definitions

Beginning Fund Balance

Actual funds available on January 1, 2020.

Expenditures

The actual (i.e. cash-based funding) for all quarters of 2020.

Foundation General Administration

Foundation general administration fees include wire transfer and PayPal fees, professional accounting services, registration with appropriate state authorities, postage, and insurance.

Private Donations

Private donations represent the total funds donated by individuals and organizations.

**Foundation Todos Juntos extends special thanks to our generous donors.
Nearly 100% of the Foundation Todos Juntos funding comes from our
donors. Every penny matters.**

Donations to Foundation Todos Juntos support educational, social, health, public health, and environmental projects and make tangible differences in the lives of Guatemalan communities.



Family Support Center Participants at Christmastime, Llano del Pinal
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

Foundation Todos Juntos

P.O. Box 533
Honey Brook, PA 19344
USA
www.todos-juntos.org
info@todos-juntos.org