

# Foundation Todos Juntos

## Annual Report 2021



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Carmen de Alvarado and young Family Support Center participants  
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

Founded in 2001, Foundation Todos Juntos (FTJ) supports community-driven health, education, social work, and environmental projects that uplift and honor the history and culture of families and individuals living in the Western Highlands of Guatemala.

Our partnership with Asociación 32 Volcanes, established in 2019, elevated the funding relationship that began with Asociación Pop Wuj in 2001. 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.

### **Specific Projects Supported by Foundation Todos Juntos in 2021**

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

## 2021: The Pandemic Continues

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the work of 32 Volcanes in 2021. Pandemic restrictions in Guatemala resulted in job loss, lack of transportation, an increase in isolation and stress, and intensified domestic violence and migration to the United States. In 2021, 32 Volcanes continued to adapt project activities, as needed, to support the communities they serve.



A Family Support Center Family, Llano del Pinal  
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

Education in Guatemala remained primarily, if not entirely, virtual in 2021, thus affecting the Scholarship Program. As in 2020, 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 still 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 to sell 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.

## Asociación 32 Volcanes



Asociación 32 Volcanes Staff with Angelica, a University Scholarship Student  
Photo courtesy of 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 through cultural transformation for the regeneration and dignity of life.

The core commitment and people involved in the work did not change. Rather, 32 Volcanes brought a renewed sense of purpose to their work 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 2021, Foundation Todos Juntos supported the operations of 32 Volcanes with a grant of \$19,718.13.

## Centro de Apoyo Familiar Todos Juntos



A Family Support Center participant and her mother receive monthly food and educational materials  
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

The 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. All children come from Indigenous, low-income, rural families. School-age children also receive scholarships through the 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program.

Pre-pandemic, the children attended school in the morning and arrived at 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, group activities were suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic and the FSC remain closed to in-person group activities in 2021. Instead, families received Q100/month (approximately \$13 US) to buy fresh food and additional funds were provided to help cover the costs of internet access. The families were also given groceries, hygiene supplies including masks and hand soap, as well as educational materials. FSC teachers prepared virtual activities and the mothers participated in virtual monthly meetings and workshops on topics to support their emotional health.

A newer activity was the work in two vegetable gardens, which, being outdoors, allowed for in-person interactions and an introduction to agroecology and the Mandala style garden. Annual reforestation efforts also continued. Staff and families planted 600 trees (native species of cypress, alder, and pine) in the deforested areas around Llano del Pinal.

All the current FSC educators are themselves FSC graduates and continue their university studies as 32 Volcanes scholarship students. They provide an inspiring example for the current FSC children. Four children graduated from primary school in 2021 despite education continuing to be completely virtual in Llano del Pinal.

The Centro de Apoyo Familiar Todos Juntos is largely funded by the Foundation, with a total grant of \$22,556.92 in 2021. Donations made directly in Guatemala also support the Family Support Center.

## 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program



Scholarship Students from Chirijchiac, Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

The 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program provides funds and support for Guatemalan families to send their children to school. In 2021, the program provided partial scholarships for 105 Guatemalan students. Nine students graduated from primary school. Six students graduated from middle school, and three students graduated from high school. We celebrated the university graduation of one student and the graduation of another student from a post-secondary technical school. Sixteen scholarship students pursued university or other post-secondary education in 2021.

Most of the scholarship students are part of 32 Volcanes established community groups in Chirijchiac, Llano del Pinal, San Juan Ostuncalco, and Xeabaj II. Other students live in the rural community of Olinpeque 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 telephone meetings when in-person meetings were not possible.

Complications caused by the pandemic continued in 2021 and some students with greater difficulties due to lack of technological resources decided to repeat their grade in 2022.

Unfortunately, there were scholarship students and former scholarship students who decided to migrate to the United States, including four from Llano del Pinal and one from San Juan. Other students dropped out in order to work to help support their families.

The 32 Volcanes Scholarship Program is funded almost entirely by Foundation Todos Juntos, with a total grant of \$25,460.45 in 2021. Donations made on site in Guatemala also support the Scholarship Program.

## 32 Volcanes Nutrition Program

In 2021, the Nutrition Program served 168 children, aged six months to five years in the rural communities of Llano del Pinal, Buena Vista, La Victoria, and Xeabaj II.

Guatemala has the sixth-highest rate of stunting (chronic malnutrition) in the world. This condition can affect neurological development and developmental milestones, as well as an increased risk of children over five years of age becoming obese and developing chronic diseases.

The Nutrition Program began 2021 with 27.83% of enrolled children at high risk of acute malnutrition and 3.57% with severe or moderate wasting. All these children have recuperated their weight to normal which helps to improve children's height.



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

Eight children graduated from the program with a healthy weight and height in 2021.

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 atol, Incaparina, broad beans, lentils, and chickpeas.

The Nutrition Program continued using [Chispuditos](#), a corn and soy blend that provides micro-nutrients, 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 on food sovereignty, agroecology, lactation, and the environment, as well as individual nutritional counseling continued.

The Nutrition Program also addresses big picture issues by developing strategies that empower families and community members to make political decisions that allow resilience and response to climate change, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, gender-based abuse, and environmental damage. In collaboration with the [Mathile Institute](#), 32 Volcanes again conducted a survey of the health and living conditions, feeding practices, and income of the families in the Nutrition Program.

Foundation Todos Juntos supported the Nutrition Program with a grant of \$17,594.59 in 2021. Donations made directly in Guatemala and support from Timmy Global Health also funded the Nutrition Program.

## 32 Volcanes Clinic and Health Scholarships

32 Volcanes provides physical and mental 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.

Staffed by two local doctors, a local nurse, and local and non-Guatemalan volunteers, the clinic's goal is to offer a quality, holistic health service to vulnerable communities and groups by providing medical attention, mental health support, nutrition follow-up, physical activities, and opportunities to develop skills in food sovereignty.



Dr. Carmen Rosa & Carmencita in the Clinic  
Photo by Amy Scheuren

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'). The brigades were suspended due to the pandemic and have not yet resumed. 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 \$6.65 USD). The fee includes a medical consult with a doctor and medication as needed. 32 Volcanes continues to assist with specialist referrals and chronic patient care. Health education is also provided at the clinic.

In 2021, the 32 Volcanes Clinic treated 526 unique patients who were seen at a total of 2,042 visits.

The Health Scholarship Program is a new program for children and youth with disabilities that require life-sustaining medication and/or treatment. Their healthcare costs are too high to be covered as part of the existing 32 Volcanes Clinic referral program. The patients are referred to the Health Scholarship Program by the 32 Volcanes Clinic and/or the Nutrition Program. Three children and youth were served by this new program in 2021.

In 2021, Foundation Todos Juntos supported the 32 Volcanes Clinic with a grant of \$7,556.62 to fund both the clinic and a new Health Scholarship Program. The Clinic received \$4,439.74 and an additional \$3,116.88 was designated for the Health Scholarship Program.

## Environmental Projects

In 2021 32 Volcanes expanded several environmental projects, with ongoing modifications due to the pandemic. UNESCO contracted with 32 Volcanes to work in their communities and develop a cycle of three workshops on food sovereignty including recognition of the environment, influence of the moon and mandala garden, and From the Garden to the Plate. These workshops were replicated and applied to all 32 Volcanes' communities as well.

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.

The environmental activities included the creation of family, community, and urban food gardens; reforestation; recycling; environ-



Family Support Children working in their garden  
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes



Reforestation in Llano del Pinal  
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

mental education within the other 32 Volcanes projects; composting workshops, and oyster mushroom cultivation. 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 2021 FTJ supported the environmental projects with a total grant of \$95.00. The majority of the expenses of these projects were covered by donations made in Guatemala, a grant from Timmy Global Health, UNESCO, and SEEDS.

## 2021 Financial Summary

### Revenues:

Private Donations	\$110,445	100.0%
Total Revenues	\$110,445	100.0%
Beginning Fund Balance	\$58,323	
Total Available Resources	\$168,768	

### Expenditures:

32 Volcanes Scholarship Program	\$25,460	26.2%
Centro de Apoyo Familiar (Family Support Center)	\$22,557	23.2%
Asociación 32 Volcanes	\$19,718	20.3%
32 Volcanes Nutrition Program	\$17,595	18.1%
32 Volcanes Clinic	\$7,557	7.8%
32 Volcanes Environmental Projects	\$95	0.1%
<b>Total Programmatic Expenditures</b>	<b>\$92,982</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
General Administration Expenses	\$4,134	4.3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$97,116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Ending Fund Balance <sup>1</sup>	\$71,652
<b>Total Commitments/Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$168,768</b>

<sup>1</sup>The funds available at the end of the year were largely committed to 2022 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, 2021.

### Expenditures

The actual (i.e. cash-based funding) for all quarters of 2021.

### 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.

## **A Message from the Board of Foundation Todos Juntos**

### **Did You Know Foundation Todos Juntos is an Entirely Volunteer Run Organization?**

Yes! Foundation Todos Juntos does not have any staff and each board member is on the Board because we personally have been to Xela and came away with a deep appreciation for the community-driven work taking place in the Highlands of Guatemala. Today that work is led by 32 Volcanes. We have seen these projects grow and adapt over the decades and are proud to continue supporting the work today.

Our Board members live in Guatemala, the U.S., and Canada. Less than 5% of the donations sent to the Foundation are used to support the administrative efforts of the Board. Typically, we visit the projects you support at least twice annually, using our personal funds to do so. This allows us to stay in close contact with 32 Volcanes, assure that your funds are well spent, and keep you up to date on their remarkable accomplishments.

Thank you for your trust and partnership. We are grateful to 32 Volcanes for being a channel for good and positive change in the face of such challenging conditions. We are grateful to you for contributing your energy and resources to the beautiful outcomes recounted in this annual report.

Yours in Dedicated Service,  
Foundation Todos Juntos Board of Directors

**Foundation Todos Juntos extends special thanks to our generous donors.  
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.



Families and staff from the Family Support Center visit the 32 Volcanes office in Xela  
Photo courtesy of 32 Volcanes

## **Foundation Todos Juntos**

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