



LOCAL HOPE | **XELA AID**
GUATEMALA | PARTNERSHIPS FOR
 SELF-RELIANCE
 16585 PACIFIC COAST HWY #1194 • SUNSET BEACH, CA 90742

IMPACT REPORT 2023



Dear Valued Supporter,

For 32 years Local Hope has been empowering families and communities to be healthy, educated, and self-reliant. We are pleased to report a banner year in terms of the number of individuals and families we were able to serve, and the quality of our offerings. You will see these successes reflected in the “2023 Impacts and Growth vs. 2022” chart included. These successes translate to extraordinary progress for our communities, and for individual beneficiaries like **Ester, Irma, and Fabiana**—whose success stories we share with you here. Of course, none of this good news would be possible without the support of donors like you. Let’s keep it going.

In deepest gratitude,

Leslie

Leslie Baer Dinkel, CEO



Health - **Ester Juárez** was born with microcephaly and never learned to walk. For the past year, the caring staff of our **Special Needs Program** worked with Ester, now 7 years old, to improve her muscle strength, coordination, and balance. Ester’s devoted mother brings her to weekly therapy sessions by bus, then continues her therapy at home. This year, Ester began to walk! “I’ve seen an amazing evolution,” her mother described through tears of joy. “Before, she could not stand. Now she can walk. She cried so much before, but now, she is very happy.” Like mother, like daughter, Ester’s determination shines through!



Education - In 2023, **Local Hope’s Rotary Computer Laboratory** successfully certified 110 students who earned certificates as Computer Operators, Repair Technicians, Graphic Designers, Typists and more. The innovative multimedia technology and teaching methods used by skilled staff attracted participants from 16 villages who have since learned marketable skills. **Irma Lajpop**, a Computer Operator course graduate, joined as an adult and is exceedingly grateful “for the opportunity to study and the skills I have learned to support my family.”



Self Reliance - Local Hope is empowering women like **Fabiana de León** who feels independent and secure due to the skills she learned in our **Adult Literacy Program**. Adults 18 and older learn to read, write, and do simple math. They receive training to be able to run their own small businesses. With these skills and additional support to build confidence, hundreds of women and a few determined men have taken charge of their lives and are contributing to their family’s financial well-being. Micaela de León who coordinates a related program, notes that “what women want most are economic opportunities to support their family’s basic needs.” She summed, “Our participants are eager to continue this journey together!”



LOCAL HOPE 2023 IMPACTS AND GROWTH VS. 2022

HEALTH CARE 4,203 PATIENTS SERVED vs. 2,604 in 2022 Growth 61%	COUNSELING 34,196 PARTICIPANT HOURS vs. 27,232 in 2022 Growth 25.6%	SAFE WATER 26,895 PEOPLE SERVED vs. 26,720 in 2022 +175 Beneficiaries*	PRE-K LEARNING 50,500 PARTICIPANT HOURS vs. 44,880 in 2022 44 → 75 Children
STUDY CENTER 82,764 PARTICIPANT HOURS vs. 62,700 in 2022 100 → 120 Children	COMPUTER LAB 630,000 PARTICIPANT HOURS vs. 602,192 in 2022 617 → 630 Users	SCHOLARSHIPS 172 SPONSORED YOUTH vs. 166 in 2022 +6 Students	LITERACY 17,136 PARTICIPANT HOURS vs. 11,025 in 2022 45 → 68 Women
SPECIAL NEEDS 89,648 LEARNING/PHYSICAL THERAPY HOURS vs. 67,464 in 2022 86 → 106 Clients	LEADER TRAINING 5,084 PARTICIPANT HOURS vs. 5,016 in 2022 33 → 31 Youth	EMERGENCY FOOD 22,875 PEOPLE vs. 22,000 in 2022 +875 Beneficiaries*	HOT MEALS 6,930 vs. 3,720 267 Children/Seniors vs. 220 Children/Seniors

* Cumulative

Summary of Individuals Served

2021- 5,530 • 2022 - 11,720 • 2023 - 15,090

New Volunteer Experiences Offered



In 2021, we opened our Eco Guest House@San Martín, featuring 12 luxury rooms, excellent food service, and a myriad of opportunities for volunteers to share their time and talents. While we continue to offer the same top-rated guided volunteer experiences we've become known for over the past three decades, *we are pleased to introduce two new offerings:*

“Volunteer in Guatemala!” - This two-week, turn-key package for individuals is a great introduction to Guatemala and service in our Mam-Maya community. The stay includes meals, accommodations, field trips, the attention of caring staff and a variety of adventures in service.

“Build Your Own Volunteer Group” - A perfect solution for those who'd like to lead a group (1-12 rooms) and choose their own dates. Leaders can create a meaningful experience at Xela AID, access our safe and reliable transportation, and enjoy near turn-key convenience should they choose to visit other locations in Guatemala.

Find both of these new offerings at LocalHope.org>Volunteer
Thank you for your support!

LOCAL HOPE - Xela AID Partnerships for Self Reliance

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Local Hope operates 18 programs spanning Health, Education and Self-Reliance—that is, building job and leadership skills that lead to employment or self-employment, and ultimately, economic independence. Together, our programs fuel our mission, to “empower families and communities to be healthy, educated and self-reliant.”

Our “**2022 Impacts and Growth vs. 2021**” chart that follows reveals the past year as one of **phenomenal program and professional growth** for our organization and our staff. This growth translates into life-changing outcomes for communities, beginning with individuals, such as Abelinda, Maria Julia and Luis—three success stories of *thousands*.



Health - **Abelinda** (at right with teacher, Ilsy) was born with just two fingers on each hand. Her mother—a weaver with a modest income and three other children to care for—did not have the resources to seek help for her daughter. For years, she watched helplessly as other children made fun of Abelinda, who withdrew. At Local Hope’s Special Needs Center and Xela AID Clinic, Abelinda’s mother found hope. Her little girl was quickly diagnosed, and an x-ray found additional fingers conjoined beneath her tissue. At age 5, post surgery, Abelinda now enjoys four unique fingers on each hand. “She plays with other children,” says her mother. “She smiles a lot, and no longer hides her hands. As her mother, I can’t imagine a greater joy!”



Education - **Maria Julia’s** extended family felt that as a girl, she should skip school and focus on home skills. She was fortunate, however, that her parents supported her dream of doing more. As the eldest of five children, Maria Julia (at right) knew resources were limited. “I thought I would graduate from high school, get a job paying less than minimum wage, and help my family as best I could.” Instead, an Educational Scholarship from Local Hope allowed her to earn a bachelor’s degree in clinical psychology, then a good job. “It changed my life completely,” she says. “I never could have gone to college if it weren’t for Local Hope. I now earn a salary that allows me to help my family and continue pursuing my dreams.” Maria Julia is Local Hope’s Deputy Director.



Self Reliance - **Luis Miguel** (at right) believed he’d always work in the fields as his father and grandfather had, but he wanted more for his life. His own efforts, a Local Hope Educational Scholarship, and Leadership Training led Luis to an advanced degree and a high-paying job as City Engineer for his community. Because he was able to secure gainful employment, Luis Miguel never succumbed to human traffickers who seduce local youth to take the perilous journey north as a “duty” to family. Like hundreds of other youth from Local Hope programs, Luis Miguel is thriving at home in the safety of his own village and loving embrace of his family.



LOCAL HOPE 2022 IMPACTS AND GROWTH VS. 2021

The following represents the the work of our dedicated staff and related impacts across our programs

HEALTH CARE 2,604 PATIENTS SERVED 25 Villages (Growth 222%)	COUNSELING 27,232 PARTICIPANT HOURS 548 Individuals (Growth 3,427%)	SAFE WATER 26,720 PEOPLE SERVED 19 Villages (Growth 7%*)	PRE-K LEARNING 44,880 PARTICIPANT HOURS 44 Children/Week (Strong Performance)
STUDY CENTER 62,700 PARTICIPANT HOURS 100+ Children/Day (Growth 100%)	COMPUTER LAB 602,192 PARTICIPANT HOURS 617+ Children/Week (Growth 19%)	SCHOLARSHIPS 166 YOUTH IN SCHOOL K-College (Growth 8%)	LITERACY 11,025 PARTICIPANT HOURS 45 Women/Week (Strong Performance)
SPECIAL NEEDS 67,464 LEARNING/PHYSICAL THERAPY HOURS 86 Children/Adults (Growth 75%)	LEADER TRAINING 5,016 PARTICIPANT HOURS 33 Youth (Strong Performance)	EMERGENCY FOOD 22,000 PEOPLE 55 Villages (Growth 10%*)	HOT MEALS 11,720 SERVINGS 220 Children/Seniors (Growth 112%)

* Cumulative

The Center for Learning Innovation & Eco-Guest House



In 2022, our new, 16,000-square-foot environmentally conscious facility enjoyed its first full year in operation. The solar powered, water-harvesting facility including a biodigester to manage waste and keep local water sources clean, provided expansive new learning space. Our co-located 12-room Eco-Guest House added 9 new jobs, and in labor and services, returned nearly \$60,000 to the community. By providing guests to the facility with access to local Mayan weavers and spiritual leaders we value and encourage the preservation of traditional culture. We welcomed 82 guests during this first year, generating more than \$33,000 to be reinvested in Health, Education and Self-Reliance programs, making Local Hope *increasingly locally sustainable*.

On behalf of our Board, Staff (below), and those we serve like Abelinda, Maria Julia and Luis Miguel, we thank you sincerely for your generosity during 2022 that has fueled this heartening growth. We invite your continued investment so that the individuals and communities we serve may become increasingly healthy, educated, and self-reliant.

—The Board of Directors, and all Your Friends at Local Hope, Guatemala's Xela AID Partnerships for Self Reliance



IMPACT REPORT 2021

In a region's darkest hour in decades, together,
we are delivering Local Hope:
Health, Education, Job Skills, Clean Water
and more to fuel Self-Reliance



LOCAL HOPE | **XELA AID**
GUATEMALA | PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SELF-RELIANCE

At 5 years old, Juan Samuel could not speak. But with patience and the loving care of our teacher Juana Gomez, he learned to say his first words and has begun using short sentences. Juana's care is transforming Juan Samuel's life from one of silence to significance. Now, he will be heard and has a chance to advocate for himself, his family, and his community. Juan Samuel (at right with Juana) is just one of the thousands of children and adults whose futures are being transformed by programs made possible by our generous supporters—people just like you.



Here is a snapshot of our impacts across our programs which delivered Health and Mental Health Care, Safe Drinking Water, Education, Leadership and Job Skills Training and staved off Hunger and Malnutrition during 2021.

HEALTH CARE

• **A New Partnership** - This year launched a partnership with Faith in Practice, a health care organization with a vast network of specialty physicians. Local Hope's long history of trusted health care in the region combined with the expertise of Faith in Practice greatly enhanced the depth and breadth of the health care now being delivered at our Xela AID Clinic. Hector Francisco, at right, had been living immobile in the corner of a room. Through the gift of a wheelchair, he regained his independence, and his hope for a better life. We're so grateful for this partnership.



• **Telemedicine** - This year we continued our weekly telemedicine clinics, with volunteer doctors and a translator from the United States teaming with our local nurse to bring specialty care, cures, and hope to patients living in remote villages.

• **Counseling** - Domestic violence is the second leading cause of death in Guatemala. This past year, Local Hope delivered mental health services to 772 adults and school children. This included individual and group counseling, art therapy, and our popular "Happy Families" program which takes counseling into the schools to teach healthy conflict resolution and prevent domestic violence before it begins.

• **Campaign to Model Health Care Excellence** - Local Hope kicked off this effort which will update the Xela AID Clinic facility, adding vital equipment to expand and improve services like dentistry, vision care and pharmacy. It will expand our diagnostics capability, like ultrasound to provide better pre-natal care, X-ray to identify and set broken bones, and much more. During 2021 we've come close to our goal. We'll aim to complete the campaign and implement changes in 2022.

EDUCATION

The pandemic struck a gut-wrenching blow to education in Guatemala, when nearly 90 percent of country's children lost access to schooling. But while most rural communities accepted their fate, our Local Hope family fought to get kids and young adults back to learning. We did that with six distinct learning programs which include a focus on women and girls who now make up more than half of all Education Program participants. Our **LEAP Scholarship Program** provides financial support to children across the following programs so that they may attend school.



• **Special Needs Program, Ages 1-20** - Several years ago, a boy with Downs syndrome appeared, unaccompanied, at our Xela AID Clinic. He was hungry and disheveled. We soon learned that there were many other children with special needs within miles of us—some, being hidden by their families out of shame. The cause of their conditions were misunderstood. Many we discovered had rarely, if ever, left their homes. This past year, we teamed with partners to provide sorely needed services like diagnostics, hearing aids, physical therapy, walkers, wheelchairs and training for parents of 62 special needs children. Rotary provided funding for our Special Needs classroom. *Brothers Enrique and Kevin, at right, are deaf. They are receiving instruction in sign language from Special Needs Program Intern Jaime Méndez García.*

• **Montessori Preschool, Ages 3-5** - Our Montessori Preschool which was closed intermittently during the pandemic has fully reopened, serving 70 children each week in two well-equipped new classrooms made possible by a grant from Rotary and our supporters. The Montessori method provides a head start for village children to learn practical, language and math skills. It improves the odds that they will attend high school an impressive **nine fold**. *At left, Alexis is learning to count.*

• **Study Center, Ages 10-18** - The Local Hope Study Center helps children and young adults who are struggling academically to master subjects that had them stumped so they can pass to the next grade level. Supplemented with art activities and counseling when needed, the Center serves an average of 50 children on any given day of the week, all year long. Children with LEAP Educational Scholarships pay their good fortune forward by assisting our teacher with tutoring.



• **Adult Literacy, 15-70** - This program served 45 adult learners during 2021—some, who are reading and writing for the first time. The program currently serves all women, restoring independence and dignity to wives, mothers and young adults who will now be able to sign their name, read a street sign, and read to their children or grandchildren for the first time. Said participant Juana, “Never again will I face the indignity of signing with my thumb print.”

• **Covid-Safe Computer Lab, Ages 12-19** - When schools closed, lacking internet access, 90 percent of all rural Guatemalan children were left behind. A generous grant from Rotary plus funding from Local Hope supporters got children back to school despite the COVID crisis. Just in time for the start of school, we opened a COVID-safe computer lab and within months, the lab was serving more than 500 students each week in this Education Ministry-Certified computer learning program. “The lab made it possible for me to return to school during the pandemic,” beamed local student Rosalinda, at right.



LEADERSHIP & JOB SKILLS

• **Leadership Training Program** - Our two-year Certificate Program has reopened, teaching marketable, real-world job skills to those most likely to succeed. This past year the program served a cohort of 29 young people. Graduates have gone on to get some of the best jobs in the region, becoming nurses, teachers, engineers, accountants and one, the mayor of a town. *At left, Leadership Training Program graduate Nurse Estrella Vasquez proudly displays her advanced nursing degree earned this year.*



CLEAN WATER

• **Safe Drinking Water** - Contaminated water contributes to up to 80 percent of sickness in Guatemala, making safe drinking water key to good health. The pandemic has not stopped our team from continuing to get these important in-home filters out to families in need. More than 200 household units and 19 schools have now been equipped providing pure, clean drinking water to thousands of children and families to help keep them healthy to study and work.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

• **Food Security** - Along with all our long-term programs, Local Hope is committed to carrying on our emergency operations until the pandemic is behind us. Thus far, life-saving food has been delivered to more than 20,000 people in 50 critically underserved villages and the number grows monthly.

FUTURE PLANNING

• **Center for Learning Innovation Eco Guest House** - Finally, despite the pandemic, Local Hope has stayed focused on its future needs to best meet our mission, and to do it sustainably. Because of supporters like you, the new facility we needed so desperately and broke ground on nearly five years ago is coming to fruition. The Center for Learning Innovation is adding sorely needed learning space and office space. A 12-room guest house on the top floor is creating overnight space for our volunteers. The new, 16,000-square foot building is modeling environmental best practices like solar power, water harvesting and onsite waste management to keep local water sources clean.



The new learning facility has already created new jobs for local people to work as teachers and counselors. The Guest House which welcomed its first volunteer group in November has created positions for an innkeeper, cooks, servers, tour guides, housekeepers, groundskeepers, and more. And importantly, it has already begun to provide earned income that will make Local Hope programs increasingly sustainable from local sources. We are grateful to everyone who has donated to this new facility which is transforming individual lives, the local community, and the Local Hope organization.

IMPACTS THAT ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES

On behalf of our Board, Staff, and those we serve like Juan Samuel, we thank our supporters, sincerely, for their generosity during 2021 that has fueled these heartening efforts and outcomes.

Despite the pandemic, the unrest, and divisions that have so deeply affected the world this year, our Local Hope-Xela AID family has come together in love and caring. As you reflect on this year's successes, please consider a generous year-end gift so that we can continue to respond to the great need in the communities we serve, and even expand our programs so that others may become increasingly healthy, educated, and self reliant.

HEALTH CARE 808 PATIENTS SERVED 120 Villages	COUNSELING 772 HOURS 143 Individuals/Groups	SAFE WATER 4,420 PEOPLE SERVED 19 Villages	PRE-K LEARNING 61,600 HOURS 70 Children/Week
STUDY CENTER 22,000 HOURS 50+ Children/Day	COMPUTER LAB 435,960 HOURS 500+ Children/Week	SCHOLARSHIPS 154 YOUTH IN SCHOOL K-College	WOMEN'S LITERACY 11,025 HOURS 45 Women/Week
SPECIAL NEEDS 38,540 LEARNING & PHYSICAL THERAPY HOURS 62 Children & Youth	LEADER TRAINING 5,248 HOURS 31 Youth	EMERGENCY FOOD 20,000 PEOPLE 50 Villages	HOT MEALS 5,530 SERVINGS TO CHILDREN 100 Children/Week

—The Board of Directors, and all Your Friends at Local Hope, Guatemala's Xela AID Partnerships for Self Reliance



impact report



PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SELF-RELIANCE
LIVE. LEARN. THRIVE!





Guatemala's crippling civil war officially ended in 1996. In 2000, the country dared to adopt the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. These include specific actions to eradicate extreme poverty, ensure primary education, promote gender equality, empower women, ensure a healthy environment, improve health care and partner to improve access to resources such as technology. The road has not been easy, but gains have been made:

- ◆ People living in extreme poverty has declined 16%.
- ◆ Enrollment in primary education has increased 14%.
- ◆ The spread of infectious diseases has slowed. As one example, tuberculosis-related deaths are down 84%.

In its recent *Poverty in Guatemala*, the World Bank reported that “due to the limited size and effectiveness of the state, the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is critical.” With our enduring presence since 1992, Xela AID is proud as an NGO to have played a key role in these and other gains in the San Martín Sacatepequez region, the seat of Mám-speaking Mayan culture.

For more than two decades, Xela AID has worked in the region's poorest communities. The hardships faced by those we serve are far-reaching, so we fight to beat poverty on many fronts you'll read about herein. Our staff in-country are Guatemalan, and we work with local partners because we know that local solutions are lasting solutions.

This document is testament to our many successes together. You've helped Xela AID create a better world for the most vulnerable among us — people who've lacked education, gone hungry and endured chronic illnesses. For your support, we thank you.

Yet, there is still so much to be done. Access to clean water, health care and education are still the exception rather than the rule in rural Guatemala where 73% of all people live below the national poverty line, and 14% — 4,000 people in the region Xela AID serves — still live on less than \$1.25 a day. Women still earn less than half what men do for equal work, and only 4% of those in leadership roles are women. Children who speak only Mám when they enter grade school are still three times as likely as their Spanish-speaking counterparts to drop out of school by the sixth grade.

We believe that everyone deserves a chance to thrive, and we know you do, too. You help Xela AID respond to this tremendous need and to make real, lasting change. You hold in your hands the report card on how we're doing together. It's something to be proud of.




SUSAN RIKALO
Chair of the Board




LESLIE BAER DINKEL
Executive Director

Our Strategies for Lasting Change



EDUCATING CHILDREN, TRAINING LEADERS

In rural Guatemala, the average child attends school just four years, and only three in 10 children graduate from 6th grade. Girls represent just 35% of all pupils. Xela AID far outperforms the norm. Our average student studies 12 years, surpasses 6th grade, and a solid 54% of students in our programs K-college are girls and women. And where once not a single native Mám speaker had graduated from high school, Xela AID has graduated 300 — and 15 more from college, so far.



EMPOWERING WOMEN, COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Because we know that investments in women are especially effective at beating poverty, we focus on women. We empower adult women by teaching them to read and write and providing training to improve their marketable skills. We provide one-on-one therapy and support groups to one day end the crippling cycle of domestic violence — the second most prevalent cause of death in rural Guatemala.



CREATING JOBS, FUELING SMALL BUSINESSES

Employment, alongside education, is a second essential ingredient to break the chains of poverty. But paying jobs are scarce in the highlands poverty belt, where the lion's share of residents are subsistence farmers or find day work planting and harvesting. We hire indigenous youth graduates from our education programs, provide leadership and entrepreneurship training, support a weaving cooperative, and have provided microloans for successful small-business startups.



PREVENTING DISEASE, PROMOTING WELLNESS

Children who are sick cannot learn. Nor can parents who are ill work to provide for their families. This makes health an essential ingredient for self-reliance. In rural Guatemala, where respiratory infections are the leading cause of death, and the risk from other infectious diseases is still ranked high, health services provided by Xela AID are critical. Our clinic remains the only medical facility within a 45-minute drive that is stocked with life-saving medicines, and the only choice for the poor.



RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Not every situation can be planned for. Xela AID continues its emergency relief efforts fostering abandoned children, assisting battered women with therapy and legal assistance, providing food and shelter to those in extreme poverty, and providing life-saving clean water, warm blankets and shelter in the wake of hurricanes, earthquakes and floods.



Enthusiastic students learn in Xela AID-supported classroom

Xela AID's Impact and A Sampling of Success Stories - 1



Teacher-in-training Alicia

EDUCATED

Alicia dreamed of being a teacher, but she knew her parents could not support her studies. However, she was determined, and she studied hard. At age 17, she presented her excellent grades to Xela AID staff, who hired her to help launch an adult literacy program. Alicia's salary covered expenses at home and at school, and her parents agreed to let her continue studying. When a young woman in Xela AID's Leadership Training program graduated from college, Alicia was inspired. Six years later, her dream came true. She earned a teaching credential and is now studying to become a teacher at Xela AID's future Montessori preschool.



Educational Impact by the Numbers

- ♦ Total learning hours for individuals in six educational programs: **286,860**
- ♦ Nutritious meals served to preschoolers: **25,440**
- ♦ Number of students in Xela AID's Work Study Scholarship program: **105**



Proud reader Catarina and daughter Sylvia

EMPOWERED

Catarina never went to school. As a child, she spent long days in the fields with her parents planting and harvesting potatoes. But she wanted more. When Xela AID began a literacy program in her village, Catarina was one of the first to sign up. Today, she reads and writes at fifth-grade level. Through the program, she has also learned to sew, and she gives back by tutoring adult women in her neighborhood. Catarina still farms potatoes, and is saving money to make sure her daughter, Sylvia, can go to high school. "I am so grateful that I am now able to read to my children," Catarina says. "And I am proud that my two older children are top students."



Women's Empowerment by the Numbers

- ♦ Women and girls empowered through education, health, economic development and emergency relief programs: **3,981**
- ♦ Percentage of women enrolled in all educational programs: **54**
- ♦ Overall percentage of services provided to women: **76**



Nurse Estrella (left) and colleague

EMPLOYED

Estrella dreamed of becoming a nurse. When she was 12, a Xela AID scholarship made it possible for her to attend school. Life was especially tough for her mother, who was raising three children alone. So when Estrella turned 16, her mother asked her to quit school and go to work. "I had to abandon my dream," Estrella recalls through tears. When times improved, and with Xela AID's help, she returned to school and became first in her family to graduate high school. And she was among the village's very first young women to graduate from college. Estrella is living her dream as a nurse. She says, "I can't wait to go to work each day!"



Economic Development by the Numbers

- ♦ Individuals receiving income through five small businesses: **42**
- ♦ Leadership Program individual learning hours to develop business skills: **10,080**

Xela AID's Impact and A Sampling of Success Stories - 2



Anna (left) post-surgery with sister Jennifer

CURED

Little Anna was often short of breath. Her mother, Juana, brought Anna to Xela AID's Clinic for an early-detection health screening. The screening confirmed Anna had a heart condition that required surgery — soon. Public hospitals had months-long waiting lists, and Juana could not afford her daughter's life-saving surgery at a private hospital. Xela AID doctors in the U.S. and Guatemala intervened at a public hospital to get Anna the surgery she needed in weeks, rather than months, and it was an overwhelming success. Today, Anna enjoys running and playing with her sister, Jennifer. Her grateful mother says, "Anna is alive because of Xela AID."



Health and Clean Environment by the Numbers

- ◆ Health care by individual appointments: **5,480**
- ◆ In-home water filters delivered: **46** Individuals served: **276**
- ◆ Families benefiting from family planning services: **48**
- ◆ In 2015, we launched the Clean-Burning Stove Project.



Respected community leader Luciana

RESCUED

Born out of wedlock, Luciana grew up feeling completely unwanted. As a teenager, she escaped a loveless home and became a cook, but her employers betrayed her. They took her far from her village, took away her shoes, and locked her up at night. "I was truly a slave," she recalls. She eventually escaped, but a decade later found herself in a violent marriage. Beaten, bruised and alone, she lost hope and considered suicide. Then she received therapy and learned business skills through Xela AID programs. Eventually, she became president of Xela AID's weaving cooperative, established herself as a community leader and, to give back, she is a foster mom. Smiling broadly, she says, "Xela AID changed my life."



Emergency Relief by the Numbers

- ◆ Number of children in foster care: **4**
- ◆ Mental health care by individual therapy hours: **3,744**



Xela AID Staff Members Arlene and Alicia

INSPIRED

After graduating from college, Arlene's next career move evaded her. "Something was missing in my life," the 22-year-old recalls. When an opportunity to study abroad presented itself, she jumped at the chance. In the village of San Martín, where Xela AID is based, Arlene taught adult women the alphabet, how to write their names and more. These activities gave her a sense of purpose and the desire to continue to serve. "Xela AID staff bring resources, hope, and they've changed thousands of lives," she says. Arlene is now a Xela AID staff member. "Serving others less fortunate gives me an indescribable joy, and it will remain a part of my life."



Volunteerism by the Numbers

- ◆ Number of volunteers engaged in life-changing service experience: **89**
- ◆ In-country volunteer service hours: **13,072**
- ◆ In 2015, we added the Betty Rikalo Welcome Center to enhance the volunteer experience.



**PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SELF-RELIANCE**
LIVE. LEARN. THRIVE!

BE THE CHANGE!

- ♦ **Volunteer** on a service project.
- ♦ **Sponsor** a child to go to school.
- ♦ **Donate** to provide tools to thrive.
Make your tax-deductible donation online at xelaaid.org.
- ♦ **Host** a Xela AID informational session for family and friends.
- ♦ **Contact** us to learn more:
Write info@xelaaid.org or call (714) 232-8669



Villagers line up to receive Xela AID services.

XELA AID BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORS 2015

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XELA AID OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

Direct Relief International (medications)
Guatemalan Ministry of Education
Guatemalan Ministry of Health
Habitat for Humanity (low-cost housing)
INTECAP (skills training)
Peace Corps (special projects)
Red Cross (PAP and HIV testing)
Rotary International (clean water and sanitation)
SOSEP (preschool project)
Thrive (skills training)
VOSH (optometry services)

ON THE COVER

These children attend Xela AID's San Martín Tots preschool — five of 52 lucky children who receive daily instruction and two nutritious, hot meals each day.

The lion's share of children in Xela AID programs graduate from high school, far surpassing norms in rural Guatemala, where only 30 percent of all children make it through the sixth grade, and indigenous children fare worse at only one in 10.

Zoned for just 30 students, Xela AID's current preschool will be replaced by a new Montessori Preschool for 90 children. Become a San Martín Tots Angel by making a gift to help build the new preschool. To find out how, see *Be the Change*, above.

Xela AID is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, EIN #45-3658025. All or part of your contributions may be tax deductible.