



ALDEA™

STRENGTHENING MAYAN COMMUNITIES SINCE 1967

*Advancing Local Development
through Empowerment & Action*



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our ALDEA family is amazing! During the last year, we supported **1,809 rural Guatemalan families—more than 10,000 people**—as they built healthier, stronger communities and reduced chronic childhood malnutrition. Thank you to our ALDEA and ABPD board members, to our staff, and especially to our donors for the generous contributions of time and resources that enabled us to achieve the results included in this report together with our Mayan partners. We are pleased to recognize many of you in these pages, and there are many more whose gifts played an important role in our success.

Our integrated approach to grassroots development includes several components: empowerment and leadership development, agriculture, nutrition, family planning, household sanitation infrastructure, and disaster risk reduction—all of these pieces must come together in order for us to maximize our long-term impact on a community's health and well-being. Last year, Guatemalan filmmaker Javier Borrayo of Piaf Productions focused on the potable water piece of our program as he followed one of our partner communities, San Vicente, on this part of their journey with us. We are releasing the resulting film, ***Hope for Water***, this fall. We can't wait to show you what it takes to build a water system—and the difference it made for this community! Make sure you're on our email list (sign up at the bottom right corner of our **ALDEAGuatemala.org** home page) and follow us on Facebook (**@ALDEAGuatemala**) so we can update you as it's ready to view.

Also starting this fall, the **Information Matrix** television series hosted by Laurence Fishburne will release a short documentary piece about ALDEA to public

television stations nationwide. They're airing a 30-second "commercial" about our work on other networks as well. Both short pieces provide great introductions to what we do for new audiences, and you can find them at **ALDEAGuatemala.org**.

We do our best to keep you updated on our work by sharing stories, photos, and videos—but if you've had the opportunity to see the impact of our programs in rural Guatemala firsthand, you know that nothing compares to that experience. Every spring ALDEA offers a "Glimpse of Guatemala Tour" that provides the opportunity to visit our partner villages while enjoying the area's breathtaking landscape and vibrant culture. As we go to print, just two spots remain available for the upcoming **March 6-14, 2020 Tour**. Visit **ALDEAGuatemala.org** and click "Get Involved" to learn more or register!

ALDEA's Board meets in person in Guatemala every January and June as part of our commitment to staying connected with our sister organization, ABPD, and the work they do on the ground. Joining us for the site visit portion of these meetings can also be a great opportunity for supporters to get to know us while seeing our programs in action. Contact our Executive Director, Arianne Peterson, at **arianne@aldeaguatemala.org** or **(929) 274-3098** for details on our upcoming visits.

I'm so proud of the results we've achieved together this year, and I hope you are too! We are looking forward to another great year of supporting Mayan families, and we hope you'll continue on this journey with us.

Warm regards,



Sonya M. Fultz
ALDEA Board President





Dear Friends of ALDEA and ABPD,

With the end of our 2019 fiscal year comes an opportunity to share the positive and exciting results we're seeing in our rural Guatemalan partner communities. While our programs focus on reducing chronic childhood malnutrition, which affects the majority of children in the indigenous villages where we work, community empowerment is at the core of our approach. Alongside the chart on page 4 showing our impact in numbers, I want to highlight a few stories from our **empowerment programs**. These are the indicators that tell us a community will be able to sustain their health and development efforts long after our work together is finished.

This year, **one of the women serving as a promotor in our programs was elected mayor** of the community of Palima, Tecpán. While we have seen women in our programs become part of their community's COCODE (Community Development Council), we have never before seen a woman elected mayor in the areas where we work. The community recognized the leadership skills and knowledge she developed through our empowerment program, and they chose her as the person best qualified to lead them forward. We are proud to be part of her story, and to be able to support the people we work with as they fulfill their dreams in many different ways.

To enhance our youth empowerment program, for the last several years ALDEA and ABPD have partnered with a Guatemalan organization called SERES that works with youth on developing environmental projects. This year youth from two of our partner communities took part in a SERES workshop. As part of our agreement, they had to present the project proposal they developed in the workshop to the rest of their community before implementing it. Youth from the community of Xecoxol, drawing on their ALDEA/ABPD training, did an amazing presentation proposing a **reforestation project** that would provide three trees for each family to plant. This was their first experience with public speaking, and the whole community came out to listen. The community authorities, who have also been part of our empowerment process and understand the value of supporting youth initiatives, not only accepted the proposal but also made the commitment to add seven more trees per family to the project so that each of the 80 families would plant 10 trees, for a total of 800. This project will improve the local environment while building the capacity of these young people to lead more development initiatives in the future.

In June five communities graduated from our program, and during the recent months we have been busy bringing five new partner villages on board—one in Tecpán and four in Comalapa. Among these new communities are some of the largest where ALDEA and ABPD have ever

Continued on page 4



worked, and we are encouraged by their enthusiasm for participating in the programs. We had originally aimed to keep this year's number of participants similar to last year's, but so many families wanted to sign up that we had to accept more than we had planned and the rest joined our waiting list for next year.

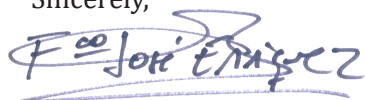
Our **men's engagement program**, which we began piloting in two communities last year at the request of women taking part in our strategic planning process, is now expanding to these five new villages as it continues in the original two. After ten months we have seen these pilot programs take off with more success than we anticipated, not only thanks to the high number of participants, but also because men are making positive changes to their behavior much more quickly than we had expected.

Finally, I am pleased to report that our first-ever solar-powered water system, installed in the community of San Vicente in February, continues to work well. The community is glad to have a pump that does not require any costly fuel or maintenance to bring drinking water to their homes (in contrast to a diesel pump). We are now building our **second solar-powered water system** in the community of Chajalajjá. We are committed to constant improvement and innovation in our programs, and we hope to be able to build many of these low-maintenance, environmentally friendly systems in rural Chimaltenango in the future.

Thank you so much for your support!

Without our friends and donors, these results would not be possible. Your generosity is truly having an impact on the lives of Mayan families, and we appreciate your partnership in this important work.

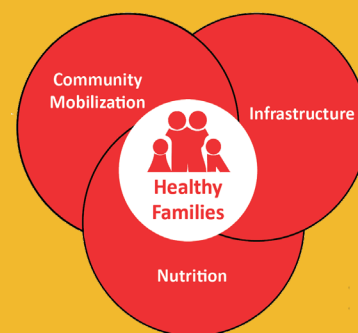
Sincerely,



Paco Enríquez
Asociación BPD Executive Director

2019 Results

Highlights from our work with 1,809 families from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION



613 women, 83 men, 182 youth, 99 local authorities engaged in leadership development & empowerment training



4 new communities completed their first year of training in our programs, including a baseline assessment and election of local promoters. **19%** of women in our programs now participate in development committees (up from 3% initially).



5 communities graduated from our full integrated program, and their promoters are ready to lead their development efforts into the future. **33%** of women in our programs now participate in development committees (up from 1% initially).

INFRASTRUCTURE



4 water systems completed with 2 in progress, serving 945 families



525 vented latrines



870 efficient stoves



254 gray water filters

NUTRITION



Chronic Childhood Malnutrition rates in children under 2 reduced from **75% to 66%** in new communities & from **59% to 48%** in graduating communities (65% baseline).



Nutrition: 659 women with 392 children under 5 trained



Agriculture: 676 women trained; 90% of families have gardens



Family Planning: 977 home visits by specialist

2019 FINANCIAL INFORMATION*

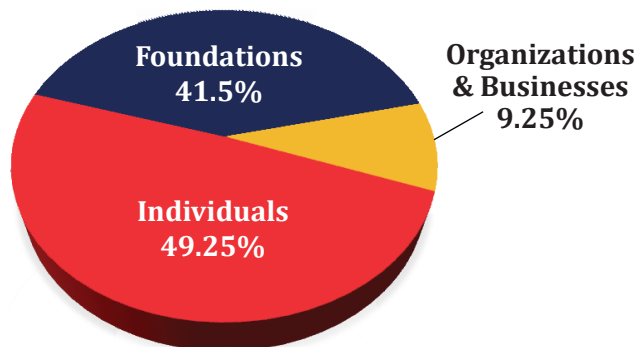
ALDEA: ADVANCING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EMPOWERMENT & ACTION

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

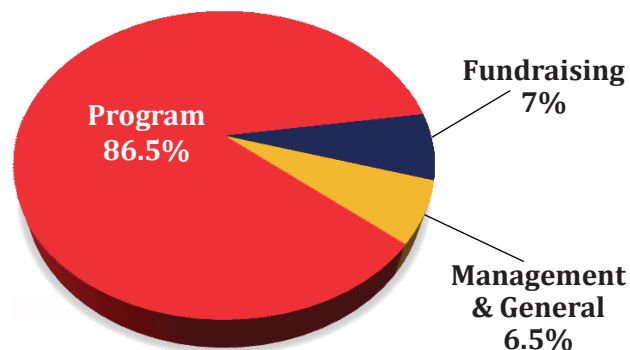
U.S. Revenue: \$832,535

Expenses: \$791,238

2019 Donations by Source



2019 Expenditures



*Apart from the U.S. revenue reported here, ALDEA assisted in securing an additional \$217,812 in cash and in-kind contributions that went directly to ABPD and are reported in their financial statements.

“A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more.”

- Rosabeth Moss Kanter



Legacy Society members include ALDEA's full board and staff. To date, Legacy gifts have totaled more than \$295,000.

The **Dr. Carroll Behrhorst Legacy Society** honors those who partner in our work with indigenous communities in rural Guatemala through a gift in their wills or estate plans.

Become a Legacy Society member today!

There are several options for setting up a planned gift to ALDEA, and not all of them require a will or trust.

Let us know your intent by submitting our Declaration of Intent Form (available at ALDEAGuatemala.org/dr-carroll-behrhorst-legacy-society/) or checking the box on one of our donation envelopes; or contact our Executive Director at (929) 274-3098 or arianne@aldeaguatemala.org. ***And if you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask!***

Every dollar goes a long way toward strengthening rural Guatemalan communities, and ALDEA is grateful for all donations.

Special thanks to our Leadership Giving Circle*

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* The Leadership Giving Circle celebrates donors who have gifted \$500 or more during our fiscal year of July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019.

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ALDEA
1732 1st Avenue #26867
New York, NY 10128

Arianne Peterson, Executive Director
(929) 274-3098
arianne@aldeaguatemala.org

ALDEAGuatemala.org

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The Annual Report is a publication of ALDEA, 1732 1st Avenue #26867, New York, NY 10128. ALDEA, together with our collaborators at the Asociación BPD (ABPD) in Guatemala, works in partnership with communities to improve their health and well-being. Our approach to partnership and community development is based on the principles espoused by Dr. Carroll Behrhorst in his work with the Mayan communities of Chimaltenango. ALDEA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID 13-6266540), and contributions may be tax-deductible. Restricted contributions to ALDEA are forwarded directly to projects; unrestricted contributions are forwarded directly to projects except for the amount required to maintain the U.S. office. ALDEA is non-sectarian and non-political. Front cover and interior photos by Javier Borrayo.

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1732 1st Avenue #26867
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The staff of ALDEA's sister organization in Guatemala, Asociación BPD, works on the ground in Mayan villages, implementing our vital programs in their capacities as Executive Director, Administrator, Accountant, Field Supervisors (Program Support and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists), Nutrition Educator, Family Planning and Home Visit Specialist, Social Worker, Water Specialist, Sanitation Technician, Agronomist, New Masculinities Technician, and Housekeeper.