

Formerly Behrhorst Partners for Development





# Dear Friends and Supporters of ALDEA,

Thank you for another fantastic year! Your generous support enabled our vital programs to reach 1,997 rural Guatemalan families. Together, we were able to make a difference in the lives of even more women, men, and children this year than we did last year.

In June, I had the privilege of seeing our work in action during a visit to our partner village of Panatzan, Santa Apolonia. The transformation this community has achieved during the past year is truly remarkable! These 235 families have mobilized around opportunities to partner with us through our programs, organizing themselves to take full ownership over the process of building a better future for their children.

The women our group met in Panatzan spoke openly and excitedly about all they had gained from participating in our programs. They were especially animated when telling us how the empowerment trainings focused on their rights as women, increased their self-esteem, and helped them to realize that they deserve respect and support from their husbands and other men in the community. I was very impressed with their openness, their achievements as leaders, and the energy and conviction with which they spoke about their goals and future plans.

We arrived in Panatzan one week after they completed construction of their potable water system. The women in the community had been waiting many years to have access to running water. For them, the water system means the difference between spending several hours each day carrying buckets of water over long distances, collecting firewood, then boiling the water to sanitize it—and turning on the tap. We visited several families who had decorated their home water spigots with crepe paper and flowers, and together we had a spontaneous celebration as we welcomed water into their home by turning on the taps. This physical manifestation of our partnership fully realized



made for a moving moment shared by the families, our staff, and our board.

The best part of this story is that the experience I had this summer is not unique. We see this transformation in all of the communities with whom we have partnered over the years. For example, I know that supporters who made January visits to Xepanil, Santa Apolonia, a village that began partnering with us a year before Panatzan did, have a similar story to tell about their conversation with the women leading those development projects. We have every reason to believe that these communities will continue to take charge of their own development initiatives for years—and hopefully generations—to come.

As we plan to celebrate our 50th anniversary next year, it gives me such joy to see these powerful results growing from our decades of experience learning from and working with the people of Chimaltenango. We could never have gotten this far without the dedication of supporters like you. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Patricia O'Connor

ear Friends of ALDEA and ABPD,
In Guatemala, the past year has been full of challenges. Changes in the municipal and national governments and crises in many of the state agencies have hit disenfranchised populations especially hard. Despite these setbacks, our rural Mayan partners continue to achieve their goals through our community-led development programs, with the support of our donors.

From July 2015 through June 2016, we worked with 16 villages in the Patzún and Santa Apolonia municipalities, supporting 1,997 families as they implemented plans to improve the health of their children and strengthen their communities. Together, we constructed seven water systems and installed sanitation infrastructure—latrines, gray water filters, and stoves—that has made a healthy home environment possible for these families. Many of them now have vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and dairy goats that provide fresh food and nutritious milk to children. The number of couples using family planning methods has doubled since we began providing counseling and methods. Each community now has a disaster risk reduction plan in place to mitigate the harmful effects of drought and other catastrophes. After participating in our leadership trainings, nine percent of the women we have worked with are taking part in a community decision-making body for the first



time, with some participating in municipal and provincial committees.

Because supporters like you have played a critical role in our success, I want to share a story and a compliment we received recently on the effectiveness of our work. In May, Global Heath Reach, a non-profit organization that partners with medically underserved communities around the world, approached us about making a medical visit to some of our current and past partner communities. We referred them directly to the community leaders, who took on the full coordination of their visit and were able to take full advantage of the medical resources Global Health Reach offered. After 21 such experiences around the world, the Global Health Reach staff told us they had never seen communities as well organized or as healthy as those that had completed our programs in Chimaltenango.

Empowerment, based on the philosophy of Dr. Carroll Behrhorst, provides the foundation upon which we build this kind of success. From the very beginning of our partnership with a community, our process is driven by the needs of its families. When community leaders approach ALDEA/ABPD seeking assistance for projects that they believe are the most important—usually, potable water—the door opens for our staff to help them discover other key needs they may not have yet identified. Together, we design a program that involves the entire community and focuses on supporting its most vulnerable groups.

As the process moves forward, we work on raising the consciousness of the community regarding the importance of sustainable development. The women choose their own leaders to receive more intensive training so they can continue to lead the development projects on their own after two years of partnership with ALDEA. Young people also enter this process from an early age so that these communities will be able to count on new leadership and innovative ideas in the future. The community authorities, who are usually men, learn about the importance of exercising a more inclusive leadership that values and respects the opinions of everyone.

When communities like those that worked with Global Health Reach graduate from our programs, we have found they are able to weather difficulties—like those brought on by this year's political instability—much better than those that have not partnered with us. This resilience is born of years of surviving conflict, oppression and poverty, and has been the foundation on which we build our work together.

The achievements of these families are the achievements of all of our supporters, too. *Thank you for sustaining this vital work.* 

Sincerely,



Paco Enríquez
ABPD Executive Director

# Celebrate with us!



50 years of strengthening Mayan communities

**Guatemala Reunion Weekend and Fundraising Dinner Celebration:** 

Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18, 2017—Antigua, Guatemala

**50th Anniversary Mini-Tour:** June 18-21, 2017—Antigua, Guatemala

Make your plans now to join us in Guatemala next summer!

Learn more and register at ALDEAGuatemala.org.

Click "Celebrate with us in 2017!"

# FAREWELL & THANK YOU TO SUE PATTERSON

With deep gratitude, the ALDEA Board bid a fond farewell to our longest-serving board member, Sue Patterson, whose final term ended in June Sue has been a stalwart ALDEA champion for 18 years, giving freely of her time, sage advice, and resources. She has encouraged an amazing number of people from both the U.S. and Guatemala to become ALDEA supporters and donors, and she has recruited many board

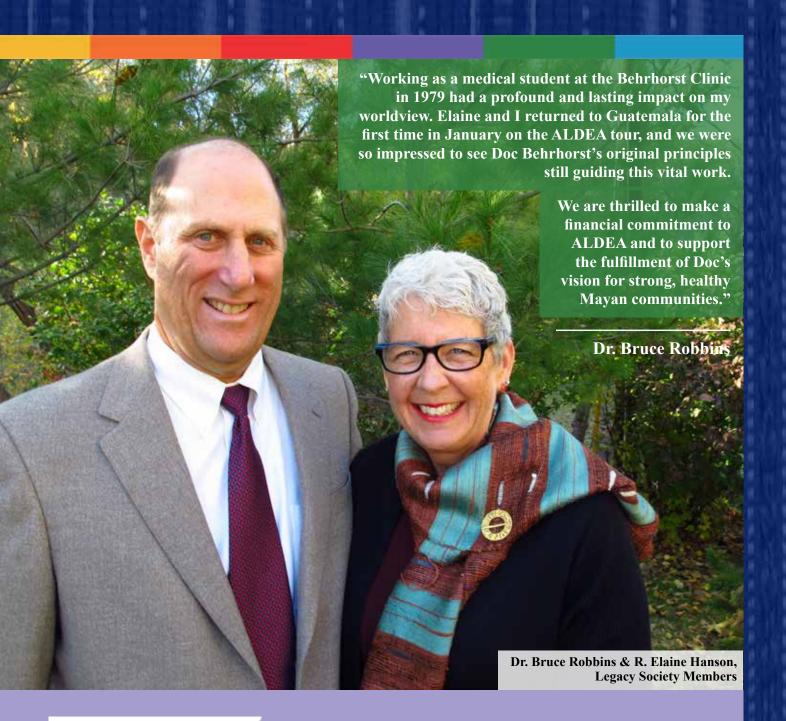


members as well. Fortunately, Sue will continue in her role as board secretary for our partner organization in Guatemala, ABPD.

During 12 of her years with ALDEA, Sue served as the part-time ABPD coordinator. She trekked to numerous villages, learned the program inside and out, and helped keep our momentum going through both ups and downs. Sue's expertise on Guatemala from her Foreign Service Officer tour as the Consulate General and from her subsequent choice to live in Antigua made her a unique. invaluable asset and Guatemala connection for ALDEA. She has given "country chats" and opened her lovely home to untold numbers of visitors and tour groups. Sue has been the consummate hostess and accessible mentor. Her generosity is immeasurable, and her passion for supporting women has helped shape ALDEA/ ABPD's programs, which prioritize women's empowerment and health.

A million thanks, Sue, for all you have done for ALDEA. We wish you the best and are delighted you will remain involved and engaged through ABPD and as a continued supporter of our work.

—The ALDEA Board





As ALDEA approaches our 50th anniversary, honor "Doc" by ensuring his visionary programs are funded for another 50 years.

Join the Dr. Carroll Behrhorst Legacy Society today by designating a gift in your will or estate plan. Your thoughtful planning will ensure our partnership with rural Mayan communities continues for generations to come.

To learn more, visit aldeaguatemala.org/donate or contact us at 313-205-4249 or aldea@aldeaguatemala.org.

# 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, 2015 to June 30, 2016.



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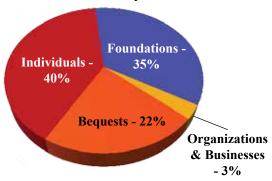
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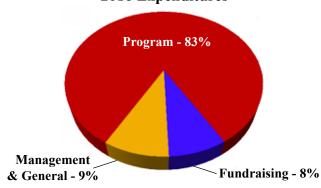
# 2016 Financial Information

Income: \$760,298 Expenses: \$649,278

## 2016 Donations by Source



# 2016 Expenditures



Ready Foods Thrivent Choice UnitedHealth Group, Matching Gifts Program

#### **Foundations & Trusts**

AmazonSmile Foundation
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# **Bequests**

Chris Henley Jane G. Carruthers Remainder Trust The Annaul 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. All contributions are 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 US office. ALDEA is non-sectarian and non-political.

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www.ALDEAGuatemala.org



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# Donations for ALDEA's work can be sent to:

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The staff of Asociación BPD (our sister organization in Guatemala) works on the ground in villages in the Department of Chimaltenango, implementing our vital programs in their capacities as Executive Director, Administrator, Accountant, Field Supervisors (Agronomist and Water Specialist), Nutrition Educator, Social Worker, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Sanitation Technician, Program Support Specialist, and Housekeeper.

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