

Formerly Behrhorst Partners for Development

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

MICHELLE HANAVAN

Dear Friends and Supporters of ALDEA

Thank you for a wonderful and productive year! Your support over the past year has enabled us to grow in so many ways: we completed the transition to our new name, unveiled our new and updated website—**www.aldeaguatemala.org**,

successfully piloted our first-ever Volcano Challenge fundraiser, and produced an eight-minute video showcasing the impact of our work on decreasing childhood malnutrition in rural Mayan communities. We are fortunate to have benefitted from your feedback, advice, positive energy, and continued financial support during this exciting phase of ALDEA's development.

The achievements I've highlighted here are important for one reason: *they allow us to strengthen our partnerships with rural communities in Guatemala.* Families in these villages are struggling with <image>

malnutrition after our staff has moved on. This kind of long-term sustainability is exactly what our founder, Dr. Carroll Behrhorst, had in mind when he started this organization in 1967. "Doc" understood that the most effective change comes through grassroots development, and we continue his legacy by providing community members

> with the tools they need to organize and address problems themselves.

In just over a year, ALDEA will enter our 50th year of partnership with indigenous communities in Chimaltenango. Whether you are just learning about us or have been involved in our work for decades, we hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone. We look forward to this opportunity to honor the dedication of supporters like you who have brought us this far, and we will be in touch with more details in the coming months. If you want to join us in our planning, please let us know and we will be happy to have you!

Thank you for being an important part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Patricia O'Connor ALDEA Board President

chronic childhood malnutrition rates as high as 90 percent among children under five. In the past year, they have also faced the additional negative effects of two prolonged droughts. Our commitment as a partner in improving their well-being is now more vital than ever.

In this Annual Report, we are proud to share the impact of our program on more than 1,500 families in the Department of Chimaltenango. I am especially encouraged by the achievements of the women who take part in our empowerment trainings. Many of them go on to leadership roles in their communities to sustain the fight against ear Friends of ALDEA and ABPD, As with every year, I am excited to share with you the successes that we have achieved together with our partner communities in Santa Apolonia and Patzún. The futures of thousands of children are improving; families are experiencing new opportunities; and women are taking on non-traditional leadership roles in their communities.

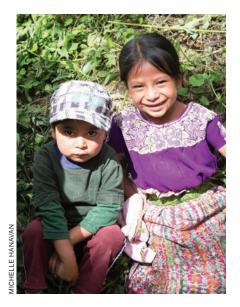
I want to highlight the incredible work that the community promoters have accomplished in this

past year. As you know, our field staff is intimately involved in training and capacity-building during the first of our two project years. This includes training community-chosen leaders (all women) who will become village promotors, and who will in turn guide the community during the second project year under ABPD supervision. For the past year, these women have led capacity-building trainings in nutrition education, community empowerment, agriculture, and family planning in four communities, directly impacting 525 women and 268 children under five years of age. They have used the SARAR participatory training method to hold workshops, organized activities, resolved problems and doubts, and become leaders in their communities, continuing to reduce rates of chronic malnutrition without



relying on the permanent presence of ALDEA/ ABPD. We are achieving project sustainability with these promoters as they continue the work to end chronic childhood malnutrition in their villages long after ALDEA/ABPD has moved on to develop this same process in other communities.

This past year, we implemented the full integrated approach in eight communities and the water and sanitation component in another five, for a total of



over 1,500 families served. We have significantly reduced the rate of chronic childhood malnutrition in the eight communities in which the full program was implemented thanks in large part to these accomplishments:

> • 100 percent of mothers with children under six months old are practicing exclusive breastfeeding.

- 100 percent of children ages 6 to 8 months are transitioning properly to solid foods.
- 75 percent of children from 8 to 23 months are eating a daily diet that contains all of the necessary nutrient groups.
- 800 families now have goats, meaning that almost 1,500 children between the ages of two and five, as well as their mothers, have access to animal proteins from the goat milk.
- Communities have decreased post-harvest losses of beans and corn by 13 percent, so families have more food available.
- Post-harvest losses due to the 2014 drought were significantly lower in these villages compared to villages where the

ABPD/ALDEA integrated approach has not been implemented.

• 100 percent of women are implementing proper hygiene practices when preparing food.

- Three chlorinated water systems were constructed and are functioning properly.
- More than 700 couples are using family planning methods.
- New women leaders are forming part of the communities' decision-making committees and are continuing to work as promoters in the development of their villages.

These successes, together, make it possible to continue reducing the rate of chronic childhood malnutrition in Chimaltenango by improving the health conditions of women and children. This great achievement results from the partnership of ABPD, ALDEA, and all of our donors and collaborators, without whom this work would not be possible. Many thanks for your support—you are



a big part of this success!

Sincerely,

OR ENAGE

Paco Enríquez ABPD Executive Director

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JUDY GUSTAFSON

"When people donate money, we care that our money is used wisely for the purposes for which we intend. ALDEA does that."

As a supporter of ALDEA's work for the last 45 years, Judy Gustafson makes this statement with confidence. She and her husband, the late Dr. Dennis Gustafson, joined ALDEA'S founder, Dr. Carroll Behrhorst, in Chimaltenango in 1970 for Dennis's tropical medicine rotation

as he attended the Colombia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Judy's first-hand experiences with Doc remain with her to this day.

As ALDEA approaches our 50th anniversary, we still adhere to Doc's philosophy



"Dr. Behrhorst worked alongside Mayan communities, always with great respect for their dignity and their way of life. He made sure that his ways did not come into conflict with the ways of these communities, and that they became partners in their development. He took a back seat to no one when it came to his principles and ethics. His decisions were encompassing, yet precise. And sometimes, he waited patiently...while working incredibly hard...for others to see and understand his vision."

as we build strong partnerships with communities and address the problem of chronic childhood malnutrition together. In loving memory of Dennis, this year Judy made a significant contribution to the construction of a water system in Xepatán, Guatemala. Thanks in large part

> to her leadership, the 380 families of Xepatán now have access to clean, safe drinking water in their homes so their children can avoid the potentially fatal risk of water-borne diseases—and the legacies of Dennis and Doc live on.



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.

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

Become a Legacy Society member today!

- Name ALDEA as a beneficiary of your IRA or retirement account—specify a dollar amount or a percentage. This does not require a will or trust, and the benefits to ALDEA are tax-free!
 - Make a bequest to ALDEA in your will or trust.

Let us know your intent by visiting our website at www.aldeaguatemala.org/donate and downloading the Declaration of Intent form; calling us at 313-205-4249; sending an e-mail to ALDEA@aldeaguatemala.org; or checking the box on one of our donation envelopes. 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. We are grateful to these friends who, through thoughtful planning, are supporting ALDEA beyond their lifetimes. On behalf of the future generations who will benefit, we thank you.

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Legacy Society Members

include all current ALDEA board members and our Executive Director:

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• Victoria Ward • Wayne Gilbert & Diane Sklar • Zoe Kopp



"I became acquainted with ALDEA in 1985 as a fourth year Tulane University medical student when I went on an eight-week rotation with Dr. Behrhorst at the Clinic in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. We were given lots of responsibility, and we learned so much about health problems in a resource-poor setting and about public health efforts Doc initiated in other villages. I have always felt great about supporting those efforts and am happy to put my financial resources toward the work of ALDEA."

-Dr. Lisa Fleischer, Legacy Society Founding Member

Every dollar goes a long way toward addressing childhood malnutrition in Guatemala, and ALDEA is grateful for all donations. Special thanks to our Leadership Giving Circle*

Diamond - \$10,000+ Anonymous Barbara Yost Judith Gustafson

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*The Leadership Giving Circle celebrates donors who have gifted \$500 or more during our fiscal year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.



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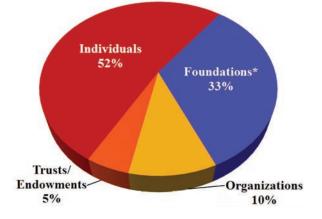
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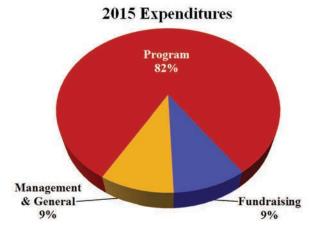
2015 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income: \$690,868 Expenses: \$556,758

2015 Donations by Source



* Includes Family Foundations and Funds



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 Mavan 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.

Administrative Office:

Jessica LaBumbard, Executive Director 1732 1st Avenue #26867 New York, NY 10128 (313) 205-4249 aldea@aldeaguatemala.org

www.ALDEAGuatemala.org

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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, Program Director, Accountant, Administrator, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Social Worker, Agronomist, Nutrition Educator, Sanitation Technician, Program Support Technician, and Housekeeping and Maintenance Personnel.

Donations for ALDEA's work can be sent to:

ALDEA Dept. 116234 P.O. Box 5211 Binghamton, NY 13902-5211

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ALDEA Board

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