



# Annual report 2022



Together We Make a Difference!



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# Letter from the Director of Operations



**2**<sup>022</sup> marks the 17th year during which Amigos de San Cristóbal has broadened its impact on the people in need in the City of San Cristobal de Las Casas and the Highland of Chiapas through its alliance with carefully selected not-for-profit organizations.

It was also the year in which Amigos continued to grow as a Community Foundation after joining the nationwide network of community foundations, Comunalia, in 2020. We learned a lot and faced many challenges in 2022, but, thanks to the dedication of our best talents we were able to find the necessary resources and develop strategies to help improve the living conditions of boys, girls, women and families.

We were also able to rely on the collaboration of numerous actors who contributed a wide range of competencies to the Foundation's work. Without their efforts, creativity, professionalism and commitment we would not have been able to reach our objectives.

The present Annual Report gives an account of the work carried out in 2022. It is the product of several planning sessions and illustrates the collaborative action between the Board of Directors and the Operating Team.

I am proud to say "Together we make a difference". Please join us.

**Corinne Pierre-Louis**  
Director of Operations, Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.



# About US

## Our vision

Our Vision is to set the benchmark for being a respected, autonomous and sustainable Community Foundation that integrates the community in an inclusive and participatory manner to ensure that social justice and equal opportunities are available to those who live in San Cristóbal de Las Casas and throughout the Highland of Chiapas.



## Our mission

Our Mission is to promote, through community philanthropy strategies, equitable conditions in the Highland of Chiapas by procuring, managing and channeling philanthropic resources to civil society organizations that are focused on improving Health, Education and the Environment.



# How do we do our work at Amigos de San Cristobal?



**We** channel resources so that other civil society organizations in the region can execute projects that impact positively on health, education and the environment.

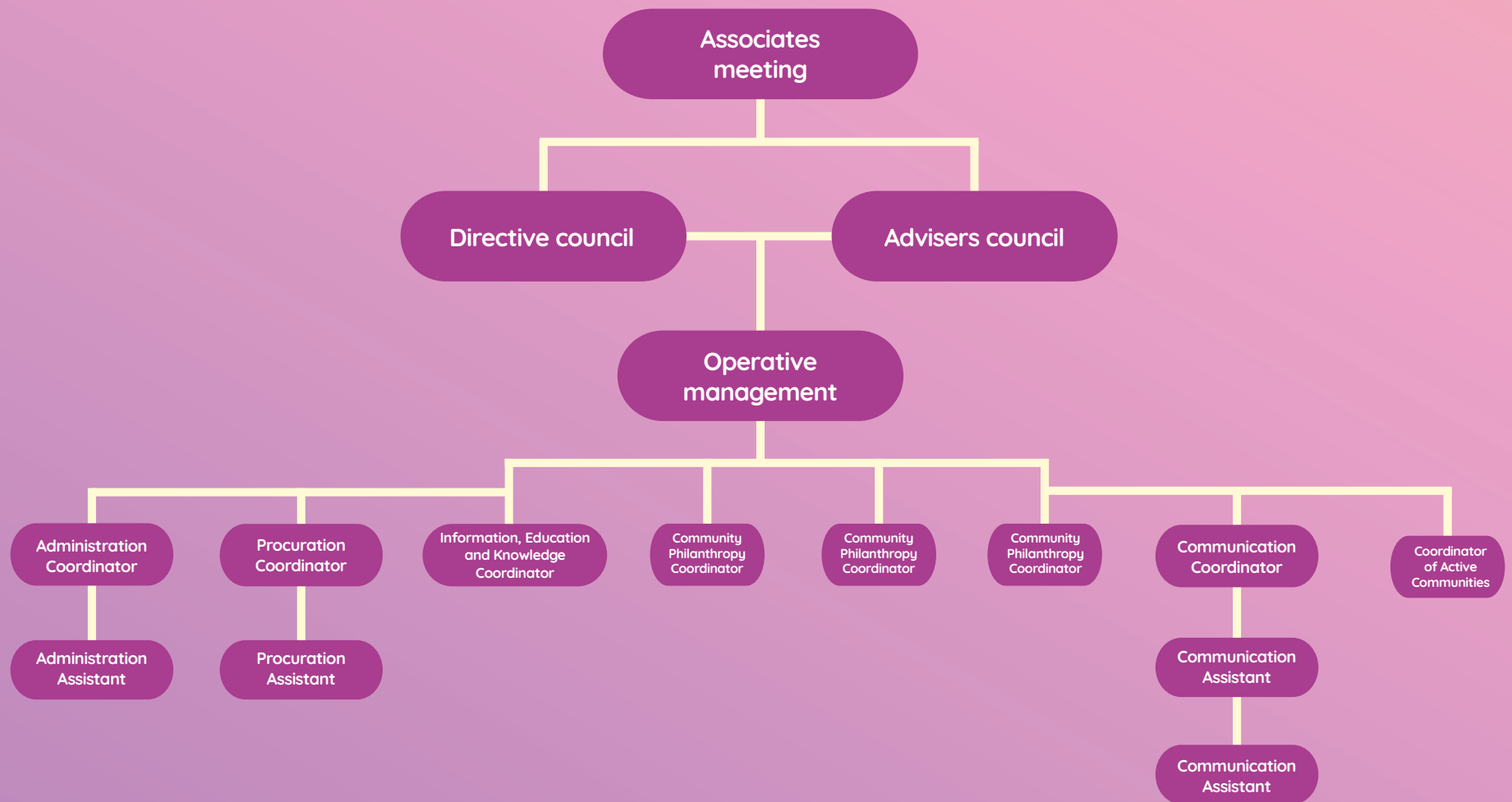
**We contribute** to the development of capacities in the region's children and families and encourage the local communities to collectively find solutions to their common problems.

**We promote** community philanthropy as a tool to raise awareness and train Agents of Change in order to positively impact the lives of children and families in San Cristóbal de Las Casas and the Highland of Chiapas.

**We foster** within the population a sense of civic responsibility in which the people act as champions of their own lives, be it in acquiring good health habits, caring for the environment, enhancing knowledge through educational opportunities as well as in celebrating the multicultural richness that characterizes our population.

**We support** projects that strengthen individual capacities with an equitable and humanist approach to education and recognize the diversity and value of rural and indigenous ways of life as a source of ancestral knowledge that enables an environment of balanced dialogue with the ways of the western world. Contributing concretely to the strength of a diversified world that respects its territories and enriches future generations.

# Organization Chart





# Context and Issues in the Region

## Health, Education and the Environment

The context in health, education, and the environment also underwent changes in 2022:

**a) HEALTH.** We know that conditions such as poverty, null or low schooling, life in a rural indigenous community where the population must travel a long way to reach the closest health center, are risk factors that create vulnerability to diseases and the need for medical care.



That's why our proposal is aimed more at supporting health promotion interventions that are, above all, focused on prevention.

In our view, health has a broad definition that involves factors such as education, diet and the immediate surroundings in which people live in harmony with nature. We believe that this relationship, which takes into account the cultural values and dignity of each individual, is the basis of good health. Thus, the priority issues will be: nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and water quality, violence prevention, and sexual and reproductive health projects.

We also believe that good health goes far beyond the treatment of illnesses that affect the population, so we propose to encourage people's participation in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. We want people to be involved in the decision-making process, so that they can take ownership of their own health.

Health issues are not always addressed with a gender-specific approach nor do they include the implementation of educational processes that address the different issues.

**b) EDUCATION.** Three areas can be identified in basic education in the Highland of Chiapas. Firstly, the school and the community are disjointed; secondly, infrastructure and teaching materials are very weak, resulting in a persistent lag in students' "learning"; thirdly, teacher training is deficient and there are no elements for working with linguistic diversity in rural community contexts.

Although Mexico's legislative framework is one of the strongest in Latin America, with clear laws guaranteeing intercultural education in indigenous regions, when we analyze the actions and programs that the State provides to indigenous communities, it's



clear that lagging behind in this area perpetuates inequality when compared to other regions of the country.

The lagging behind is noticed in the lack of basic facilities and sufficient infrastructure in schools, the lack of basic services and equipment, insufficient personnel with relevant training for the context as well as the lack of adequate educational materials to address the multicultural and multilingual situation.

This is why talking about guaranteeing basic education in Chiapas remains one of the greatest challenges, as it opens up a series of opportunities. That would, however, require a dialogue among the various entities that provide it and should serve as a tool for social transformation. Most importantly, basic education should be relevant to the lives of the children and young people who receive it.



**C) ENVIRONMENT.** One of the main problems in the Highlands is soil and solid waste management. As in many parts of the world, this problem is caused by agrochemicals which deplete the soil and affect its biological richness.

It is also due to the fact that a cross-cultural approach favoring endogenous and participatory processes is not always maintained, as only preservationist visions are promoted, because this is an area where there is a long history of management, use and exploitation of nature by its inhabitants.



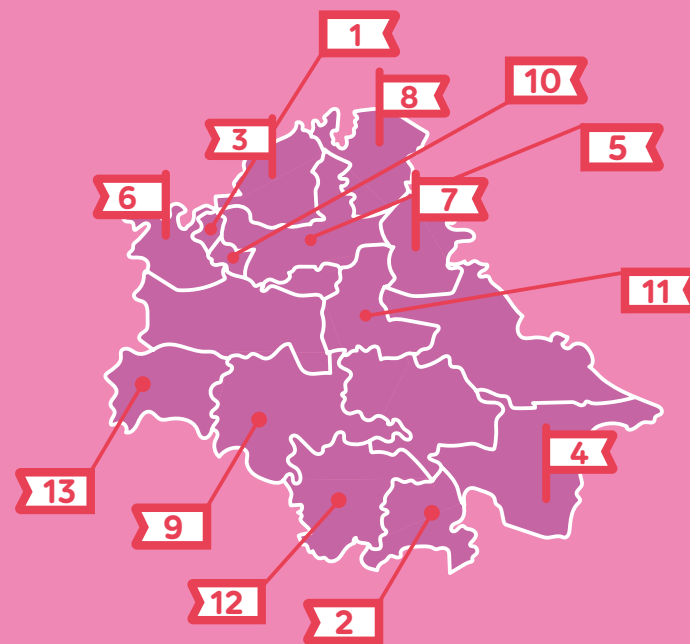
## ❖ A context of increasing violence

The structural and systemic violence in the Highland of Chiapas perpetuates racism, poverty, organized crime, forced displacement and political cacicazgo, making the region a permanent victim. In 2022, we observed territorial and political conflicts in Chenalhó, Chalchihuitán, Oxchuc and Aldama, and our Amigo organizations have had to take extreme precautions while performing their work.

This is undoubtedly a situation that Amigo Organizations in the region and the people who live in these territories experience daily. At times, access to the communities becomes difficult and activities have to be rescheduled. Aware of the living conditions in parts of Chiapas, as a Community Foundation, we, at Amigos de San Cristobal, are convinced that we must continue to support and encourage the work of Amigo Organizations in those areas.



## ❖ Map of the Areas where the Organizations with which we collaborate work



- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Aldama                | 8. Pantelhó                   |
| 2. Amatenango del Valle  | 9. San Cristóbal de Las Casas |
| 3. Chalchihuitán         | 10. Santiago el Pinar         |
| 4. Chanal                | 11. Tenejapa                  |
| 5. Chenalhó              | 12. Teopisca                  |
| 6. San Andrés Larráinzar | 13. Zinacantán                |
| 7. San Juan Cancuc       |                               |

## ❖ Main Achievements ❖ of Amigos since our Beginning

Over the course of the past **17 years**,  
we assisted **51** civil  
society **organizations** that focused on  
**community development**,  
primarily on our **priority areas**  
We also collected more than  
**➤ 25 million pesos**,  
supported **151 projects**;  
and reached **102,180 people**.



# Call for Funding Proposals

Every year, through a Call for Funding Proposals and a selection process the Amigo Organizations Grant Program approves a number of projects that are expected to have a positive impact on health, education, and the environment in the Highlands of Chiapas.



# Call for Funding Proposals from Civil Society Organizations

Our Annual Call for Funding Proposals in 2023 was open from July 25th to August 11th, 2022 to Civil Society Organizations that planned to implement projects in the education, health and the environment sectors in the rural and urban areas of the Highland of Chiapas. Subsequently, our Selection Committee — made up of members from the Giving Circles of our Community Philanthropy Program, representatives from our Board of Directors and external guests— undertook the task of selecting the development projects that would most benefit the organizations’ target population.

In-depth evaluations took place over a series of meetings from October to December during which the relevance of each proposal was debated in accordance with Amigos’ established selection criteria.

# Amigo organization Selected and Accompanied in 2022

February 16th, 2022, signing of Agreements with nine Amigo Organizations to be supported financially and otherwise. The selected ones were the following.



# Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation, A.C. (AMEXTRA)

**Project:** “Comprehensive health in the Highlands of Chiapas”.

**Direct beneficiaries:** 117

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 351

This health and nutrition project was born out of local families’ desire to see their children grow strong, energetic, creative and endowed with a bright future.

Taking into account the communities’ priorities, AMEXTRA opted to work on the factors impacting primarily the **health and nutrition of children**, but many interventions aimed at improving the health of younger children (such as greenhouse production, food preparation workshops, pest control campaigns, spring rehabilitation, dry toilet construction, among others) also benefited the lives of their mothers, fathers and older siblings. In this particular project, the focus was on **physical health** (hygiene, nutrition), but AMEXTRA’s overall program in the region also includes elements of emotional well-being, with, among other interventions, workshops on the values of **non-violence and gender equality**.

The community is involved in every stage of the project, from planning to implementation, thus ensuring that it addresses its most pressing needs.

The participants were **Tsotsil people** from the rural areas of Los Altos, Chiapas communities that are rich in knowledge and



eager to transform their communities, but with little or no access to nutritional advice; limited income-generating opportunities; and contaminated or infertile land due to practices such as incineration or pesticide use. Some communities had abundant water resources, some did not. AMEXTRA therefore developed individual action plans for each community.



# Farm and Workshops for People with Different Capabilities

## ÁNGELES DE AMOR, A.C.

**Project:** “Comprehensive Community Center, training and social entrepreneurship to reduce barriers around disability”.

**Direct beneficiaries:** 21

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 161

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This project was designed to compensate for the **limited number of facilities for disabled people** in the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Its aim was to create a space that takes a social and holistic approach, where disabled people of all ages would be **supported**, their **humanity and civil rights respected**, and where they would acquire with skills that would enable them to have equal access to the opportunities offered to other residents of the city.

The project sponsors became aware of the lack of employment opportunities for guardians or people who cared for disabled people and engaged in a social business endeavor through which these care givers would be provided with training and paid job opportunities that would enable them to continue to provide the care required by the disabled family member and/or the nuclear family.



# Cooperation and Comprehensive Organization for Rural Development, A.C. (CONIDER)

**Project:** “Strengthening a community health strategy in nine localities of San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas”.

**Direct beneficiaries:** 60

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 240

The project is the result of a consultation process carried out in 2018 to implement an alliance and collaboration program between a group of CSOs in which community diagnostics were carried out and information deemed important for these communities was collected. This information identified needs in the following three areas: **a) skills and capacity building, b) health and water, and c) income generation.**

The project therefore sought to strengthen a community health strategy in 9 localities of San Juan Cancuc through nutritional monitoring and two anti-parasite campaigns, the distribution of vitamins and folic acid to 1,600 people. The main objectives of the project were to:

**1. Strengthen** and monitor the inclusion of health, water and sanitation in community agreements in four localities.

**2. Create** a nutritional diagnosis and a monitoring system for children under 5 in 2 localities, focusing on good nutrition and health care.

**3. Implement** two campaigns to distribute anti-parasitic medicines and vitamins to the general population and folic acid to breastfeeding and pregnant mothers in 9 localities in the municipality of San Juan Cancuc.





# Forum for Sustainable Development, A.C. (Program in collaboration with Mujeres y Maíz Criollo)

**Project:** “Agro-ecological community for good living”.

**Direct beneficiaries:** 98

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 640

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The community work proposal was formulated in 2020 following the Covid 19 pandemic, in response to the need of many families for spaces of support and interaction with different actors to cope with the health, food and unemployment crisis.

It was decided to create alliances to reinforce the various working spaces and **provide alternative teaching and learning spaces to strengthen the skills of children, teenagers, mothers and fathers.**

The main goal of the project was to **consolidate the working groups through collective awareness** and reciprocal practices aimed at improving community life. This involved introducing a **teaching and learning methodology** for creative work with children and the “Muk’ta luch” embroidery group; creating a collective mural route evoking good living; strengthening an eco-technology demonstration center; and giving visibility to the initiatives of indigenous women’s groups in rural areas.





# YACH'IL ANTZETIC, A.C.

## Community Home

**Project:** "New women, comprehensive development for indigenous women with unplanned pregnancies and single mothers who have migrated to the city".

**Direct beneficiaries:** 55

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 563

The project's principal goal was to **improve the living conditions of single mothers and indigenous women with unplanned pregnancies** and help them progress towards integral development, free from violence and in conditions of equity. The main objectives were to

- 1. Humanize childbirth** in optimal physical and emotional conditions for these women.
- 2. Help single mothers** strengthen their technical and human capacities for self-employment and collective work in order to obtain additional income.
- 3. Provide single mothers** with clear, timely and culturally appropriate information on identifying and preventing violence.

The project also contemplated a play and support space for the children of single mothers, where they would learn to treat each other well and develop tenderness within the family.



# Women Transforming Worlds, A.C. (MUTRAM)

**Project:** “Building territories of hope. Health and gender education strategies with boys and girls, women and men”.

**Direct beneficiaries:** 135

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 340

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The project was developed in the border region between Chiapas and Guatemala, on the plateau known as Comiteca Tojolabal (Comitán, Margaritas and Trinitaria). The proposal was backed by a strategic alliance between organized groups of women and men with influence in the neighborhoods and communities.

The alliance is an integration of Women Transforming Worlds, Base Integral Education Center A.C. (CEIBA), the women’s collective Fases de la Luna/Phases de la lune, the Colibrís collective and the G Men’s collective. The goal was to strengthen and support the civic education project.

**The objective was to reinforce and accompany the collectives in their initiatives** to train and multiply knowledge on the prevention of gender-based violence and on territorial health in order to achieve a community and organizational impact in the border zone municipalities. This objective will be achieved through the acquisition of **pedagogical tools based on a popular education** approach designed to run workshops on **gender-related health and violence prevention** for women, men, girls and boys.



## OMNIUNITY, A.C. (with the Barrio Bravo Gimnasio Popular/ People's Autonomous Gym and the Casa de salud comunitaria/ Community Health House Yi'bel ik' Raíz del Viento)

**Proyecto:** "Youth, women and health in the original neighborhood of Cuxtitali: a proposal for popular self-organization".

**Direct beneficiaries:** 315

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 3,500

In coordination with the Cuxtitali neighborhood, the project sought to build and strengthen community health spaces directed especially at women and young people, by promoting health care from a comprehensive, community perspective, through primary care, prevention and the promotion of sports and healthy lifestyles. The project had two central concepts of work: that of the **Health House** and that of the **Gimnasio Popular/people's gym**.

The Health House sought to strengthen the work idea **"Women and Health"**. Its goals were:

1. Treat and **prevent sexually transmitted diseases** free of charge or at a popular price;
2. Pay particular attention to issues such as menstruation and menopause; sexual and reproductive health, human papilloma and the **prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and cervical-uterine cancer**; family planning and the right to abortion; pregnancy and preparation for childbirth; prevention of breast cancer; and domestic violence.

At the same time, **Gimnasio Popular** sought to strengthen the infrastructure for the **promotion of sports** for the neighborhood youth; develop a space that would allow them to approach sports with an intergenerational vision that would once again put the trainee at the center, based on a free and collaborative learning practice.





# Solidarity and Fight for a Different World, A.C. (SOLMUNDI)

**Project:** “Center for training in agroecology based on local contributions and knowledge”.

**Direct beneficiaries:** 43

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 134

The project arose as a **search for training spaces with an agro-ecological** perspective that would allow rural multifamily units in the Highlands of Chiapas to revalue ancestral knowledge for the formation of small integral spaces, produce their own food and generate extra economic income through the commercialization of the surpluses. This project sought to provide food sovereignty to the targeted families by making them aware of the importance of the **agro-ecological transition and of safeguarding their ancestral knowledge**. The project reflects the diagnostic of families in the targeted communities.

The project’s objective was to monitor and strengthen the agro-ecological production of orchards, beekeeping, poultry farming, coffee growing and biofertilizers. It also sought to promote the consumption of safe water through the installation of **biofilters** and strengthen the diversification and production of products and by-products of the hive. The work was carried out by four families.



# Tierra Roja Cuxtitali

## Community Center, A.C.

**Project:** “Tierra Roja, land of peace. Comprehensive learning, peaceful coexistence and alternative social spaces for young people from the urban periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas”

**Direct beneficiaries:** 38

**Indirect beneficiaries:** 65

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The objective of the project was **to promote the active and autonomous participation of young people** from the urban periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, offer them spaces that are healthy, peaceful and alternative to violence, discrimination and marginalization.

The main goal, in the medium term (1 cycle) was to have a group of at least 30 young people, men and women from different backgrounds, who regularly attend the activities of the Community Center and who use it experiencing their autonomy, conscious decision making and being protagonists and owners of their present.

Thus, in recent years, spaces for dialogue, **the development of social skills and grassroots participation** have been promoted, which have made it possible to detect their need for more exclusive spaces according to their age.



# Active Community Fund

**T**he **Active Communities Fund**, was a program promoted by the **Alliance of Community Foundations (Comunalia)**, in conjunction with the **Inter-American Foundation (IAF)**, and the **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**.

Its objective: **to improve the collective capacity of the participants to identify, understand and attend to the problems in their communities**. Likewise, it seeks to promote the economic and social recovery of populations with a focus on grassroots development. The monitoring of four organizations by the Coordinator of the program, Martha Galera, lasted a year and ended between July and August 2022. The associations selected were: **Society for the productive and business impulse, A.C. (SIPRES)**, with the project: “Community response for water conservation.”

**Location:** community of Crucilja (municipality of San Juan Cancuc).

**Objective:** to make better use of water through an awareness process.

**Concentrate, A.C.**, with the project: “Fertile land. Sower women of Miguel Hidalgo for food sovereignty”.



**Location:** community of Miguel Hidalgo (municipality of Chiapa de Corzo).

**Objective:** to trigger the active and organized participation of women through the use of artistic languages and eco-pedagogy that facilitate the co-creation of collective spaces for human development towards autonomous processes and food sovereignty, to strengthen the support networks and access to a dignified life.

**XIM, A.C.**, with the project: “Healthy Tzeltal Home”

**Location:** communities of Pinabetal and Guaquitepec (municipality of Ocosingo).

**Objective:** to improve the health of 36 Tzeltal families from the Pinabetal and Guaquitepec communities, in the municipality of Chilón, Chiapas, through actions to strengthen the consumption of clean water in a sustained manner over time.

**Cáritas de San Cristóbal, A.C.**, with the project: “Healthy pregnancy, happy children”.

**Location:** community of Chenmut, Tulantik, Shishimtontic, Namtik, Bejelton (municipality of Chalchihuitán).

**Objective:** to build a space for guidance, learning and health care for the pregnant woman and her partner, collaborating to develop a healthy pregnancy and healthy deliveries. The main achievements of the program could be seen in the management of community autonomy, the integration and consolidation of grassroots groups, as well as the management of spaces within the community for work specifically with women, as well as the support of processes of leadership and ownership of the projects.



# Fundraising Campaigns

## Jazz Wknd Festival

On February 19th and 20th, we attended the **Jazz Wknd Festival** in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. An environment friendly event. We took this opportunity to share information about Amigos' work with the attendees and invited them to be part of our **Amigo Partners Program**.



## Soriana (Customer contribution program)



Creating alliances and joining efforts were among our fundraising objectives.

From March 1st to June 30th we were able to participate in the Soriana Fundación Client Contribution Program.

Thanks to the efforts of the entire Soriana team and the

clients' support, we raised **a total of \$35,866 pesos** where 7,707 pesos in gifts and prizes were given to cashiers by seven Amigo Companies. Penny by penny, peso by peso, we made a difference.



## ✦ Healthy neighborhood food market (Tianguis Agroecológico y Artesanal 'Comida Sana y Cercana')

On Wednesday, April 6th, the Agro-ecological and artisan market let us use their facilities giving us the occasion to establish closer ties with the community, share information about our work with those around and invite more people to join Amigos de San Cristóbal. This participation also allowed us to meet **people committed to healthy nutrition and the environment**.



## ❖ Little x Little

### Crowdfunding Campaign with GlobalGiving in April

During the week of April 4th, we carried out the first “Little by Little” crowdfunding campaign of the year. We advocated solidarity and support for our communities. The impact was multiplied as a result of the Global Giving endorsement whereby they matched 50% of every donation between US\$10 and 50. **Thanks to the generosity of many people, we raised a total of US\$510.00.**



## ❖ Little x Little

### Crowdfunding Campaign with GlobalGiving in September

During the week of September 12th “Little x Little”, “Poquito a Poquito”, multiplying the impact of online deposits, GlobalGiving contributed 50% of each donation made between US\$10 and 50. We raised **US\$1,275.00** on this occasion.



## ❖ Bonus Day

### Crowdfunding Campaign with GlobalGiving in July

With the solidarity shown by the donors in this campaign which took place on July 20 through the GlobalGiving platform, we were able to raise **US\$960.00.**



## ❖ Giving Tuesday

### Crowdfunding Campaign with GlobalGiving

The #GivingTuesday campaign or #UnDíaParaDar in Spanish, being a global campaign, registered the largest movement of generosity. We **raised US\$1,049.00** between November 29th and 30th.



## ❖ Total results of Globalgiving crowdfunding Campains

The total raised by all GlobalGiving campaigns amounts to **US\$5,973.00** when we take into account the total raised by all campaigns and add the **US\$2,179.00** donated online throughout the year (in non-campaign time).

## ❖ “See to Grow” and “More for the Others” Campaings in alliance with Salud Digna

The “**See to Grow**” campaign is an initiative of **Salud Digna** to improve the vision of children in Mexico. Amigos de San Cristóbal joined this collaborative effort and, between April 15th and August 31st, 401 coupons were distributed in schools, organizations and the general population in order to provide children aged 6 to 15 in the rural and urban areas of the region with glasses. Through this we continued our efforts to improve the quality of life of children. Furthermore, the “**More for the Others**” program makes available to the targeted population a series of medical services such as ultrasounds, electrocardiograms, pap smears, blood counts, and Qs6 parameters packages.



## ❖ Raffle with a cause

Within the framework of the **#UnDíaParaDar** campaign we the draw for Raffle with a Cause took place on December 8th. The raffle was streamed on Facebook Live. Members of the community participated in the communication of the results. **Six exclusive pieces** with a regional theme were raffled off: a painting by Fabiola Carachure; photography by Luis Enrique Aguilar; photography by Jorge Silva; a piece of textile by Paola Moguel; a piece in clay by Francisca Gómez Bautista, from the Sejk'ubal Kuxlejal circle of dar, and a mosaic of mirrors by Andrea Knaf. **The proceeds amounted to \$8,700 pesos** which were added to the pool of resources for projects.



## ❖ Amigo Companies

In June, within the framework of the AMIGO Companies Program, **Raúl López Osorio**, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility of the **Yucatecan Business Foundation (FEYAC)**, was invited to animate an introductory online workshop on social responsibility for our collaborating companies. As a follow-up to the program activities, a face-to-face event was held on October 20th during which we shared with Amigo and invited companies the achievements and results of the FEYAC Foundation in 2021. At that event, various businessmen endorsed their commitment to the communities



of the Highlands of Chiapas, beginning another cycle with the intention of giving more impetus to the issue of corporate social responsibility in the region. This campaign brought in **\$87,700 pesos**.

The following 11 companies participated: **El Horno Mágico, Quinto Sol Joyería, Century 21 Real, Materiales de Los Altos, Cafeología, Cacao Nativa, Madonna Mía Pizzería Restaurant, Casa Lily, Visión 360-Centro de Atención Integral, Grupo La Labor and Grupo Prosur.**



## ❖ **Socixs Amigos program**

Our strategic objective was to increase Amigos visibility as a community foundation locally and abroad. We also expected to still be in a position to continue to positively impact the region in 2022. We reinstituted our individual membership program and in February we launched the **Socixs Amigxs Program** which provides a channel where anyone can make a one-time

or recurring donation to contribute to Amigos de San Cristóbal continuous efforts to support the most disadvantaged people in the Highlands of Chiapas. Amigo Partner/Socix Amigx designates a person committed to the region who has decided to accompany the work we do. Amigo Family/Familia Amiga refers to a family nucleus whose members, in an act of collective solidarity and according to their personal financial means, decide the amount of their individual donation. Twenty people joined this program in 2022 and contributed **\$20,299 pesos**.



## ❖ **Contributions from United States donors through MEF**

**The Maya Educational Foundation (MEF)** is a non-profit organization mainly dedicated to supporting the educational and professional advancement of the Mayan people and indigenous cultures in southern Mexico, Belize, and Central America.

The MEF is a U.S. 501(c) (3) tax exempt public charitable organization that transfers tax-deductible donations received on behalf of Amigos de San Cristóbal. The total received through the MEF in 2022 was **US\$46,236.00**.



## ❖ Christmas bazar 2022

On December 10th, we held the traditional **Bazaar with a Cause of Amigos de San Cristóbal**. As in previous years, many people kindly donated clothing, books, shoes, and all kinds of objects in good condition for sale.

Our street market was at the Plaza de la Paz, in the center of San Cristóbal. We are grateful for the collaboration of staff from some Amigo Organizations who volunteered their time on this occasion. Thanks to their generosity and the donations we received, we raised **\$19,432 pesos**.



## Community Philanthropy and Giving Circles Program

### What is community philanthropy?

Community philanthropy is a process that channels resources that are mobilized within a given region.

It involves local people sharing resources for the common good.

The implementation of

community philanthropy initiatives can be through a number of organizations: it can for example be through a community foundation, a giving circle, a social enterprise, a community development organization, a volunteer center or any other organization that share the same vision.



### What is the logic of community philanthropy?

The Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) defines the logic of community philanthropy as follows:

- “It is based on the idea that all communities have assets (money, skills, knowledge, networks, etc.).



When these are pooled together, they build community power and voice.

- When people contribute their own resources they start to feel like co-investors with a stake in their own development; they care more about the outcomes and act in ways that advance and protect their collective interests.
- When local resources are brought to the table, a different, flatter kind of power dynamic is created when dealing with external donors, which challenges traditional donor-beneficiary imbalances.

- Local resources help create new, more horizontal forms of accountability (to the community, not just external donors), which are based on trust and transparency.” (GFCF Webpage)



## What is a giving circle?

A giving circle is a **flexible model for practicing community philanthropy**. It is made of individuals motivated by their values to join together and build a proactive networks that pools time, talent, treasure and testimony. Among them, they multiply these philanthropic resources and their impact by channeling them to a philanthropy community organization.

## The work of the giving circles in 2022

After three of Community Philanthropy (FC) program coordinators resigned in 2022, we focused our efforts on strengthening our team as well as the existing and new Giving Circles.

In February, **Brenda González** resigned as coordinator for the Community Philanthropy Program and the Giving Circles “Neighbors for Integral Change” and “Roots for Change”. Later in March, the Tsotsil promoter **Juana Pérez** resigned from her post as coordinator of the Giving Circle “Yibel Jnopbentik”. In June, **Silvia Coca** resigned as coordinator of the Community Philanthropy (FC) Program and of the Giving Circles “Compas de la Montaña” and “Local”. She worked with the local circles “Neighbors”, “Sejk’ubal”, “Yibel”, “La Semilla” and “Empresarial” and the international circle “Roots.” In order to continue to accompany those groups of individuals who are committed to change in their community, the remaining Program Coordinators received training in fundraising, philanthropy and racism among other topics.

Progress was made in the creation of an **educational material manual and its translation into the languages used in the Program** (Spanish, Tsotsil, Tseltal and English); the writing of numerous reports to funders; as well as in the accompaniment of the Giving Circles. Spaces for dialogue were set up to reflect on racial equity, the concept of “giving circles”, and for experience exchange sessions with other organizations in the commonly named “Learning Pairings”. This movement of personnel led the Board of Directors and the Operations Department to restructure the program and redefine the positions necessary for its implementation.





## Introducing our Giving circles:

### ■ Giving Circle “Compas de la Montaña”

The Giving Circle “Compas” has been on hiatus since December 2021 because of the various personal, work and academic activities of its members. Following the general restructuring of the Community Philanthropy Program and the guidelines that ensued, the members, individually, decided to end their participation in the Circle in April 2022. As a result of their work and the collective identity that they built throughout the year, “Compas de la Montaña” was able to consider the possibility of continuing to collaborate in new ways and in other spaces.

“Compas” has been and will continue to be the reference for other ways of giving and for the establishment of a collective identity that aims to give a **new meaning to philanthropy that would recognize the value of time, talent, commitment and testimony in the strengthening of the rural and urban areas of the Highlands of Chiapas in their combat against social injustices.**



### ■ Tsotsil Circle “Yibel Jnopbentik”

The Circle of Giving “Yibel Jnopbentik”, made up of **regional Tsotsil women**, worked closely with its members. During the first semester of 2022 their focus was on refining their profile and increasing their membership, particularly with women interested in improving **the rights of indigenous women and the strengthening of their native tongue.**

By the end of the year their priority was the search for and integration of new members who share their interests, that is the increased participation of women in the communities, the reinforcement of reading and writing in their native language and the protection of the environment.

## ■ “Sejkubal-Kuxlejal” Tseltal circle

The “Sejk’ubal Kuxlejal” Giving Circle, made up of **regional Tseltal people**, did not carry any activity between January and March 2022 because the multiple personal and work commitments of its members made it impossible to hold a session. Along with their coordinator, they resumed group communication in April by holding an online meeting in order to relaunch the Community Philanthropy Program and redefine their status and their topics of concern.

In May and June, they focused on refining their work plan with the establishment of a schedule of activities which included raising awareness on environmental issues, gender violence, knowledge exchange, and links with Amigo organizations. In addition, they held a brainstorming sessions to identify campaigns in which they could share their individual talents while strengthening their involvement in social justice issues.



## ■ Circle of Expatriates: “Neighbors for Integral Change”

The members of this group live in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. Because of health problems for some of its members at the beginning of the year it did not meet until February. Then, they met for a final session with the Circle’s coordinator **Brenda González**. They went on hiatus until the appointment in May of their Circle new coordinator, **Susana Martínez**.

The members participated in a number of visits to Amigo organizations and were thus provided with the opportunity to assess the strength or weakness of their respective projects. This Circle met on two more occasions with the purpose of **finding strategies for the incorporation of new members**.

## ■ Circle of Foreigners: “Roots for Change” Giving Circle

The “Roots for Change” circle is a remotely located group with participants living in the US and Israel. Their first event was an online confectionery class in mid-December 2021 which brought in **US\$365.00**. They signed a Collaboration Agreement with Amigos de San Cristóbal in February 2022.

This circle was on hiatus during March and April until the new Program Coordinator **Susana Martínez** came on board. During those two months, the Director of Operations remained in frequent contact with the Circle’s members and availed herself of the opportunity to raise their awareness on the region’s challenges; the advances in Amigo projects as well as the philanthropic strategies that were being developed to consolidate their Circle.



## ■ Local Circle “La Semilla”

This circle was initially named the local giving circle. It currently groups **women from various parts of Mexico** who are residents of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

In June, a new coordinator, **Viridiana Domínguez** took over the task of creating the Local Giving Circle and from there on and until the end of the year the Circle held two in-person sessions where the nature of Amigos work and the meaning of Community Philanthropy were explained and an agreement was reached on their new name, their approach and their goals.

They also discussed the **possibility of holding fundraising events and had a very interesting dialogue on the subject of philanthropy**. In the second half of the year, the Circle received some financial donations.



## ■ “Business Circle”

The “Business Circle” started in 2022 with the **participation of entrepreneurs from small and medium-sized businesses** in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. The coordinator, Viridiana, contacted friends who she thought might be interested in participating. They eventually formed a group of women and men who, after an introduction stage, began to donate treasure and talent.

Although these are very busy people who often find it difficult to donate an asset as precious as time, they have shown their interest in becoming **agents of change in society and their respective enterprise**, continuously expecting to find new ways to promote social justice in the region.



## Visits to projects

On February 2nd, with the **Mujeres y Maiz Criollo** collective we visited different activities carried out in school gardens by other participating collectives and an agro-ecological project of the “**El Semillero**” group. On February 11th, we visited the facilities of **Ángeles de Amor** to appreciate the evolution of their project located in San Cristóbal. On February 13th, we visited an agro-ecology project implemented by **SOLMUNDI** in the town of El Pozo, San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas. On February 17th, we attended a meeting of women on non-violence at the **Yach’il Antzetic Community Home**. On February 22nd, together with the representatives of **Amextra**, we traveled to the community of Xulumó in the municipality of Aldama, to learn about their project for production in greenhouses in this locality.



On March 18th, we traveled to the town of Tsaltealjá, in San Juan Cancuc, where **Conider** developed an antiparasitic campaign for children under 5. On March 25th we visited the facilities of **Yi'bel Ik' Raiz de Viento Casa de Salud Comunitaria (Community Health Home)** and the **Gimnasio Autónomo Popular (People's Autonomous Gym) "Barrio Bravo"**. On March 26th, we accompanied the **MUTRAM** organization in one of its workshops on the health of the body, the territory and the land. During that month we also we visited the facilities of **Tierra Roja Cuxtitali Centro Comunitario A.C.**, a comprehensive educational proposal aimed at youth and children from the urban periphery of San Cristóbal.



We also monitored and visited the projects executed within the framework of the Active Communities Program.

On January 27th, with a group of students from Tecnológico de Monterrey, we visited the women of the **Tierra Fértil** orchard, a project sponsored by Concentrarte, A.C. in the community of Miguel Hidalgo, a municipality of Chiapa de Corzo.

On February 8th we visited a water purification filter distribution

project funded by **SIPRES A.C.** in the community of Cruciljá, San Juan Cancuc, and met with the beneficiary families.

On March 25th, we went to the tseltal community of Pinabetal, Ocosingo, to have a look at the water filters of a project supported by **IXIM, A.C.**

Moreover, between June 6th and 11th, some members of our operations team and of the giving circles of the Community Philanthropy program visited the 9 organizations that Amigos funded this cycle to familiarize themselves with their projects.

## ■ Visits from funders

### DANIELE AGOSTINO DEROSI FOUNDATION

In April we had a visit from our donor and ally **Armando J. Alfonzo, Director of the Daniele Agostino Derosi Foundation**. We shared spaces for reflection and took him to visit the "Barrio Bravo" People's Autonomous Gym and the Yi'bel ik' Raíz del Viento Community Health Center.





## INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (IAF)

In September, we received a visit from the Inter-American Foundation, a funding agency for our Community Philanthropy program. We visited a number of our projects with **Gabriela Boyer, Andrea Tapia and Yolanda Pérez**, we also briefed them on the status of the Community Philanthropy program. Spaces for dialogue were shared with the Operations Team, Amigo organizations and members of the Giving Circles.



## On-site or virtual visits to exchange knowledge and connect with other institutions

### Michigan State University students' Visit

In March, a group of students from Michigan State University visited us with the purpose of volunteering at three AMIGO Organizations: Tierra Roja Cuxtitali, Ángeles de Amor, and Forum for Sustainable Development. Amigos de San Cristóbal facilitated the connection between the students and the organizations, accompanied them and served as a liaison for this collaboration.





## ❖ Visit to the Punta de Mita Foundation

In October, thanks to the internship scholarship provided by **Silvia Sántiz**, the coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Giving Circles and **Corinne Pierre-Louis**, Director of our Foundation, traveled to Nayarit to participate in an exchange of experiences with the **Punta de Mita Foundation**. They discussed local fundraising strategies, program planning and execution, community philanthropy experiences, as well as different ways and good practices to improve and strengthen their operations.



## ❖ Visit from Comunidad Foundation

In connection with our relationship with Comunalia, at the beginning of November we received a visit from representatives of Fundación Comunidad, A.C., with whom we had the opportunity to discuss our programs and strategies for **strengthening the work that we carry out in the region of the Highlands of Chiapas**. We took them on a visit to the Community Home, Yach'il Antzetic, A.C., and to the "Mujeres y Maíz" project.



## ❖ Visit of Minerva Zamora, Member of Comunalia

On August 19th, Amigos was pleased to welcome a visit from **Minerva Zamora, Comunalia** Program Coordinator, who briefed us on the important work they do as an alliance of community foundations in Mexico —a network of which we are a proud member representing the Highlands of Chiapas —. She also introduced us to the operations of the **Hub Committee** of which our Director, Corinne, is a member. That committee is made up of members of the various community foundations.

It meets monthly and seeks to make **Comunalia** a center of strength and connection with opportunities for the community foundations by offering services that optimize their actions and achieving economies of scale through collaborative learning and also generating benefits for the communities and the various actors in society.



## ❖ Launchpad

The positioning of the Community Philanthropy Program has led us to participate in exchange spaces with other organizations, foundations and open platforms, such as the Launchpad organized by **Philanthropy Together**, where we shared some of our experiences with other foundations that have also been promoting giving circle groups.



## ❖ Catalyzing Community Giving (CCG), Cohort Gathering

As part of our commitment to the **Fundación Kellogg**, in November Corinne Pierre-Louis, the Foundation's Director, participated in the annual Catalyzing Community Giving (CCG) meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. It was an opportunity for the partner cohort from the United States, Haiti, and Mexico to engage in a peer-to-peer learning exchange focused on expanding philanthropy for and by communities of color. High-priority issues were also addressed, projecting a look towards the future and seeing the need to further democratize philanthropy, so that it can move from charity to equity. This meeting was followed by the "Facing Race" National Conference, where strategies to achieve racial equity and social justice in communities of color were discussed.

# Institutional Strengthening of Amigos

## Strategic planning with Ana María León y Lucía Rebollo

With the assistance of **Ana María León** and **Lucía del Carmen Rebollo** we set the general goals of Amigos de San Cristóbal and developed an Achievement Plan. At the same time, Amigos Operations Team and its Board of Directors resumed the reflection on the future of our Foundation.



## ❖ Creation of the Coordination of Information, Education and Knowledge Section

The Section was created to address a need that came up in the Community Philanthropy program. **Beatriz Álvarez**, who has worked for a long time in our Administration Department was assigned to coordinate the new section with a special emphasis on the Community Philanthropy program.

The new section's tasks also included the preparation of reports to a number of financing institutions, the systematization of the learning processes and methodologies applied by each Giving Circle; as well as the cultivation of the Foundation's relationships with the different social actors, donors, allies and interest groups. She was replaced in June by **Edgar Rodríguez** who became the Director of the Administration Department.





## ❖ Strengthening of councils

Between January and May 2022, the Board of Directors and the Director of Operations of Amigos de San Cristóbal actively participated in the training sessions of the **Council Strengthening Strategy organized by Comunalía** and lead by Ana María León.

It was imperative that we take part in this process which accompanies us in our efforts to strengthen our governance, identify our needs and keep developing good practices.



Moreover, several committees made up of members of the Operations Team and the Council were activated this year to try to identify ways to simplify certain tasks. Among them, the Strategy Committee, created in January. Its members are Amigos Chairman of the Board, José Luis Mijangos; the Vice-President, Kate Hart Waters; and the Director of Operations, Corinne Pierre-Louis. They have devised strategies to improve the Foundation's work and the related implementation guidelines.

The Communication Committee made up of Susana Moran, Treasurer of the Council, Hileana García, Secretary and Jessica Sánchez Piene, Communication Coordinator of the Operations Team with the mission of developing communication and outreach strategies for Amigos Foundation.

In May 2022 the Articulation Axis was created to generate a space for the exchange of information and multiply the interaction between the different departments in order to achieve a greater connection between the staff and develop collective and collaborative practices in our work. It is composed of the Director of Operations and the Coordinators of the different sections of Amigos Operations Team.

## ❖ General Assembly of Associates

On June 21, we held our Ordinary General Assembly of Associates virtually. Our actions, activities and their results during fiscal year 2021 were presented together with our work projections for the remainder of 2022.



## ❖ Strengthening of Administrative and Legal Processes

To ensure a smooth day-to-day running of the Organization, the Administration Department must fulfill the following annual commitments:

Prepare the **transparency reports of authorized donee**;  
Prepare the **CLUNI report** (for civil society organizations),  
Renew the permit and the other legal procedures related to any modification to the Constitutive Act, before a notary, if necessary;  
Renew the U.S. permit; Prepare the financial reports and the narratives on projects progress for submission to the funding agencies, either annually or semi-annually. The staff of the Administration Department fulfilled its obligations.

In addition to that list of documents, they also successfully completed the Equivalence Determination Questionnaire drawn up by **NGOsource, a project** contracted by a number of U.S. grantmakers engaged in international giving to assist them in evaluating whether an intended foreign grantee (in this case, Amigos de San Cristobal) is eligible and complies with the legal requirements for receiving a grant. Amigos de San Cristobal met all the legal requirements, consequently, the grantmaker made the determination that Amigos is the equivalent of a U.S. public charitable organization.



## ❖ Strategic Communication Program

In February 2022 we participated in the training cycle on “Capacity Strengthening for Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean” organized by RACI and Innovation for Change. Our training covered the Strategic Communication module and was provided by Youth against Violence.



## ❖ Comunalia Scholarships

This program has made it possible for the staff of Amigos de San Cristobal Communication Department and those in charge of the Active Communities Fund Section to attend two important training classes.

**The Digital Content Diploma.** Course given between August and November and provided by SICDOS Global, Advertising Agency in Mexico.

## ❖ Diploma course in Management and Innovation for Civil Society Organizations.

The Coordinator of the Active Communities Fund, Martha Galera, attended this diploma course provided by Fundación Fortalece, Fortalessa and Fundación ADO, a great opportunity that allowed us to strengthen our practices and knowledge and further our training in order to achieve the transformation that we so long for in the region.

## ❖ Learning pairing sessions

We continued the learning exchange sessions and the processes of development and cooperation between civil society organizations. During those online meetings, we exchanged our common experiences and shared information on processes and practices within community foundations to help us achieve our goals. We also shared information on our practices and visions—sometimes similar, sometimes different—in programs and projects operations. The participants that we had the pleasure of meeting on those occasions were from the Merced Querétaro Foundation and the Oaxaca Community Foundation.



## ❖ Attendance at a talk in ECOSUR

ECOSUR hosted a presentation and dialogue attended by the Amigos Operations Team and members of the Board. It featured a talk by **Alicia Sword, entitled “Poverty and the Poor People’s campaign in the US”**. The Amigos team was concerned to learn the current level of inequality experienced by some US citizens and how social injustices, both here and there, affect all of us as a society.





## ❖ Participation in the strategic planning of Comunalía activities

As part of the activities of the eleventh anniversary of Comunalía, our **Director of Operations, Corinne**, attended at the beginning of August the Strategic Planning exercise at the facilities of **CEMEFI's House of Philanthropy**, in Mexico City.

There, a collective construction was carried out in order to define the course of the Alliance of Community Foundations of Mexico (Comunalía). A rich space for reflection, learning and connecting with the other partner community foundations was also provided.



## ❖ Operational team strengthening workshop

In September, we organized a workshop that was conducted by Advisor **Susana Moran**.

She used theatrical improvisation techniques and tools to help us strengthen collaborative relationships with colleagues, improve the work environment and increase creativity at work.



## ❖ Exchange of experiences in the closing of the Active Communities Fund Program (FCA)

Comunalía organized this October an event in CDMX to reflect upon the closing of the Active Communities Fund where we had the opportunity to share our experiences hand in hand with IXIM A.C., one of the organizations participating in the second phase of financing.



## ❖ Participation in the Project Evaluation Committee for Comunalía

Amigos was invited to be a participant in the **Sustainable Development Goal Project Evaluation Committee for Comunalía**. In August **Martha Galera** represented us in the selection of projects for the coming year.



## ❖ Financial Results

Maintaining both the daily Amigos operating costs and the funding of Amigo organizations **project implementation** costs is a constant challenge for the Foundation. We strive to diversify our funding sources so that we can dispose of adequate resources to support a greater number of development projects in the future.

REVENUES 2022	4,686,248.77
DONATIONS FOR FINANCING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF PROJECTS	95%
AMIGO BUSINESSES PROGRAM WITH CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN CHIAPAS	2%
GLOBAL GIVING 2022 CAMPAIGN	2%
SORIANA 2022 CAMPAIGN	1%
EGRESS 2022	4,969,211.21
SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS	17%
EXPENDITURES ON PROJECTS AND AGREEMENTS	20%
OPERATING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	61%
FINANCIAL EXPENSES	2%

## Balance Sheet - Financial Position

AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTOBAL • Balance sheet at the end of December 2022

Asset	\$ 5,022,213.61	Passive	\$ 119,719.51
<b>Circulating</b>		<b>Circulating</b>	
Box	\$ -	Provision for social security contributions payable	\$ 59,968.19
Banks	\$ 4,920,396.84		
Investments	\$ -	Taxes withheld	\$ 59,751.32
Sundry debtors	\$ 3,405.2	<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 119,719.51</b>
Advance payments	\$ -	<b>Patrimonio contable</b>	<b>\$ 490,2494.1</b>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,923,802.04</b>	Social assets	\$ 108,390.52
<b>Non-current assets</b>		Accumulated balance	\$ 5,077,066.02
Office furniture and equipment	\$ 52,267.9	Deficit / negative balance for the year	\$ -282,962.44
Computer equipment	\$ 232,319.51	<b>Total capital</b>	<b>\$ 4,902,494.1</b>
Accumulated depreciation of fixed assets	\$ -186,175.84	<b>Total liabilities + capital</b>	<b>\$ 5,022,213.61</b>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>\$ 98,411.57</b>		
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,022,213.61</b>		



# Acknowledgements

To deal with the challenges we were faced with while trying to strengthen the rhythm of our community and institutional activities, accompany Amigo Organizations and keep up our efforts to build a social fabric in the aftermath of the pandemic, we had to revisit our strategies and priorities; redefine staff roles, cope with staff turnover; and handle difficult situations. It was also a time that brought hope and renewed energy and reminded us that community work is a never ending journey with continuing learning opportunities.

Under such circumstances, everyone's presence and support was essential to the success of our campaigns, workshops, events, training sessions, our visits to the projects and the creation of Giving Circles.

We therefore want to thank each and every one of you, Amigo Organization representative, Council or Assembly of Associates member, member of Amigos de San Cristobal Operation Team, Amigo Company representative, volunteer, participant or beneficiary of a project or of an allied institution, external collaborator, sponsor, service provider, donor, funding agency, giving circle member, socix amigx, Community Foundation. Your generosity and your support encourage us to keep on building a common ground between individuals and a more community-based type of philanthropy.

Without a doubt, this collective effort brought us closer to achieving our goal of establishing social justice for children, women and families and improving their living conditions in the region.

**In 2023 we intend to continue to join forces to increase community involvement.**



## ❖ Institutions with which Amigos de San Cristóbal collaborates



## ❖ Amigo Businesses 2022



# How you can contribute to our cause

## How can I join in making a difference?

- **Join the Amigo partners program.**
- **Become an Amigo partner or an Amigo family.**

With your donation you contribute to the financing of projects in health, education and the environment that improve the living conditions of children, women and families in San Cristobal de Las Casas and the Highlands of Chiapas. Your contribution allows Amigos de San Cristobal A.C. to continue its work in our region.

## Amigo partner

Be a person committed to Los Altos de Chiapas. Join us in accompanying the work we do and contribute with a one time or monthly donation. The suggested amounts are:

- **For a monthly donation:**  
**\$50, \$100, or \$200**
- **For a one-time donation:**  
**\$300, \$400, or \$500**

## Amigo family

Get together with your entire family and make a group donation according to your means. The suggested amounts are:

- **For a monthly donation:**  
**\$100, \$200, or \$300**
- **For a one time donation:**  
**\$800, \$900, or \$1,000**







Join us by making  
a **donation in kind**  
Join the **Friend**  
**businesses program**

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**Further information:**  
[procuracion@amigosdesc.org](mailto:procuracion@amigosdesc.org)



Join us to be a member  
in the **Giving circles**  
of our **Community**  
**philanthropy program**

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**Further information:**  
[veronica@amigosdesc.org](mailto:veronica@amigosdesc.org)



Join as a  
**volunteer**

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