Fundación Comunitaria amigos de San Cristóbal A.C.

Annual report 2023

Fundación Comunitaria

amigos

de San Cristóbal, A.C.

Together we make a difference!

Index

Letter from the Board of Directors ..... p. 4
Letter from the Operational Coordinator ..... p. 5
Who we are and what we do ..... p. 6
Cumulative impact data from 2005 to 2023 ..... p. 7
Strengthening organizations and groups programm ..... p. 8
- Call for funding 2023 for Amigo organizations with projects to be implemented in 2024 ..... p. 8
- Project selection committee ..... p. 8
- Signature of partnership agreements with organizations and collectives ..... p. 9
- Selected Amigo organizations to be accompanied in 2023 ..... p. 11

Community Philanthropy and Giving Circles Programme ..... p. 19
- What is community philanthropy? ..... p. 19
- What is the rationale for community philanthropy? ..... p. 19
- What is a giving circle? ..... p. 20
- The work of our giving circles in 2023 ..... p. 20
- Giving circle fundraising activities ..... p. 21
- Other programme achievements ..... p. 22

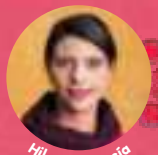
Sustainability ..... p. 23
- Campaigns ..... p. 23
- Amigo Business Program ..... p. 25

Transparency ..... p. 26
- Financial results ..... p. 26
- Deductible donations ..... p. 27
- Legacy ..... p. 27

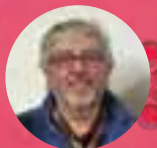
Institutional links ..... p. 27
Changes in the staff team ..... p. 29
- Operational team ..... p. 29
- Board of directors and partners assembly ..... p. 30

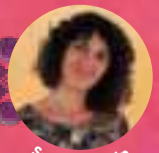
Acknowledgements ..... p. 30
Institutions with which we collaborate ..... p. 31
ANNEXES ..... p. 31
- Annex 1. Follow-up visits to organizations p.31
- Annex 2. Technical assistance workshops ..... p. 34
- Annex 3. Experience sharing forum ..... p. 35
- Annex 4. Linking activities of the giving circles ..... p. 36
- Annex 5. Communication and dissemination actions ..... p. 37

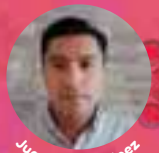
Membership with Amigos de San Cristóbal ..... p. 38
Join us by making a donation ..... p. 39
Contact details and social networks ..... p. 40

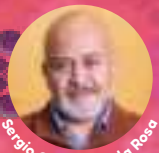

Hileana García

Kate Hart


Pablo Farías


Susana Morán


Juan Carlos López


Sergio Oswaldo de la Rosa

Letter from the **Board of Directors**

At Amigos de San Cristóbal, we are proud to have contributed to building a community that is more supportive, inclusive and aware of the great and diverse needs of our region. We have worked hard to implement new models to catalyze community giving, forming networks and collaborative synergies from the community for the community. We have also served as a liaison with institutions and donors committed to this region, who make it possible to strengthen local organizations and groups. With this vision, we are moving closer and closer to our work as a community foundation, where alliances with diverse civil society actors are fundamental to achieve a collective impact. In this context, efforts not only unite, but complement each other.

As we approach 20 years of continuous work, we have the opportunity to evaluate our strategies, evolving to ensure that our actions have a positive effect on the life of this region. Thus, we have initiated a planning process that will allow us to strengthen and expand our work with renewed enthusiasm for the future.

We would like to genuinely thank those who have shared this vision and continue to show their confidence and support in our work. Beyond the numbers and figures, what really moves us are the stories we have witnessed. These stories are testimony to what we have accomplished together. At Amigos de San Cristóbal, we are not only strengthening projects that have a positive impact in the areas of education, health and the environment, but we are also weaving, with transparency, a network of solidarity. This effort represents a deep commitment and it is an honor to be able to share this journey with each of you.

Letter from the Operational Coordinator

In recent years, we have taken the time to listen to the needs of our population and guide Amigos de San Cristóbal towards best practices. This vision allowed us to achieve good results in 2023.

Undoubtedly, it was the **constant work of the team** that made the difference. In addition, our community development efforts have been multiplying.

Amigos de San Cristóbal is the result of the concerted effort of each and every one of its actors: **operational team, board of directors and loyal partners, donors, members of giving circles, friendly companies, suppliers and allies**; to all of them, thank you for your commitment to the mission and values of Amigos de San Cristóbal and for your professionalism.

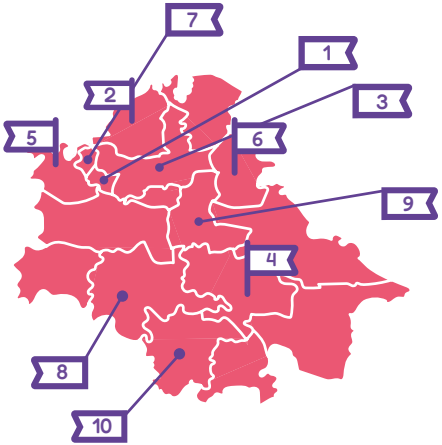
I am sure that, with the right people in the right roles, Amigos de San Cristóbal will have another successful year of supporting a wide range of projects that contribute, with their work, to the development of our region of **Los Altos de Chiapas**.

It is with joy that I present this report reflecting the **main activities** developed in Amigos de San Cristóbal in the year **2023**.

Corinne Pierre - Louis
Operational Coordinator

Who we are and **what** we do

We are a community foundation that is dedicated to seek philanthropic resources so that civil society organizations that have a positive impact in Los Altos de Chiapas can execute their projects in our areas of incidence: education, environment and health.



✦ Map of the areas where the organizations with which we collaborate work in 2023.

1. Aldama
2. Chalchihuitán
3. Chenalhó
4. Huixtán
5. San Andrés Larráinza
6. San Juan Cancuc
7. Santiago el Pinar
8. San Cristóbal de Las Casas
9. Tenejapa
10. Teopisca

Accumulated **impact data** from **2005** to **2023**

52

civil society organizations have been supported.

29

million pesos procured.

160

projects have been strengthened.

108,816

people have been reached.

Strengthen program to **Organizations** and **Collectives**

Call for funding 2023 for Amigo organizations, **with projects to be implemented** in **2024**

On July 27, 2023, the call for projects to be executed in 2024 was launched. Organizations had until August 11 to submit the basic documentation and until September 5 to present, in a second phase, the detailed proposal of their project.

A total of 22 applications were reviewed, prioritizing those with work in Los Altos de Chiapas and in the 3 strategic lines of incidence that are a priority for Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.: education, health and environment.

Project **Selection** Committee

A selection committee, made up of members of the operational team and board of Amigos, members of the giving circles and project experts, met in evaluation sessions during November and December to review —in light of the existing selection criteri— the proposals that moved on to the second phase of the process.

The participants in the evaluation process carefully analyzed all the legal requirements for the incorporation of the organizations, as well as the content and scope of the projects; general and specific objectives, goals, activities, number of people reached, schedule of activities, expected impact, consistency, budget... An evaluation rubric, where each project was assigned a score, helped to choose the best proposals.

Signing de of **collaboration** agreements with **organizations** and **collectives**

At the end of March, agreements were signed between Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C. and the partner organizations selected to execute their projects in the 2023 cycle.

Similarly, on April 27, collaboration agreements were signed with groups within the framework of the Strengthening Program, as a way of further strengthening grassroots work, **collaborating with groups** that work with disadvantaged populations, but are not yet legally constituted.

The groups selected were:

1. Centro cultural y agroecológico Semillero
2. Centro cultural y agroecológico Patrulla Roja & Centavitos Rojos
3. Huerto Kassil Vochonil
4. Comunidad Escolar 31 de Marzo
5. Gimnasio Autónomo Popular “Barrio Bravo”
6. TeKio, tejedora de redes

Other **activities** that were carried out and are related to this area:

- **Induction workshop of the Strengthening Program for friendly organizations and collectives**, where we were able to socialize the activities related to this new program and identify the strengthening needs of each project and organization.

- **Workshop "The ABC of crowdfunding for Amigos de San Cristóbal".** With the intention of strengthening the capacities of personnel working in civil society organizations. Participation: 14 people in person and 12 through Zoom.

- In August, community participation meeting; **a get-together between civil society organizations, collectives, members of the operational team, the board of directors and the giving circles**, —43 people in total— which took place in the Kassil Vochonil, one of the collectives with which we collaborate. Collaboration, dynamics, fun and working together bagging seedlings with soil and cleaning the green areas of garbage.

Partner organizations **selected** and **supported** in **2023**

1. Asociación Mexicana de Transformación Rural y Urbana, A.C. (AMEXTRA)

Project: "Water to live, nutrition to grow: Tsotsil families achieving health".
Location: Aldama, Chalchihuitán and Larráinzar.
Direct beneficiaries: 300 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 600 people.
General objective: Contribute to improve the health and nutrition conditions of 80 families (300 children and adults) in 7 communities of Aldama, Chalchihuitán and Larráinzar.

2. Hogar Comunitario Yachil Antzetic, A.C.

Project: "New women, integral development for indigenous women migrants to the city".
Location: San Cristóbal de Las Casas, municipality and city, as well as other localities of Los Altos de Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 999 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 3,500 people.
General objective: To develop integral practices that lead indigenous and mestizo women migrants to the city, with unplanned pregnancies and single mothers, towards their human development, free of violence and in conditions of equity.

3. Sanando Heridas, A.C.

Project: "Girls and adolescents empowered in the exercise of their right to reproductive and sexual health".
Location: Chenalhó: Poconichim, Takiokum. Chalchihuitán: Canalumtik. Teopisca: Chichihuistán.
Direct beneficiaries: 160 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 500 people.
General objective: Strengthen knowledge, attitudes and healthy habits on sexual and reproductive health by providing adequate information on hygiene and menstrual health with indigenous girls and adolescents of Los Altos de Chiapas, as well as providing tools and inputs to improve their self-esteem and quality of life.

4. Cooperación y Organización Integral para el Desarrollo Rural, A.C. (Conider)

Project: "Strengthening community health in nine localities with a comprehensive approach, deworming campaigns and nutritional care in San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas".
Location: Atsamteel, Tanubiljá, Tsaltealja, Pokolna, Pusilja, Cancuc Abajo, Yanchén, Chilolja, Nailchén.
Direct beneficiaries: 1,602 peolpe.
Indirect beneficiaries: 1,200 people.
General objective: Strengthen integral health visions in nine tseltal localities in the municipality of San Juan Cancuc.

5. Tlahtolli, A.C.

Project: “Voceros de la Cuenca”.
Location: San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 20 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 100 people.
General objective: Promote in the youth population the awareness and initiative necessary for their participation as environmental leaders with the appropriate skills to encourage the conservation of biodiversity.

6. Unidad y Esfuerzo Compartido para el Desarrollo Sustentable A.C. (UNECODES)

Project: “Milpa intercropped with fruit trees (MIAF) for food security and sovereignty and environmental sustainability for the communities of Chancolom, municipality of San Juan Cancuc and Bochilté, municipality of Huixtán”.
Location: Chancolom, municipality of San Juan Cancuc and Bochilé, municipality of Huixtán.
Direct beneficiaries: 500 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 750 people.
General objective: To implement the MIAF system as part of the food security and sovereignty of families to increase the yield of corn, beans, vegetables and fruit crops in an agroecological way, family income, and control water erosion of the soil. In addition to strengthening human relations through the positive transformation of conflicts.

7. Tierra Roja Cuxtitali Centro Comunitario, A.C.

Project: "Our organization, land of peace: healthy relationships, non-violent coexistence and social insertion for young people from the urban periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas".
Location: Cuxtitali Neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 75 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 550 people.
General objective: To build a social space for integral learning, equity and peaceful coexistence with diverse young people, which is a real alternative to the growing violence and marginalization of the urban periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

8. Centro de Formación para la Sustentabilidad Moxviquil, A.C.

Project: "Prevention of child sexual abuse in San Cristóbal de Las Casas".
Location: San Cristóbal de Las Casas, 5 neighborhoods and schools of Moxviquil that show more willingness to participate.
Direct beneficiaries: 500 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 2,500 people.
General objective: To generate spaces for awareness, orientation and attention to the population of San Cristóbal regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse from a focus on the rights of children and adolescents, as well as intersectionalities, which contributes to make the problem visible.

9. CAMATI "Mujeres Construyendo desde Abajo", A.C.

Project:"Dignifying the rights of women and midwives to freely exercise the use of their knowledge in traditional medicine and to a dignified diet with their own resources in Santiago el Pinar and Chenalhó, in the state of Chiapas".
Location: Fracción Polhó locality, Chenalhó municipality and center of Santiago el Pinar, Santiago el Pinar municipality.
Direct beneficiaries: 140 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 600 people.
General objective: Contribute to improve the quality and warmth of reproductive health services with the free exercise of midwifery, traditional medicine, as well as the improvement of nutrition in two municipalities: Santiago el Pinar and Chenalhó, in the state of Chiapas.

Within the framework of the **Strengthening Program**, support was also given this year to **6 collectives**:

1. Colectivo Kassil Vochonil

Project: "Project dedicated to the development of harmonious relations between people and environment".
Ubicación: Periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.
Direct beneficiaries: 200 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 1,000 people.
General objective: To make our space a demonstration-educational center for sustainable, responsible practices in harmony with the natural environment.

2. Colectivo Patrulla Roja and Centavitos Rojos

Project: “Hip Hop and Agroecology for Good Living”.
Ubicación: Periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 30 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 300 people.
General objective: To address the lack of extracurricular activities in children and adolescents of scarce resources, through classes, workshops and meetings with an artistic, agroecological and cultural approach.

3. Colectivo El Semillero 259

Project: “Gardens in life and art”.
Location: Periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 50 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 1,000 people.
General objective: To create an agro-ecological and artistic community where positive eating habits are promoted, academic information is reinforced and physical activities are encouraged through hip-hop culture. In this way children will be able to develop in a safe environment.

4. Colectivo Tekio Tejedora de Redes

Project: “Girls, children, youth and women: formation and strengthening of the social fabric for health and community sports”.
Location: Periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 100 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 500 people.
General objective: To continue building community health spaces in coordination with the Cuxtitali neighborhood, aimed especially at women, girls, boys and young people, with particular attention to sports and sexual, mental and physical health, strengthening collaboration between organizations (internal and external) and generating training tools to promote community autonomy.

5. Colectivo Comunidad Escolar 31 de Marzo

Project: “Baskets of experiences”.
Location: Periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 220 students.
Indirect beneficiaries: 90 families.
General objective: That children can experience a range of extracurricular activities that lead them to enhance their knowledge and skills for decision making focused on an individual, family and community life plan.

6. Colectivo Gimnasio Autónomo Barrio Bravo

Project: "Girls, young children and women: training and strengthening of the social fabric for health and community sports".
Location: Periphery of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.
Direct beneficiaries: 200 people.
Indirect beneficiaries: 2,000-3,000 people.
General objective: To build and strengthen community health spaces, in coordination with the neighborhood of Cuxtitali, aimed especially at women and youth, which promote health care from a comprehensive, community perspective, through primary care, prevention and promotion of sports and healthy lifestyles.

Regarding project visits:

✦ A total of 48 monitoring visits were made (16 in the first semester and 32 in the second semester).

In relation to Technical Assistance:

✦ 16 organizations and collectives were benefited with an amount of US$1,000.
✦ They received a total of 32 training sessions on topics related to the areas of interest presented by each of the organizations and groups.
✦ A total of 6 collectives were benefited with a subgrant of 300,000 pesos.

Learning exchange sessions:

✦ 15 organizations and collectives conducted a total of 23 Learning Exchange sessions.

Annex 1 of this document contains details of the follow-up visits to organizations; **Annex 2** contains the technical assistance and **Annex 3** contains the conclusions of the Forum of organizations and groups held at the end of the year.

Community **Philanthropy Program** and **giving circles**

What is **community philanthropy**?

Community philanthropy is a process that channels resources that are mobilized within a particular region. This is led by the people of the same community in order to invest them back into their own development.

This form of collaboration may take various forms: community foundations, giving circles, social enterprises, community development organizations, volunteer centers, etc.

In addition, and within this philanthropic vision, Amigos de San Cristóbal also channels, to the organizations with which it collaborates, national and international resources, resulting from the efforts of funding agencies and individual donors interested in the development of this region of Los Altos de Chiapas.

What is the **logic** of community philanthropy?

It is based on the idea that all communities have assets (money, skills, knowledge, networks, etc.). When people come together and contribute their own resources, they begin to feel like co-investors interested in their own development and collective interests.

When local resources are brought to the table, a different and more horizontal type of power dynamic is created, thus challenging traditional imbalances between donors and beneficiaries and creating new forms of accountability —not only to external donors, but also to the people— that are based on trust and transparency.

What is a **giving circle**?

A giving circle is a **flexible model** for practicing community philanthropy. It is made up of people who come together based on **shared values**, which motivate them to pool their time, **talent, treasure and testimony** to collectively multiply these resources and their reach, **channeling them to a cause** selected by all, according to their values and motivations.

The work of our giving circles in **2023**

We began the year with a restructuring of our community philanthropy program. The members of the **Tseltal (Sejk'ubal Kuxlejal)** and **Tsotsil (Yibel Jnopbentik)** giving circles were merged into a single circle of indigenous people. At the same time, the participants of the giving circles **LA SEMILLA**, the corporate giving circle and **Neighbors for Integral Change** were united in a single circle made up of members who reside in San Cristóbal de Las Casas and who are of local and international origin. Thus, **the 6 giving circles became 2**.

These 2 groups of donors continued to meet with the objective of organizing fundraising activities, strengthening capacities, building trust among their members and mobilizing local assets to contribute, in the long term, to the **development of rural and urban communities** in Los Altos de Chiapas.

Fundraising activities of these circles

✦ Ceramics with a Cause Workshop

The ceramist Pilar Martín Palomo led the class, which was attended by 27 people, who left happy with their pots finished and ready to put in the oven. A morning of learning, fun and a different opportunity to contribute to our projects.

✦ Basic course in Tseltal with a Cause

Six people attended the course, which consisted of four modules, a discussion and facilitators from Oxchuc, Tenejapa, Cancuc and Teopisca.

✦ Salsa Class with a Cause

The event took place at Latinos's Club and 33 people gathered to contribute to the cause in a fun way. With the help of salsa teacher Tony Luna, everyone learned new dance steps.

✦ Lottery with a Cause

It was an evening of solidarity, family and fun, which had the collaboration of several sponsoring companies that provided prizes for the winners of the different rounds of the game.

✦ Pizza with a Cause

Attendees were able to learn about the history of pizza, its chemistry and how it is prepared. The Madonna Mía pizzeria team was always attentive to the requirements of the trainees.

It should be noted that all the teachers of these workshops generously donated the facilitation and their extraordinary talent. Undoubtedly, this type of initiatives of the circles make the possibility of donating and being a philanthropist available to anyone.

✦ Breakfast at the Hotel Villas Casa Morada

With a group of 20 supportive women from San Cristóbal.

We introduced them to the work of Amigos de San Cristóbal, through the testimonies given by representatives of some of the organizations with which we collaborate.

✦ Christmas Bazaar

A sale with a cause where those who came by were able to purchase some items in good condition and at a good price. This event would not have been possible without the collaboration of all the people who donated clothes, books, shoes, toys, kitchen utensils, etc.

Other program achievements

- ✓ Administrative, educational and logistical support activities for giving circles, both in person and virtually.
- ✓ 1 community meeting.
- ✓ 6 visits to Amigo organizations.
- ✓ 4 evaluations of giving circles.
- ✓ Participation in the 2024 project selection committee.

In **Annex 4** of this report we will find the linkage activities carried out by these giving circles.

Sustainability

Campaigns

✦ In April, July and September, **3 online crowdfunding campaigns** were conducted with **Global Giving: LittlebyLittle**. "With you it is possible Amigos de San Cristóbal". "Without you, there is no we. Without a we, there is no community. With you, it is possible to keep building. With you, Amigos de San Cristóbal is possible," was the slogan. GlobalGiving added 50% of what was donated to the campaign, allowing the impact to be multiplied.

Raised: **3,889.38 USD**

✦ In June, Soriana 2023 **Customer Contribution Campaign at Híper Soriana in San Cristóbal**, in collaboration with the Soriana Foundation, where customers could donate their pennies, or an extra $5 pesos, when making their purchases.

We trained and encouraged store managers and cashiers, since they were the first link in the awareness chain, as they had direct contact with customers.

On July 21, the closing event of the campaign was held and the symbolic check for the amount collected was handed over in a festive atmosphere. The cashiers who raised the most money received gifts as an incentive and thanks for their support in the campaign.

Raised: **$26,738.53**

✦ In November, our community foundation joined the #Undiaparadar movement in order to celebrate the power of generosity and solidarity. Activities included an online donation campaign with GlobalGiving, #GivingTuesday, which raised $765.

As part of the activities for this day, a party was organized, called "A darlo todo" (Let's give it all). There was rap, cumbia, games, gifts, dancing, delicious food and lots of snacks... All with the intention of celebrating the acts of generosity of the people who supported us throughout the year.

Raised: **765 USD**

✦ Major Donor Campaign

Special thanks to these U.S. donors who generously donated through MEF:

- David y Nancy Orr
- John y Mary Margaret Sather
- Allen y Dale Hermann
- Rena y Jack Thompson
- Greg Henneke y Martha O'Connor
- Lori Benson
- Robert Lipman
- Margaret Bridgeforth

Amigo Business Program

The Amigo Business Program is a community of companies and social investors located in San Cristóbal de Las Casas and Los Altos de Chiapas who wish to contribute to the improvement of living conditions in their community.

The companies that are part of it, join with a minimum annual membership of $2,500 pesos, tax deductible. In 2023 we had 5 companies that joined through this modality, which we call friendly companies, and we also had several sponsors that supported us with products and services in kind in the different fundraising events.

Our allied companies have always understood the benefits of participating with us in product campaigns with a cause; how it is a win-win situation, and how we can all do our bit by doing our part in daily acts of philanthropy —each and every one of us from our own trench— and thus contribute to the construction of a more caring society, where we support each other.

We would like to thank all these companies, because they are a fundamental part of our work.

Friendly companies

Sponsors

Transparency

Financial Results

amigos

AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTOBAL A. C.

ESTADO DE POSICION FINANCIERA 2023

GRUPO	SUBGRUPO	CUENTA	SALDOS AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE 2023	MOVIMIENTOS DEL EJERCICIO 2023			TOTAL
				[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
ACTIVO							
	CIRCULANTE						
		CAJA					
		BANCOS	4,621,204.84	1,236,717.26	-	-	3,883,970.48
		INVERSIONES					
		DEUDORES DIVERSOS	3,846.20	3,845.20			
		INVENTARIO					
			4,625,052.04 -	1,240,122.30	-	-	3,883,970.48
	NO CIRCULANTE						
		TERRENO					
		EQUIPO DE OFICINA	13,167.90	8,333.10	-	-	60,500.00
		EQUIPO DE TRANSPORTE			-	-	
		EQUIPO DE COMPUTO	111,319.11		-	-	111,319.11
		DEP. DE EQUIPO DE OFICINA	- 11,260.56	5,748.32	-	-	16,008.88
		DEP. DE EQUIPO DE COMPUTO	- 103,921.28	10,031.78	-	-	113,947.06
			96,411.37 -	47,493.40	-	-	93,858.17
	TOTAL DE ACTIVO		5,022,253.42	1,287,677.96	-	-	3,794,826.00
PASIVO							
	CORTO PLAZO						
		IMPUESTOS POR PAGAR	10,711.22 -	10,712.25	-	-	18,995.03
		CONTRIBUCIONES DE SEGURIDAD SOCIAL POR PAGAR	19,868.19	6,366.43	-	-	36,134.62
	LARGO PLAZO						
	TOTAL DE PASIVOS		116,710.51 -	29,493.86	-	-	91,216.65
PATRIMONIO CONTABLE							
	PATRIMONIO INICIAL		326,390.52 -	93,780.20	-	-	32,610.32
	PATRIMONIO DE EJERCICIOS ANTERIORES		3,977,006.33	232,962.84	-	-	3,744,133.19
	PATRIMONIO DEL EJERCICIO	-	182,962.84	932,345.26	-	-	1,207,111.40
	TOTAL DE PATRIMONIO		4,905,404.10 -	1,258,091.70	-	-	5,018,495.40
	TOTAL PASIVO Y PATRIMONIO CONTABLE		5,022,253.42	1,287,677.96	-	-	3,794,826.00

SANTIAGO CONSULTORES

M. L. SUSUITO URIVANO SANTIAGO
DESPACHO CONTABLE FISCAL SANTIAGO CONSULTORES

C. CORINNE ALEXANDRA PIERRE LOUIS
REPRESENTANTE LEGAL AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTOBAL A. C.

Deductible donations

In 2023 we will also remind our donors that solidarity is not only rewarded on a personal level, but also fiscally, since financial and in-kind donations made to authorized donors can be tax-deductible.

Our foundation is an authorized donor, certified before the SAT, so we can provide tax-deductible receipts. This also assures the donor that their contributions have a good destination, and that they can have a greater social impact, by accompanying and learning about the work of the groups that work in the region to solve local problems.

Legacy

In 2023 we also began to offer the donor who contemplated, as a legacy, the possibility of allocating part of their inheritance to improve, through the foundation's projects, the living conditions of families in Los Altos de Chiapas.

At Amigos de San Cristóbal we would be honored to accompany these potential donors in planning their last act of generosity.

Institutional **linkage**

✦ Participation of the director, Corinne Pierre-Louis, in the session of the board of directors of Comunalia (Alianza de Fundaciones Comunitarias de México), of which she is a member. Presentation of results and challenges of this institution for the coming year.

✦ On other dates, it is worth mentioning its participation, as a liaison activity, in the Ordinary General Assembly of said entity, where the presentation of Comunalia's 2022 Activity Report took place.

✦ Meeting "Community Philanthropy in the Americas: Innovative Approaches, Meeting of Connected Communities of the Americas (CCA)" in the city of Guadalajara, where our director also participated. Objective: to deepen our understanding of how to achieve more effective philanthropy in the region, build ties and increase shared knowledge about the practices of community foundations throughout the Americas.

✦ Advice and support sessions on fundraising with Agustín Landa, founder of LANZA consulting firm.

The objective of these meetings was to enrich our practice, as well as to have more tools to carry out our work, always adding to the community we are part of.

✦ Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), a funder that supports the work of our foundation, published an article about Amigos de San Cristóbal's work with organizations and donors in Los Altos de Chiapas. Read the full article:

Clic here to read the article

✦ In September, Corinne also participated in the 2023 Community Foundations Meeting in Saltillo, Coahuila, where she shared lessons learned and points of view with other community foundations. Fundación Merced Coahuila A.C. hosted the event.

✦ In November, Andrea Tapia, Community Philanthropy consultant for the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), one of our partner funders, visited us. Some organizations and collectives were visited to observe more closely the progress of their technical assistance programs, as well as the capacity building of their teams.

• At the end of the year, management participated in the #ShiftThePower Global Summit in Bogota, Colombia. This event brought together people and organizations from different latitudes to inspire each other and promote leadership in the territories in which they work.

Changes in the team of **collaborators**

Operational team

At the beginning of the year, Beatriz Álvarez took over the coordination of the Communication area from Jessica Sánchez, and Martha Galera —until now in charge of the Active Communities Program— took over the coordination of Projects and Strengthening. In mid-September she will be replaced by Patricia López.

In June, Verónica Luna replaced Viridiana Domínguez as coordinator of the Community Philanthropy Program. In December of that year, Katya Becerra finished her cycle with us as Fundraising Coordinator.

This is how in the year 2023 several changes in the staff of the operational team took place.

We thank all the people who passed through the different roles of this foundation for all their work and contributions; we wish them the best of success in their new endeavors and welcome the new members so that they can follow up, in the best way possible, all the processes already initiated in previous years.

Board of Directors and Assembly of Associates

The board of directors also welcomed 2 new members in 2023: Sergio Oswaldo de la Rosa Bravo and Pablo María Farías Campero, who joined the people who were already participating in this governance space:

José Luis Mijangos Jiménez (president), Catherine Hart Waters (vice-president), Hileana García López (secretary), Susana María Morán Martínez (treasurer) and Juan Carlos López Pérez (member).

Bruce Gordon Ferguson and all of the above (with the exception of Juan Carlos López, who is only part of the board) served as the assembly of associates in 2023.

Acknowledgements

In 2023, the support of everyone was very valuable to achieve the success of the campaigns, the workshops and trainings given, the feedback and visits to projects, the fundraising events, the giving circles formed, as well as the productive work meetings, both of the different areas of the operational team, as well as the associates of the foundation.

Our most sincere thanks to each one of our partner organizations, to the members of the board of directors, the members of the operative team, to our partner companies, volunteers, beneficiaries and participants of the projects; to the allied institutions, service providers, sponsors and external collaborators; The generosity and support of each of you encourages us to continue building bridges between the different sectors of the population in order to carry out a more community-based philanthropy.

Institutions with which **we collaborate**

The most important communication and dissemination actions for the 2023 period are detailed in **Annex 5**.

Annexes

Annex 1

Follow-up visits to organizations

During the months of May, June and July, several monitoring and accompaniment visits were made to the different projects:

Visit to Sanando Heridas, A.C.

In the Bachén community, Chenalhó. Primary school children worked separately on the topic of menstruation in a workshop taught in the Tsotsil language. We saw how the collaboration of teachers —by facilitating the introduction of sexual and reproductive health issues with children in the community context— is essential.

Visit to the Conider, A.C

Project in San Juan Cancuc where a deworming campaign was carried out, where women and children from the community received medicine and training on health, nutrition and prevention of gastrointestinal diseases. The workshop was given in the Tseltal language.

✦ Visit to the project of the collective Gimnasio Autónomo Popular “Barrio Bravo”.

Community work in collaboration with girls, boys, young people, families and neighborhood authorities, to position itself as a space that seeks an approach to sport, from an intergenerational vision, free of dominant forms, inclusive, open to all, without promoting competitiveness, and with a vision that educates in equality between girls and boys.

✦ Visit to the UNECODES A.C. project

In Bochilté, Huixtán. Exchange of experiences between participants from two communities and workshop on canning; progress in the work of greenhouse vegetables, and benefits of the biodigester that they have in that community.

✦ Visit to the Camati project

This project has with midwives in Santiago El Pinar —”Women Building from Below”—. Workshop on the preparation of tinctures for childbirth care.

✦ Visit to the Tierra Roja Cuxtitali, Tierra de Paz project

In an activity to prepare their own snack, the young people learned how to make different types of quesadillas, and more about local products and foods —such as corn—, while sharing a playful moment of conviviality.

✦ Visit to Hogar Comunitario, Yach’il Antzetic, A. C.

Workshop on “Identification and prevention of gender violence”, aimed at La Albarrada-SEIGEN personnel, with the purpose of improving labor relations among personnel, identifying behaviors that may hinder work, and creating spaces free of violence.

✦ Visita to the “Comunidad Escolar 31 de Marzo”

We had the opportunity to talk with the participants in the project, learn about their activities and share experiences about the school garden.

✦ Visit to the Huerto Kassil Vochonil

We toured the greenhouse, the vegetable garden and the recreational area where workshops for children are held, always with a focus on nature conservation and environmental awareness.

✦ Visit to Amextra

Field visit with Amextra (Asociación Mexicana de Transformación Rural y Urbana, A.C.) to a rural community in the municipality of Chalchihuitán. The doctor checked women, girls and children for weight and height control, delivered deworming medicines and food supplies.

✦ Visit to the Moxviquil University

During this visit we accompanied a group of colleagues from the Moxviquil University to an experiential workshop with women from neighboring neighborhoods interested in the topic of “Prevention of child sexual abuse”.

✦ Visit to Patrulla Roja’s project

A workshop for girls and boys to print T-shirts. This collective works in informal education —through hip hop culture, graffiti and planting in the vegetable garden— and instills values of integration and respect in young people from the southern outskirts of San Cristóbal.

✦ Visit to the Semillero 259 collective

The project seeks to create an agroecological and artistic community that promotes healthy eating habits. That day a nutritionist gave the children a workshop on healthy eating; we made gummies with vegetables, and the children showed us their hip-hop skills.

✦ Visit to Tlahtolli, A.C.

We carried out an awareness-raising activity at the Cobach 11 high school. The students presented interesting proposals related to conservation, recycling, endemic species and biodiversity in the classroom; a way to become agents of environmental change.

Annex 2

Technical assistance workshops

Within the framework of the Strengthening program, which was created to strengthen the teams of organizations and collectives, a series of technical assistance workshops were held in October to improve skills and capabilities to ensure that the projects have a greater impact. The most common topics covered were: gender perspective, strategic planning, conflict resolution and project intervention, among others.

Thus, the technical assistance sessions that were carried out were as follows:

✦ Hogar Comunitario, Yach'il Antzetic. Training: "Methodological tools for intervention with groups of women in situations of violence, children and adolescents".

✦ Conider, A.C. Training: "Conflict resolution and self-care".

✦ Tierra Roja Cuxtitali, A.C. Training: Course 1. "Strengthening of capacities and knowledge on gender perspective and communication and management of projects among and for women. Course 2. "Social marketing for fundraising".

✦ Amextra, A.C. Training: "Syntropic cultivation".

✦ Camati, A.C. Training: "Institutional strategic planning".

✦ Moxviquil, A.C. Training: "Psycho-socio-legal approach in violation of the rights of children and adolescents".

✦ Tlahtolli, A.C. Training: Course 1. "Theoretical and methodological training with a gender perspective". Course 2. "Environmental interpretation techniques for the design of educational strategies".

✦ Unecodes, A.C. Training: "Technological alternatives for the treatment and use of gray water in the community of Bochilté, municipality of Huixtán".

✦ Sanando Heridas, A.C. Training: Course 1. "Participatory methodology and creativity to facilitate learning processes". Course 2. "Generation of a protocol of care and self-care in Sanando Heridas based on team integration and improved communication".

✦ Solmundi, A.C. Training: "Developing skills and tools for effective teamwork".

✦ Patrulla Roja and Centavitos Rojos Collective. Training: Course 1. "Internal capacities for non-violent communication". Course 2. "Internal safety skills". Course 3. "Educational tools for the development of participatory and popular education processes".

✦ Colectivo TeKio. Training: Course 1. "Internal capacities for non-violent communication". Course 2. "Internal security capabilities". Course 3. "Publication and editing workshop for social projects". Course 4. "Futures and organizational strategy workshop".

✦ Gimnasio Autónomo Popular Barrio Bravo Collective Training: Course 1. "Internal capacities for non-violent communication". Course 2. "Internal security capacities". Course 3. "Publication and editing workshop for social projects. Course 4. "Futures and organizational strategy workshop".

✦ El Semillero 259 Collective. Training: Course 1. "Internal capacities for non-violent communication". Course 2. "Internal security capabilities". Course 3. "Educational tools for the development of participatory and popular education processes".

✦ Comunidad Escolar 31 de Marzo Collective. Training: Course 1. "Internal security capabilities". Course 2. "Assertive communication in the classroom: tools to promote communication and participation with children". Course 3. "Educational tools for the development of participatory and popular education processes".

✦ Kassil Vochonil Collective. Training: "Project structuring and strategy".

Annex 3

Forum for sharing experiences

On December 13, as part of our year-end activities, we held the Forum for the Exchange of Experiences on Grassroots Development Work "Recognition and exchange of experiences, achievements and challenges", which was attended by the organizations and collectives with which we collaborated during the year.

The objectives of the meeting were:

✦ Identify components and lessons learned in the projects based on a better understanding of the grassroots development approach.

✦ That the organizations/collectives reflect, jointly, on their contributions and lessons learned.

✦ To identify their own assets, potentials and mutual contributions.

✦ To socialize achievements and good practices for a wider dissemination and, in this way, to make visible the efforts of the work and its protagonists.

✦ After describing the 9 components that characterize grassroots development, the organizations were able to identify which ones their projects currently have.

✦ To share with others the advantages of the technical assistance received.
✦ To be able to create alliances and collaboration strategies between organizations and individuals.
✦ To be able to see this type of meeting as an opportunity to strengthen and expand networking.

Among the results of the forum are:

✦ People identified themselves as a broader and more committed community.
✦ They identified areas for improvement in the work of the projects.
✦ The giving circles, by listening to the problems of the projects, identified more fundraising events, and Amigos de San Cristóbal identified new needs of the organizations.
✦ The organizations themselves visualized the importance of continuous training for their staff.
✦ Recognition of the beneficiary population as a source of mutual learning between project participants and staff of the organizations.
✦ They saw that they share an ethical vision of collective work; this can facilitate the construction of proposals for the solution of common problems.

Annex 4

Linking activities of these circles

✦ Participation of the Community Philanthropy Coordinator, Silvia Sántiz, in a talk on leadership at an event organized by The We.Men Foundation Mexico.

✦ Conversation between the 2 circles of giving in the framework of the International Mother Language Day. How to generate strategies from the circles to continue strengthening this part of the identity of the communities —their oral tradition and their writing—.

✦ Workshop in Oaxaca "Building a new narrative on community philanthropy", facilitated by FASOL (Fondo de Acción Solidaria, A.C.). Proposals for the construction of a new concept and narrative of community philanthropy, and search for strategies for a more horizontal relationship in the cooperation between communities and funders.

✦ Health workshop where the health situation in the highlands of Chiapas was analyzed and contextualized, and topics of health prevention and healthy lifestyles were discussed. This was for the strengthening and reflection of the members of the giving circles.

✦ Meeting for the Promotion of Community Philanthropy, in Mexico City. In-depth study of the concept of "community mobilization in development processes", and analysis of the role played as actors in the philanthropic system by both community foundations and civil society organizations operating in our country.

Annex 5

Communication and dissemination actions

✦ Drafting, design and dissemination of 4 quarterly newsletters in March, June, October and December 2023. —In Spanish, English, Tseltal, Tsotsil—.

✦ Continuous information on website and social networks —Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn— and mass mailings with the main activities of the foundation.

✦ Diptych design -in Spanish and English- with basic information about the organizations and collectives supported in 2023.

✦ Graphic and digital image of different online fundraising campaigns.

✦ Publication of the 2022 Annual Report in 4 languages.

✦ Video on the Strengthening Program for organizations and groups.

✦ 2 radio visits and sending of press releases and informative material on the foundation's activities to 22 media outlets.

✦ Editing of several short videos with testimonies of partner organizations.

✦ Visits to organizations and groups to collect photographic and audiovisual material.

✦ Design of thank you postcards for donors in 4 languages.

Membership with Amigos de San Cristóbal

Do you already have your membership with Amigos de San Cristóbal?

Join the Amigo Partner Program!

Become a Amigo Partner or Amigo Family Program

With your donation you contribute to financing education, environment and health projects that improve the living conditions of children, women and families in San Cristóbal de Las Casas and the Highlands of Chiapas. With your contribution, Amigos de San Cristóbal A.C. can continue with the work it is doing in our region.

Amigo Partner

Be a person committed to the Chiapas Highlands. Join us in accompanying the work we do in the region and contribute once or monthly with your donation:

A contribution each month of:

$50 $100 $200

One time contribution:

$300 $400 $500

Amigo Family

Join your whole family and perform a collective act of generosity. According to their possibilities, they can donate with the amount that all of them can contribute:

One contribution each month of:

$100 $200 $300

One time contribution:

$800 $900 $1,000

Join us by making a **donation**

Join us by making
a **donation in kind**
Join the **Amigo Business Program**

Further information:
direccion@amigosdesc.org

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

Further information:
veronica@amigosdesc.org

Join as a
volunteer

Further information:
comunicacion@amigosdesc.org

Social media

@amigosdesc
@amigossanc
@Amigos de San Cristóbal
@Amigos de San Cristóbal A.C.
@Amigos de San Cristóbal A.C.

Contact Information

967 678 3374
amigos@amigosdesc.org
https://amigosdesc.org/
María Adelina Flores #11, Colonia Centro,
C. P. 29200 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.