

CONTENTS

- **AMIGOS HAS A NEW DIRECTOR**
Ana Cristina Vázquez Carpizo **p.1**
- **NOW WE ARE AUTHORIZED DONEE** An achievement for Amigos **p.2**
- **PROGRESS OF PROJECTS** **p.2**
- **SEMBRANDO ALIANZAS**
Donees meeting sponsored by Kellogg **p.4**
- **MEETINGS WITH NGOS**
Strengthening and linking **p.6**
- **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
Meeting with NGOs working in education **p.8**
- **COSTUME PARY**
Fundraising **p.9**
- **NEXT BREAKFAST FOR MEMBERS** **p.10**
- **NEW EMPRESAS AMIGAS** **p.10**
- **FAREWELL, DIANE POIRIER** **p.11**

Contents ■ Ana Cristina Vázquez
■ Bea Álvarez ■ David Orr
Review of content
■ Ana Cristina Vázquez ■ Lucía Baráibar
Design ■ Bea Álvarez
Translation ■ Ana Cristina Vázquez

AMIGOS HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

Ana Cristina Vázquez Carpizo

Last June Esteban Jimenez completed his cycle with us. Thanks to his work there are now important tools for the every day tasks of AMIGOS (proof of authorization as authorized donee, key CLUNI, amendments to the Constitutive Act, regularization of contracts and agreements with NGOs, auditing, etc.). From here we thank Steve and wish him every success in his new career.

Also in June Friends conducted a thorough selection process for the post of director. Ana Cristina Vázquez Carpizo was chosen.

Born in Mexico City, Ana Cristina has lived almost four years in San Cristobal de Las Casas.

She completed her studies in Psychology and graduated in History from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Ana Cristina also earned a Masters degree in History from the Universidad Iberoamericana.

She has taught at various universities in Mexico City and is fluent in several languages. She is currently a professor at the Autonomous University of Chiapas.

Especially notable is her collaboration with the Mission of Bachajón, Chiapas for years as well as the work done with the Diocese of San Cristobal in the training of human rights defenders.

So, since July, she is the new director of AMIGOS and will be working closely with the Board, the Committees (Projects, Events, Membership, Communication and Development), volunteers and NGO partners in achieving the Annual Strategic Plan of our organization.

Good luck to Ana Cristina and our warmest welcome.



NOW WE ARE AUTHORIZED DONEE

An achievement for Amigos

Since last May AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTÓBAL has a record released SAT deductible for income tax donations. This is an objective that, as an organization, we had pursued for years and now we hope that this status Grantee help us grow and to receive an increasing number of donations from both individuals and companies.

It is also good news that AMIGOS already has the so called CLUNI certification that allows us to receive resources from SEDESOL.

MID-YEAR PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECTS

we support in Amigos de San Cristóbal

In AMIGOS we are very aware of the progress of the projects along. We share with you what has been achieved so far:

ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE	SUCCESS
Ángeles de Amor	Working with people over 18 years with disabilities	-Caring for people over 18 at diagnosis and psychomotor care -Develop skills for self-sufficiency of each beneficiary	-Physical rehabilitation and fine motor therapy twice a week -Psychological care in disability for beneficiaries and their families -Delivery of occupational therapy, agroecology workshops and dance therapy
Chantiik Taj Tajinkutik	Support and advice for children and young itinerant workers in San Cristobal de Las Casas	Projected number of beneficiaries: 20 children and teenagers -Provide technical skills of beneficiaries for various jobs -Workshop of positive self-worth -Workshops of computer and literacy	The projected number of beneficiaries has risen. We are currently serving 30 children and teenagers -The results of positive self-assessment workshop have been very good. The total registered voluntarily remained throughout the semester Individual psychological support has been the children to move from one place to another



Ángeles de Amor



Chantiik



Chantiik

ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE	SUCCESS
Colectivo Educación Para la Paz y los Derechos Humanos (CEPAZDH)	Community management of water and treatment of waste and sewage. Improvement of dry composting toilets. All activities are conducted in Tsotsil and Tojolabal indigenous communities	Projected number of beneficiaries: 48 women and 42 men -Imparting training workshops for women's groups within the community	-So far it has served 42 women and 12 men -The project has a 50% advance in total scheduled activities



CEPAZDH



CEPAZDH



Hogar Comunitario

Hogar Comunitario Yach'il Antzetic	Reception and development of job skills, strengthen self-esteem and prevention of violence in rural indigenous women, migrants to the city	Projected number of migrant beneficiaries: 120 Projected number of beneficiaries in rural communities: 80 Projected number of children of beneficiaries to attend: 60/90 Projected number of young people in underprivileged schools in the city or rural schools to attend,: 200-300	-They have attended 60 migrant women so far -They have served 120 women in their communities -They have served 76 children of beneficiaries They have served 262 youth from sixth semester of two high marginal areas in San Cristobal de Las Casas
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La Casa de las Flores	Recreational area, study, rest and psychological care facilities for children and young itinerant workers in San Cristobal de Las Casas	Projected Number of Beneficiaries: 50 children and young	To date they serve 50 children and teenagers in different areas: from literacy courses to customized psychological care. Attendance of beneficiaries is irregular, as the same situation forced
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ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE	SUCCESS
Madre Tierra México	Working with health in marginalized indigenous and peasant communities. Programs for prevention and care of diseases	-Installing a dental health clinic in Sierra de Chiapas region, to cover dental care of the marginalized population	-The construction of the building has been completed -The basic dental equipment has been acquired -They are now looking for qualified personnel to attend to the population
Mujeres Sembrando la Vida	School work adjustment for school for children of Zinacantán	- Projected number of beneficiaries: 20 children	-Number of beneficiaries served to date: 35 children



Madre Tierra México



Madre Tierra México



Mujeres Sembrando la Vida



SEMBRANDO ALIANZAS

Donees meeting sponsored by Kellogg Foundation

From 8 to 11 July 2014 took place the annual meeting of Kellogg Foundation grantee, in its program for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico City. Under the theme of "Sowing alliances. Community food systems" 260 representatives of the various organizations that do much of their work with the support of Kellogg





Foundation met at the Hilton Alameda Hotel.

The focus of the meeting was the food security in its main areas: availability and access to food consumption (industrial or natural foods) and access to water.

We discussed the strategies to support appropriate and timely care for the mother and her children, the rescue of traditional medicine, holistic health and the complementarity of the different knowledge about health.

Were raised as strategies for change:

- Support aimed at improving nutrition programs for children and their families.
- Support for integrated strategies for food security at the household and community levels.

Emphasis was placed on cooperation



and alliance building among participating organizations, in order to optimize resources and knowledge to join forces and make a greater impact among the beneficiaries of the projects. Joint action is essential to achieve a real and lasting impact of our work. The agencies can not do it alone; organizations (CSOs) can not do it alone; single communities can not do it alone. Together, we can.

The meeting opened a space to work with Carlos Mota, an expert on the subject of systemic connections. It started from the belief that, for a movement to be successful must seek harmony among all participants. Hence the importance of fostering dialogue that leads us to find common

ground. This was the starting point for learning to make maps of systemic connections.

Throughout the three days of the meeting we had the opportunity to hear Liza Covantes, an specialist in investigating right to food, and to attend presentations of food systems experts from the international panel: Cean Reginald from Haiti; Islandia Bezerra da Costa, from Brazil; Mario A. Stone, of Costa Rica; Meredith Freeman, from United States; and Javiera Cavada, of Mexico.

We could also hear the testimonies of



several Mexican organizations working around the right to food and healthy food. Subsequently we participated in various thematic workshops, always focused on these issues.

The last day we were given the chance to meet financing alternatives, through the presentation of various donor agencies.

The opening ceremony was conducted by La June Montgomery Tabron, current president of WK Kellogg Foundation. It was also attended by Rui Mesquita Cordeiro, director of Programs for Latin America and the Caribbean.

(Ana Cristina Vázquez Carpizo, director of AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTÓBAL)



MEETINGS WITH NGOS

Strengthening and linking

In the months of June and July, the Projects Committee convened organizations receiving funds through AMIGOS with the aim of understanding well what their weaknesses and strengths are, as well as cultivating alliances including possible workshops based on the needs of each organization.

At the 12 June meeting, a social mapping was performed to identify the actors in the different areas and see how they relate to the work of organizations.

To understand the interaction between organizations each one of them presented its themes, areas of action and type of beneficiaries, joining a yarn of the same color themes and action areas shared by different organizations; this simple task allowed us to locate which the collaborations are or may be by subject or project.

For example, teenagers from La Casa de las Flores are attending bakery and carpentry workshops in Chantiik, thus generating a collaborative relationship. On the other hand,



Madre Tierra y Chantiik share the interest in Human Rights promotion. There is a potential for a very interesting alliance.

Another example: Asociación de Productores La Jornada and Madre Tierra have a direct relationship by training health promoters in rural communities. And so on.

They also spoke of the challenges that organizations have faced in the implementation of projects and how to address them.

The tax complexity, tax reform, rising prices, declining funding, the divisions within communities, the importance of indirect beneficiaries, lack of communication and lack of qualified personnel, were some of the problems discussed.

Planning, commitment, restructuring projects, volunteer support, training in fiscal matters, the installation of alternative and sustainable technologies, the generation of resources through the sale of products or services generated by the organizations, communication and building partnerships with other actors and organizations were cited as ways to meet these challenges.

At this meeting it was concluded that there are things we can network. Two important topics came to light: how to improve attention to projects in general and how to build more proactive and interactive networks.

Thus, with the intention to continue



talking about the needs of NGOs, another meeting on July 15 was agenda.

Then came the date of this new event. The goal: to discover the best way to forge alliances that facilitate collaboration, cooperation and exchange of experiences and services between us.

Network? Alliance or organizations?

Sometimes we assume we understand what it's a concept, hence the importance of defining each of these terms to make sure we're all talking the same language.

We must build a common language for what motivates us is that we are all aware that the world is unbalanced and we are all working to try to balance the scales.

Once defined what we expect and not expect from an alliance, were asked to answer the following questions:

- What things must AMIGOS do to support organizations, beyond giving resourceS?
- Among organizations, how to support us?
- What kind of training or workshops we need from FRIENDS?



They worked in groups and ideas were shared in plenary. Among the proposals:

- Create jobs for beneficiaries who are being trained in the projects; building contacts between Business Friends, AMIGOS, members and donors; create a virtual platform for the exchange of information between organizations; greater assistance projects to strengthen processes of empowerment of people and organizations; promoting products made in communities or groups benefited projects; preparation of a directory of services of these local organizations, establishing institutional links or links to identify opportunities and streamline resources, among other ideas.

As for training NGOs requested workshops especially having to do with training in tax issues, mainly related to the new reforms;

systematization, monitoring and evaluation; strategies for resource management, as well as everything that has to do with the legal process for obtaining status CLUNI and Authorized Grantee. Another topic of interest: communication and organization within institutions work.

Participants had the opportunity to discuss these issues and scheduled another meeting in September to continue working together, this time at the facilities of Ángeles de Amor.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Meeting with NGOs working in education

On June 25 we attended a meeting of organizations dedicated to education at the facilities of the ecological reserve of Moxviquil. This with the aim to hear of more trainings options to strengthen AMIGOS and NGOs we work with.

Several institutions gathered there have met before in different processes and training

areas, some driven from Moxviquil and others supported by the Kellogg Foundation.

We could see how from different places we all are driving different experiences in training promoters, teachers and youth leaders.

Therefore we called NGOs having such experiences to boost mutual diffusion, exchanging participation in educational



processes and go brewing slowly, a collective of training proposals.

Each organization presented its work to others; experiences of both formal and informal education; short courses, courses, workshops for teachers, school gardens, and science experiments, whole life education, environmental awareness, experiential camps, skills training, programs for parents, among others.

The meeting was also attended by Alma Silva, as director and of Sueniños, and Adriana Aguerrebere, representing Impacto, both members of AMIGOS.

In this session we'll get a directory that will be very useful for capacity building of the organizations we work with.



COSTUME PARTY

Fundraising

On Saturday June 7 took place in the Plaza Real Restaurant the first costume party organized by Amigos de San Cristóbal.

Our goal: Raise funds for Amigos to continue its work to raise awareness and its work to get resources that go directly to projects of civil associations that perform their work in Chiapas.

Despite the rain, attended the party 75 caring people who enjoyed a fun evening with DJ music and a buffet of tacos.

The 4 best costumes received a prize: The fourth received vouchers for consumption in Tuchtlan Bar; the third took 2 bottles of wine from

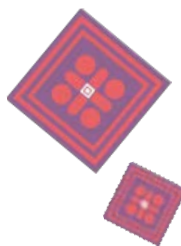


Intervino; the second recieved a coupon of Joyería Quinto Sol along with a dinner for two at Restaurante La Paloma, and the grand prize winner will surely enjoy a night at the hotel Villas Casa Morada.

On this occasion we had sponsors like: Café Carjillo, Quinto Sol Casa & Boutique, Restaurante Plaza Real, Fundación Prosur, La

Joya Hotel, Academia de Ballet Carolina Ramos, Personálíka, Entropía, Dental Plus, Universidad San Marcos, Latino's Club, María Marquesita and Cosmechic.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm to support this social work.



DON'T FORGET OUR BREAKFAST FOR MEMBERS!!

Coming soon...

To each and every member of AMIGOS, we remind you that the date of our second breakfast of the year approaches. Although the place, date and exact time are yet to be defined, please make room in your schedules to late August.

This will be an opportunity to get together, chat, meet Ana Cristina, know about the progress of the projects we support and invite new members to integrate to our activities.

See you all there!

NEW EMPRESAS AMIGAS

We continue to grow

Since our last Amigos bulletin, we have added 5 new Empresas Amigas members: Hoteles Ciudad Real, Multicom, Seguridad Activa, Hotel Bö and La Compré.

We send our gratitude to these establishments and also to the other establishments who have been assisting since this initiative began: Panóptico, restaurante Plaza Real, Quinto Sol Joyería, Quinto Sol Casa y

Boutique, restaurante El Tacoletto, Comercial Huellas-Servicios 2000-Distribuidor Telcel, Cocoliche restaurante-bar-cabaret, Casa Felipe Flores-Hotel Boutique, Intervino, Oh La Lá pastelería francesa, Sna Maruch y Carmen Rión, La Joya Hotel-Boutique, Instituto de Lenguas Jovel, Posada del Abuelito, Restaurante La Paloma, Librería La Pared, and Turismo Posada Real de Chiapas.



FAREWELL, DIANE POIRIER

The San Cristobal community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of loyal Amigos member, Diane Poirier, on June 10. Diane died in her home in Ontario, Canada surrounded by her husband Paul and her three sons.

For years, many of us looked forward to Diane and Paul's arrival in January to spend at least half the year in Chiapas focused on assisting so many people in so many ways. And we have always counted on their presence at the Amigos Annual Meeting.

Besides active membership and support of Amigos, Diane, along with Paul, have volunteered time and resources to Casa de Las Flores, Tierra Madre Mexico and burn specialist Sergio Castro, past and present Amigos-supported programs.

In addition, Diane was instrumental in



starting a not-for-profit organization in Canada some years ago which continues today with strengthening rural Chiapas communities with community and private home construction projects.

Diane was a vibrant soul who worked tirelessly to help those in need to improve their health and economic well being. She and her upbeat personality will be missed by all of us.