



NEWSLETTER

Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.

2024 begins with enthusiasm, a desire to work and accompany processes and grassroots work.

Many challenges await us in order to achieve our goals, but **experience** tells us that **perseverance**, **professionalism** —and the **sensitivity** to listen to the needs of the different projects, organizations, groups and communities— are essential elements that can never be lacking.

We started the year happy to know the results of the **selection of the development projects** with which we will collaborate in this new period —some new and others that

have already been working with us—, and that contribute to the **improvement processes in the communities** in the areas of **health, education and environment**.

In addition, we continue to look for ways, and interpersonal, inter-sector and inter-ethnic dialogues, to help advance new ways of putting **community philanthropy** into practice in the environment in which we live.

**Join our cause and help
make generosity possible**



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◆ FRIEND ORGANIZATIONS 2024 ◆

Also in this first newsletter we wanted to inform you about the organizations with which we will collaborate in this new cycle:

* HOGAR COMUNITARIO YACH'IL ANTZETIK A.C.

Project name: "Comprehensive and violence-free development for women with unplanned pregnancies, single mothers, children and adolescents at risk and marginalized".

Project location: San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Projected beneficiaries: 205 women, 35 children, 700 adolescents and 120 people from the general population.

General objective: Promote the denormalization of violence against women, children and adolescents, early pregnancies and addictions.



* TIERRA ROJA CUXTITALI A.C.

Project name: "Outdoor education for diverse children and youth in the urban periphery: an opportunity to learn and grow in connection with the indoor and outdoor environment, thanks to a peaceful, equitable and dignified social environment".

Project location: Cuxtitali neighborhood in San Cristobal de Las Casas.

Projected beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries: 61 people —children, youth and families—. Indirect: 550 people —family members and neighbors—.

General Objective: The axes of community learning are: integral education, socioemotional education, environmental and community participation; they have the purpose of promoting and strengthening actions, habits and healthy relationships among people, and between people and territory.



* **FORO PARA EL DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE A.C. (EN COLABORACIÓN CON EL COLECTIVO SEMILLERO Y PATRULLA ROJA)**

Project name: "Agroecological communities for good living".

Project location: Colonia Prudencio Moscoso, in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 123 people and **indirect beneficiaries:** 3,800 people.

General objective: To transmit to the new generations an awareness of self-care, collective care, and preservation of our mother nature through the practice of a set of lessons learned through culture, agroecology, art, and local flavors and knowledge.



* **PROMEDIOS DE COMUNICACIÓN COMUNITARIA A.C.**

Project name: "El Fogón de las Palabras: laboratory of community stories".

Project location: Larráinzar, Chenalhó, Zinacantán and San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 92 people and **indirect beneficiaries:** 1,200 people.

General objective: Strengthen, through a series of workshops, the practical, critical and creative audio skills of the direct beneficiaries, for the creation of local narratives that promote a culture of peace, dialogue, tolerance, healthy eating, community health, agriculture, defense of the territory and good coexistence practices.



* **JOVENARTE (JÓVENES ARTICULANDO TERRITORIOS) A.C.**

Project name: "Agroecological youth for good living in Mitontic and Huixtán Chiapas".

Project location: Mitontic and Huixtán.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 30 people —students and teachers— and **indirect beneficiaries:** 120 people —family members—.

General objective: Contribute to strengthen the transmission of knowledge about agricultural production through the agroecological approach based on the co-responsibility of environmental care and preservation of traditional agricultural knowledge with young people from Mitontic and Huixtán, Chiapas.



* **AGUA Y VIDA: MUJERES, DERECHOS Y AMBIENTE A.C.**

Project name: "We want water: towards the strengthening of women in participatory water management in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas".

Project location: San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 150 people — water and environmental defenders and collaborators of environmental organizations— and **indirect beneficiaries:** 450 people.

General Objective: Strengthen the personal and collective power of women environmentalists in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, through ecofeminist training and information, which allows the construction of processes for the defense of the right to water.



* FORMACIÓN Y CAPACITACIÓN A.C. (FOCA)

Project name: "Strengthening of apprentices in traditional Tzeltal midwifery, from a gender, intercultural and rights-based approach".

Project location: San Juan Cancuc, Ocosingo, Chanal, Oxchuc and Tenejapa.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 25 people and **indirect beneficiaries:** 104 people.

General objective: Strengthen, through an intercultural and women's rights perspective, the defense of traditional midwifery with young and adult midwifery apprentices in the highlands and jungle.



* CENTRO DE FORMACIÓN INTEGRAL PARA PROMOTORES INDÍGENAS A.C. (CEFIPI)

Project name: "Community environmental education for soil and water conservation in Santa Cruz Yaxté and Piquinte'el".

Project location: Pantelhó.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 66 and **indirect beneficiaries:** 380.

General objective: Promote soil and water conservation in the communities of Santa Cruz Yaxté and Piquinte'el through comprehensive training in community environmental education.



* MELEL XOJOBAL A.C.

Project name: "Protagonist participation for the exercise of the right to education of working children in San Cristobal de Las Casas".

Project location: San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Target beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 125 —working children from three public markets and their mothers and fathers— and **indirect beneficiaries:** 520 friends and family members.

General objective: Promote access to the right to education for working indigenous children from 5 to 11 years of age, through support and awareness-raising actions to prevent educational backwardness.



* IDEAS, INFORMACIÓN Y DISEÑOS EDUCATIVOS PARA ACCIONES SALUDABLES, A.C., CH'IELTIK

Project name: "Socio-emotional education for Mayan children, adolescents and youth to promote school retention".

Project location: Chenalhó and San Juan Cancuc.

Projected beneficiaries: **Direct beneficiaries:** 190 people —98 women and 92 men— and **indirect beneficiaries:** 684 people.

General objective: Contribute to strengthen the socioemotional capacities of Mayan children, adolescents and young people as a protective factor against school dropout. The monitoring and evaluation of the result will correspond to a result indicator: Percentage of children, adolescents and youth (NNAJ) who significantly improve their knowledge and socioemotional skills favorable to the prevention of school dropout. In the next bulletins we will be giving you more detailed information on each project.



◆ COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY ◆

Today we also wanted to share with you the **2023 results**, in terms of fundraising, of the **giving circles, LA SEMILLA and Sekubal Kuxlejal**, not only in terms of money (**treasure**), but other philanthropic resources such as **time, testimony and talent**, which refer to the different ways in which we can give (the so-called 4Ts).

Amount procured in events: Ceramics with a cause, salsa class with a cause, lottery with a cause, tseltal class, pizza class, individual contributions and Christmas bazaar) = **\$31,557.98**.



In terms of volunteer **time**, the circles donated **14 hours and 20 minutes** in organizational meetings and **10 hours in visits to friendly organizations**. In terms of **talent**, they donated their knowledge and work in **graphic design**, as well as ideas in meetings, being able to communicate with each other in the Tselal language, as they have the knowledge of that language, as well as the management capacity for the **organization** of events and the gift of people, using their networks of contacts to get the invitations to the events of Friends to more people. Their **initiative and creativity** in organizing events (where the proceeds will benefit the development projects we fund) was also present.

In terms of **testimonials**, they donated their own life stories and experiences; at other times, they gave video **interviews** on community philanthropy, collaborating in **communication and dissemination actions**.

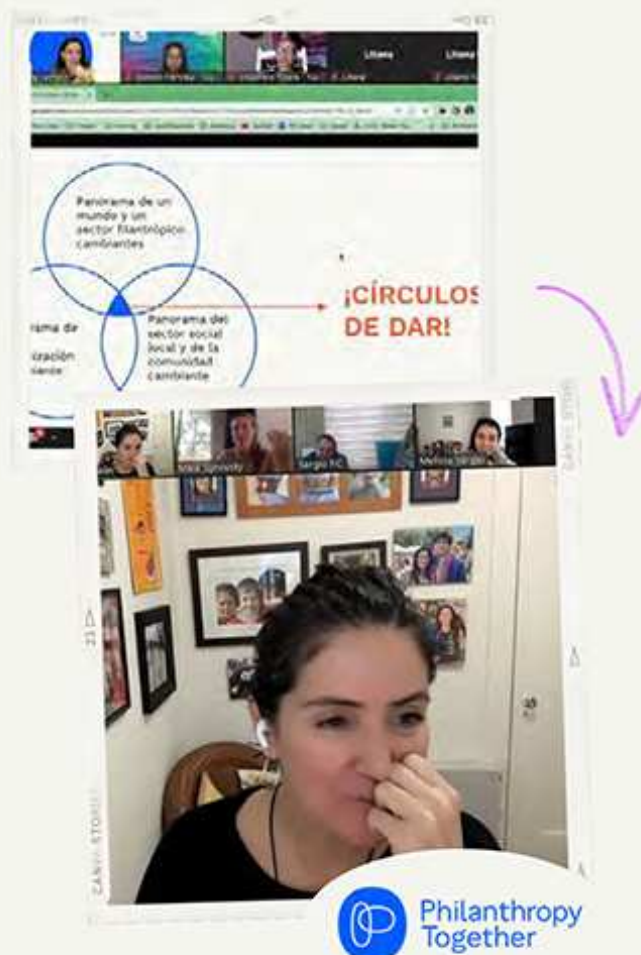
In terms of **treasure**, apart from personal financial contributions, or the **purchase of tickets for events**, there are those who donated gifts for raffles or prizes, and sponsored events, through their own businesses, or obtained some type of **publicity or sponsorship** for these fundraising activities.



◆ TRAINING WITH PHILANTHROPY TOGETHER ◆

In February we received, along with other foundations, **a training on giving circles**. The online workshop was led by **Sara Lomelin**, executive director of **Philanthropy Together**. In one of the sessions we tried to align the expectations of community foundations, as host organizations, and giving circle leaders and participants.

As the trainer reminded us, a giving circle is not crowdfunding, and in the group work we were able to analyze the particularities of this form of **philanthropic action**. Creating community, contributing to systemic changes, developing leadership skills, talking about generosity in times when solidarity seems to be in crisis, creating informed donors involved with their community, attacking the conservation of wealth in a few hands, as well as combating territorial isolation when channeling funds were some of the themes present in the workshop.



◆ FOLLOW-UP TO PROJECTS AND GROUPS IN 2023 ◆

In the year that ended, our **coordinator of the Strengthening and Projects area, Paty López**, made 32 monitoring visits to a total of 16 organizations and collectives.



This monitoring allowed us to observe the fulfillment of the projects in the places of incidence and with the target population. In relation to the technical assistance provided, **16 organizations and collectives benefited** from a total of **32 trainings** on topics pertaining to different areas of interest, thus favoring the **internal strengthening of capacities and skills**. **15 organizations and collectives** carried out a total of **23 peer-to-peer exchange sessions**.

They commented in this regard:

"The experience helped us to strengthen collaborative networks with mutual benefits, to join efforts with other organizations working on similar issues, and to enhance integration, creativity and mutual support, so that our work can benefit more and more people."



"We recognize ourselves as social actors and work on behalf of the population of San Cristobal de Las Casas and surrounding communities."

"We realized that we have many experiences that can be reproduced in other contexts and that are useful for other organizations with the same objectives."

"It allowed us to see needs and concerns together, so we organized ourselves to share some workshops oriented to the search for alternatives and common actions." "We saw that we share an ethical vision of collective work, and of working with grassroots groups."



This training program also benefited a total of **6 collectives** —with a **subdonation amount of \$300,000 pesos to be distributed**—, a resource that allowed them to make their activities visible and achieve their objectives, since as they are not legally constituted figures, their possibilities of managing funds are somewhat more limited.

◆ 2023-2024 FRIENDLY COMPANIES ◆

Be part of Friendly Companies and contribute to the transformation of the highlands of Chiapas. Learn more about the program here: <https://amigosdesc.org/empresas-amigas/>

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

EMPRESAS
AMIGAS



PATROCINADORES



OBTAIN DEDUCTIBILITY IN YOUR DONATIONS

Solidarity is not only rewarded on a personal level, but also fiscally. Financial and in-kind donations, made to authorized donors, can be tax-deductible. Remember that Amigos de San Cristóbal offers you this possibility when making your corporate donation. Become part of our group of Amigos Companies and contribute to the transformation of Los Altos de Chiapas. Learn more about the program here:

<https://amigosdesc.org/empresas-amigas/>

LEGACY

You can also contemplate, as a legacy, the possibility of allocating part of your inheritance to improve the living conditions of families in Los Altos de Chiapas. Amigos de San Cristóbal would be honored to join you in planning your last act of generosity. Contact with us.

◆ OTHERS ◆

DO YOU ALREADY HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTÓBAL?

Join the Partner Friends Program! Become a **Friend Partner** or **Family Friend**

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.

Partner Friend

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



Family Friend

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

DONATE HERE: <https://amigosdesc.org/dona-ahora/>



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