

OCTOBER 2014

EL BOLETÍN

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PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Finance 2015

If the work we do in Amigos de San Cristóbal aims eventually to provide more comprehensive support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that asks us for funding. Hence, our most important task is also to raise funds, to ensure that resources reach those who need them and are properly applied.

With this in mind, every year a selection process of candidates for funding, through which we carefully analyze the work of organizations, projects and the impact they can have on society, is realized.

Once the process is completed and the choices made, the Projects Committee ensures the activities for each project will be timely followed up to verify that the promised targets are met. This includes the preparation of two reports (mid-year and final) for each organization. The results of this process are described below:

HOGAR COMUNITARIO YACH'IL ANTZETIC ('Yachil Antzetic' Community

Home)

Project name: Integral development of rural women and migrants to the city, to exercise their rights with equity

The organization seeks to develop actions to promote the rights of women and children. Also seeks non-discrimination, the promotion of values of solidarity and respect and the promotion of free and conscious development of individuals, to contribute to the creation of a new nonviolent solidary society.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: This project seeks the integral formation of rural women and single mothers indigenous women migrants to the city to be taken as subjects of rights, strengthen their personal skills to exercise this rights and build a path towards sustainable development in conditions of equality.

MUJERES SEMBRANDO LA VIDA (Women spreading life)

Project name: Regularization lessons for children in Zinacantán

Regularization school lessons for preschool and elementary tsotsil students from the municipality Zinacantec.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: This organization will continue teaching regularization lessons in

math, spelling, writing and reading, as well as applying a test to detect the main problems that children have in their school learning process.

LA CASA DE LAS FLORES (The House of Flowers)

Project name: Education program for building healthy communities

The organization works mainly with children and young people working in the streets to eat and are constantly at risk. La Casa de las Flores offers a decent and safe place to facilitate the integration and socialization, and the development of skills, competencies and abilities to define their project of life and thus facilitate their work, educational integration, productive and creative empowerment.

what will be done for this project: The project seeks to continue implementing the program permanent workshops of La Casa de Las Flores on open secondary sexual education, responsible parenthood, community health, primary and literacy workshops, workshops on human rights, financial literacy workshops, continuing education in civic values and workshops for peace building in community and continue to provide a nutritious meal a day, provide cleaning and the use of sprinklers for perso nal toilet, support to health clinics, personalized advice in cases of violence and exploitation and channeling these cases to organizations and institutions dedicated to the protection of victims of violence.



Project name: Strengthening the area of guidance, counseling and empowerment of audiovisual media as tools for denunciation of Chantiik Taj Tajinkutik

Promotes skills and knowledge in young girls and boys on the street. Bakery offer workshops, self-esteem, computing, etc. in a playful way, respectful and loving.

His proposal highlights the importance of intervening at this

stage of life to support children in building a life that allows them to advance in autonomy, once acquired skills for work and accompanied by a process of empowerment in rights and self-worth.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: In working with young people you can perpetuate support and thereby maintain the state of vulnerability.





The goal of the audiovisual workshops and learning management tools and techniques for producing micro-documentaries and photographic memory, is to empower the young people to dissemination, advocacy, information and proactive denunciation, as engines for a full citizenship from the critical awareness exercise, civic awareness and value formation.

MADRE TIERRA MÉXICO (Mother Earth Mexico)

Project name: Smiles for the Future II

The organization implements integral community development projects in the fields of agriculture, health, gender equality and education of marginalized populations in various municipalities of Chiapas.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: The specific objective of this project is to monitor the project supported by AMIGOS in 2014, to establish a dental office by paying the salary of a dentist for 4 months before being self-reliant. It also seeks to disseminate materials and oral health promotion practice.









GRANJA Y TALLERES PARA PERSONAS CON CAPACIDADES DIFERENTES "ÁNGELES DE AMOR" (Farm and workshops for people with special needs

'Angels of Love')

Project name: Integral Ecological and Sociocultural Center for Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Health, training and career counseling for adults with disabilities. This proyect is unique in Chiapas. There's no other organization doing the same kind of work.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: The project promotes the integration of people with disabilities in education and employment for their social activities, creating a bond with nature through gardening, garden, farm, and recycling and with society through the commercialization of their products and theater performances. Often, there is a willingness of companies to integrate people with disabilities into the labor market but at the same time a lack of an adequate training area to incorporate them.



GIMNASIO DE ARTE Y CULTURA CHIAPAS (Chiapas Gymnasium of **Art and Culture) Project name: Training for work in Screen Printing**

The Chiapas Gymnasium of Arts and Culture is an educational environment that fosters and promotes the production and artistic development through workshops and activities in photography and visual arts, in order to be authors through linking with teachers and artists, plus contribute to the cultural and educational offerings of Mexico City and San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.



WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: Provide job training to young people aged 15 to 21 years in screen printing workshops. Mainly focused on homeless youth and / or indigenous population.

ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCTORES "LA JORNADA" ('La Jornada' Association of Producers) Project name: Food sovereignty and environmental care

This organization encourages and promotes the integral sustainable development within indigenous and peasant communities in southeastern Chiapas, understood as the sum of favorable conditions in the work environment and conservation of natural resources, with an awareness of gender and equity promote integration and unity between communities.

what will be done for this project: In this project 'La Jornada' proposes the formation of a group to build a comprehensive farm to improve nutrition and economy of families in the community of Nuevo Villa Flores, in the municipality of La Trinitaria as well as to consolidate the proyect supported by Amigos in 2014 in the community of Viva Ley, in the municipality of Frontera Comalapa. The new proyect consists in building fish ponds, and two peasant kitchens where several workshops will be taught. These colective spaces will be under the charge of men, women and children who benefit from the Project.

COLECTIVO DE EDUCACIÓN PARA LA PAZ Y LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS (CEPAZDH) (Collective 'Education for Peace and Human Rights')

Project name: Prevention of Trafficking of Persons in San Cristóbal

An organization specialized in research, advocacy, education, promotion and defense of human rights of vulnerable people and communities.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: This project is the second phase and monitors the project in 2013 who worked over awareness of human trafficking in San Cristóbal and Tuxtla Gutiérrez, through talks and workshops.





FUNDACIÓN YIRTRAK

Project name: Building a Playroom

Scholarships for children between 2 and 11, in extreme vulnerability, so they have more chances of living

a holistic educational development. The pedagogical strategy of the organization has close links with families of children as a fundamental part of the development of their children.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: This project will address the problem of Formative-Integral Educational Toy Library and extracurricular classes to support vulnerable children. It will work with education-training and multicultural alternative proposals to contribute to the eradication of dropout

and illiteracy and its consequences; The project is aimed at children of

communities on the outskirts of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, intending to overcome the educational deficiencies in their environment. Different workshops will be taught to enhancing self-knowledge of their body and their multiple skills.





MUJERES Y MAÍZ CRIOLLO (Women and Landraced Corn)

Project name: Strengthening local ties through healthy, conscious and creative power: La Milpa Community Dining Room and university students

The Mujeres y Maíz Criollo project began in 2008 as an initiative to strengthen the productive processes of women who, in their own homes, prepare food like corn tortillas, toast, gruel, tamales- and sell it on the streets of the city.

In November 2011 opened La Milpa Community Diner looking for a new food retail space that allows them to have more added value in the products they make and also to offer the community healthy foods, homemade and traditional seasoning.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: Since the beginning, the organizatio has ensured that the community dining room is also a place of learning for any and all women who cooks.

Therefore they are constantly seeking for alternative ways to strengthen ties with other actors of society, including young students. Through this effort, young people know and reprice the women preparing food in the dining room La Milpa. Additional workshops in cooking practices help young people to enrich their personal and professional experience both on the issue of healthy, local, and fair food. The project seeks to increase the number of scholarship, to reach a larger group of young people. It also seeks to strengthen economic alternatives for the 12 women who work at the community dining room.











VOCES MESOAMERICANAS: ACCIÓN CON PUEBLOS MIGRANTES (Mesoamerican

Voices: Peoples
Action with Migrants)

Project name: Migrant indigenous children and youth in Chiapas: returning memory and rethinking the ways

Organization with a transnational approach that promotes the organization and coordination of migrants, their families and communities as actors contributing to the Good Life of the peoples of Chiapas and in the region of Middle and North America. Working for the rights of migrants.

This organization is unique in Chiapas. There's no other organization doing the same kind of work. The team of collaborators is made up mostly of very young people, who daily risk their lives to work in an extremely difficult and controversial field.

WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR THIS PROJECT: The project purpose is to strengthen migrant indigenous children and youth of Chiapas, through a

strategy of action organized into three areas: first, the action research the issues facing children and young people for their indigenous identity and migrant; the second is to inform and sensitize the migrant indigenous population and the urban-rural population of the Highlands of Chiapas on the subject; the third is to strengthen the fabric of community and returnees or linked to indigenous youth migration and intensify the exchange of experiences and artistic expressions that have developed from the "Self-Management Program and Migrant Migrant Indigenous Organization" powered by Mesoamerican Voices since 2012.

Action on a project selection

Initial meeting

An initial meeting with members of the Project Committee was held to agree on the terms of the Summons 2015, and to establish criteria for selecting and evaluating applicants. The Summons was published in mid-August, with a deadline for submission of applications for the September 19, of which 20 were received.

Meeting to define the total funding for 2015



In Board meeting of September 4, the total amount of resources available for funding 2015 was specified, this being of \$800,000.00. With this in mind, we carried out the selection process.

As part of the principles that originated our organization, in Amigos we seek to support those organizations that are less likely to receive other funding. As in previous years, once again we have had to face the problem that most of the organizations that we will accompany do NOT have registration as authorized donees. This represents a tax problem for

Amigos that is not easy to solve, especially since the measures taken by the respective authorities are increasingly severe.

The same solution we implemented in 2014 will be applied in 2015: by contract between CSOs and us, it will be stipulated that all expenditures made during project implementation will be on behalf of Amigos. This has involved new requirements for not donees CSOs, which will be the same for 2015:

- Take a course with the accountant to explain them how to check the resources allocated to them.
- Submit a monthly report to the accountant, with the ratio of their expenditures and corresponding invoices or receipts.
- According to the proposed financing of the Project Committee for 2015, the accountant must determine how each CSO should check its expenses and also the number of payments each organizations will receive and the periodicity. It is not recommended to give all the money from the beginning because If the expenses checks are not done correctly, this can generate a fiscal deficit that we have not covered in our budget. The total amount of funding will be given from the beginning only to those CSOs that are authorized donees and whose tax situation is not the responsibility of Amigos.
- Signing a contract with each CSO in which these general and specific obligations will be indicated for each project.
- As in 2014, Amigos will retain 7% of the funds to be provided to each CSO, in order to cope with the administrative cost that each finance will have. In the notification of approved funding, each organization has been informed of this condition. This will not be applied to authorized donees CSO.

Meeting to decide what organizations will be supported in 2015

On Saturday October 4 the final meeting of the Project Committee was held to discuss whom to support in 2015. We evaluated each request carefully and came to the decision to eliminate eight of the 20 we received. Eight out of the 12 remaining, are the organizations that we have supported in 2014; Friends has not funded three of the remaining four but knows their work; and the fourth has had our support in previous years. The three new organizations have received in their facilites the visit of the Operational Director, to expand on their projects and goals.

In the second stage of the meeting, we discussed the amounts to be allocated to each project. After a thorough analysis, we decided to reduce funds for several of the organizations we support in 2014, considering that our help should also go to new organizations that submitted excellent projects. In this sense, the aim of giving more money to fewer organizations has been temporarily changed, due to the type of projects these organizations are running, but especially due to the high quality of the projects submitted by other organizations.



SECOND BREAKFAST FOR MEMBERS AND FRIEND ENTERPRISES OF AMIGOS Joining forces

n September 10, at the Ciudad Real Hotel, the second breakfast organized by Friends took place.

A total of 75 members, Friend Enterprises and people interested in the work of the organization gathered that day.

Lucía Baráibar, president of Amigos, welcomed those present.

She remembered that we finally are Authorized Donee – and the growth potential this presumably means— thanked the support of the new Friend Enterprises (Ciudad Real Hotels, Multicom, Active Safety, Hotel Bö, Lacompré, Casa Lily) and introduced the new director, Ana Cristina Vázquez.

In her speech, the director spoke of the progress of the projects and the importance of making the personalities and qualities of all the service work together.





"We know that our contribution, with your support, is a choice that each of us takes. No one is required. Certainly, we all have a social responsibility to fulfill. In each one is the decision to assume it or not. But in Amigos we do think this process also involves the opportunity to reconnect on the other, in the other; to rediscover our humanity and make it available to others.

Amigos is very interested that the projects we support offer alternatives that strengthen the capacities and dignity of beneficiaries", she said.

Chamuchic, Casa Felipe Flores, Al Grano and Margaret Morgan donated gifts for the raffle. A thank you to all of them. We also thank Alberto Gordillo and Multicom, for printing the logos of the companies that work with us.

Definitely breakfasts are becoming an opportunity for coexistence among members and exchange of views.













CSOS MEETING IN OCTOBER Building networks

he meeting began with a moment of silence for the young people killed in Guerrero.

Partners of five organizatios funded by Amigos were there. The representatives of La Casa de Las Flores, Mujeres Sembrando la Vida and Hogar Comunitario Yach'il Antzetic could not attend.

CEPAZDH sent two representatives newcomers from

Spain who knew very little about the work of the organization. They participated only as observers.

The meeting was held in order to give a closer accompaniment CSOs we work and provide a space for exchange and collaboration between everyone.

The discussion addressed the difficulties organizations have had to face the annual draft report: What can I say in the report instead of reporting only activities? What changes have I observed in the beneficiares? How can I express in a better written way



the improvements in my project? How to better organize my information? How to improve the feel of the beneficiaries? Sometimes we think that there is much progress in our work, but how can we detect the results? How have changes influenced the context of our fieldwork in the recent months? Have we seen new players, new situations that affect us directly or indirectly? If you have not exercised all the resources, what have been the reasons? If money was not enough, we must see the reasons. What training would help our organization to do a better job? These and other questions were put

on the table and gave a rich exchange of experiences and ideas. Also the progress and challenges of working in recent months were shared in plenary:

ÁNGELES DE AMOR

Last 4 years of work, achievements and learning. ÁNGELES is working very hard in the commitment of all our community of young adults with disabilities, beginning with the family. Redondeo Soriana, voluntary contributions of youth served by ÁNGELES, Amigos support, production and sale of vegetables from the garden. Working and raising awareness of family and society in general. Coordination with other organizations. **PROGRESS:** 1. Farm. 2. Greenhouse. 3. Diagnosis of limits and capabilities. 4. Strengthening self-esteem and socialization of Ángeles de Amor community.

CHANTIIK TAJ TAJINKUTIK

Common Ground with Ángeles de Amor, the main being the work with young people who are invisible to society. Strengthening the collective sense. Exchange of knowledge and services. Permanent obstacle: lack of resources. Create awareness and achieve recovery values. **PROGRESS:** 1. Empowering boys and girls in human rights and values. 2. Workshops in assertive communication. Learning to speak in public. 3. Timely and personalized attention to youth who require care. 4. Young disciples of the organization are now trainers. 5. Making of audiovisual material in Tsotsil and Spanish. The videos are hung on youtube; they are the actors. Theese videos are spoken in Tsotsil with Spanish subtitles.

MADRE TIERRA MÉXICO

Holistic health: prevention and timely care. Composting toilets, saving stoves, food self sufficency, improvement of dwellings. Establishing a health center in Escuintla. Training of community health workers. Working in highly marginalized communities. Many oral health problems in the population for various reasons, including poor diet. I dentist tan can attend the office has not been found. They are exploring possibilities and options for care. A Challenge: People in communities have to walk many hours to get to the health center. **PROGRESS:** 1. Material conditioning of dental office. 2. The 100% of the core equipment was purchased. 3. Conferences and oral health campaigns in various communities in the Sierra. There have been visits to communities to detect the problem, a medical team from Esquipulas Clinic has joint the health promoters in their visits to communities.

They have to find a dentist who does not necessarily have to be in the community 24/7. He or she might be there two or three times a week. Several suggestions were given to the representative of the organization to find the right person.

ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCTORES LA JORNADA

Support for border communities. Food sovereignty. Highly marginalized communities. Resistance (strengthening) against monocultures. Impulse collectivism and community solidarity. Main Challenge: economic constraints. Comprehensive and complementary piscicultural and agricultural working. Fifteen families remain in the project. There's a lack of technical staff. Creating local and regional markets. Relearning of society. Unity is strength. **PROGRESS:** 1. There are 2 ponds where crappie is produced for community consumption. 2. Construction of multipurpose galley community as living space. 3. Ability to replicate the project in another community. 4. Construction of chicken farm, with resources provided by the community itself. 5. Installing fungi module.

There also came the idea that CSOs could have collaborations as:

- Workshops from La Jornada on healthy food to other organizations.
- Visits of Chantiiks' youngsters or of other organizations to the people of Ángeles de Amor in order to learn more about diversities.
- Join efforts among young people in these organizations (street workers with people with disabilities) to go out and make environmental campaigns and cultural activities. Boys and girls can sell vegetables Ángeles de Amor and Chantiik bread or products of other organizations (such as handicrafts made by women of Hogar Comunitari) in the Plaza de la Paz.
- Make the barter of products and services among organizations.
- Boys of Chantiik could give computer classes to the people of Ángeles de Amor.
- Ángeles de Amor offered a workshop on how to interact with people with disabilities.
- La Jornada could give a short course on how to cook the crappie.
- People from other organizations know technicians who can assist La Jornada in fish farming.
- Ángeles de Amor will contact Madre Tierra with a few French doctors who last year came to San Cristóbal to implement a health campaign. They also brought surgical equipment and perhaps could support somehow in the dental office.
- Several people commented that they know dentists



dentists who can give toothpaste and toothbrushes for the children issue of prevention. Another idea: to make a campaign gathering networks surgical material that dentists no longer use.

- CEPAZDH could give a workshop to the other groups that work with youth on the prevention of trafficking (they have information brochures and a video on the subject). Chantiik have videos made by young people to prevent other problems as well.
- Chantiik offers courses on how to make bread to women from the community of Viva Ley, currently attended by La Jornada. They need to learn to jumpstart their bakery ecological oven.
- Madre Tierra counter offered support in accounting and tax.

The next meeting will take place on November 27 Chantiik.

KNOW MORE ABOUT...

Authorized Donee

MIGOS is a second level association that raises money for local organizations implementing projects. As I informed you in previous newsletters, Now we AUTHORIZED DONEE.

But, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AUTHORIZED DONEE?

Solidarity is not only emotionally rewards, also on the tax issue. Economic Contributions to authorized donees have the additional advantage that they can be tax deductible.

Authorized donees are organizations that perform social activities and are registered with the Tax Administration Service (SAT), which can provide tax receipts. AMIGOS DE SAN CRISTÓBAL AC already obtained such permission.

We understand that many times there is ignorance and lack of confidence when making donations. Given this, it is necessary to note that:

- One of the advantages of providing resources to authorized donees is the vigilance of the authorities on the use of money. Those who do not fulfill their obligations of transparency and use of donations lose their registration, which must be renewed annually.
- 91% of people who support NGOs has not deducted their contributions mainly through ignorance, according to results from the National Survey on Philanthropy and Civil Society (ENAFI) 2013.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DEDUCT?

The amount of donations that are deducted in the annual statement should not exceed 7% of the annual



income of a person or a company; if this percentage exceeds its contribution will no longer be deductible.

But only authorized donees may issue TAX RECEIPTS. For example, financial institutions that due to the disasters caused by rains call on the society to make financial donations to their accounts to funnel the victims, must capture them through a foundation. To deductible donation is necessary to ask THROUGH WHAT ASSOCIATION the resources are going to be delivered and check out whether this organization is part of the SAT register.

DO YOU HAVE A STRATEGY OF PHILANTHROPY AS A COMPANY?

- For an initiative of corporate philanthropy is strategic for the company, you must support issues that have added value and are within the core business of the company.
- Business and society are interdependent, because in order to be successful a company needs a healthy society. There won't be so tension between business interests and actions of social responsibility of the company but there will be complementarity.
- Some people prefer to make their donations in person and not through a legally established organization, but keep in mind that through institutional means your donations may have a greater social impact because, through organized labor, good planning and monitoring of projects, we are able to identify more effectively the needs of vulnerable populations and to attack the problem at its root.

SUPPORT WITH CONFIDENCE

If you want to support the projects we fund through Amigos de San Cristóbal AC and want to be sure that the funds will be used for the purposes described by the organization, you can verify that Amigos has the One Key to the Federal Registration of Civil Society Organizations (CLUNI) awarded by the National Institute of Social Development (Indesol).

Currently there are 23,000 organizations with this key, which are monitored in the use of resources received, giving confidence to donors.

Organizations can be on both registers, the SAT and the one of Indesol, since one does not exclude



the other. However, only those who are registered on the SAT can deliver deductible receipts.

WHERE YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DONATIONS

In the account on behalf of Amigos de San Cristóbal AC BBVA Bancomer number 0151830546.

TODAY MORE THAN EVER

"There is no future without generations of relay. They are the ones who, taking up an inheritance from their parents, preserve it, continue it and magnify it. In Mexico, however, we are killing them ... ".

Javier Sicilia

exico is experiencing the most difficult time in its recent history. The violence has reached unprecedented levels never seen before by society which, to the extent of the facts does not know how to react and how to organize itself to stop the horror.

According to official figures, the majority of victims of violence are young people between 15 and 30 years old. Either because they join the ranks of organized crime; because they are innocent victims of offenders who murder or disappear them; or have to migrate for their lives, young people in Mexico are experiencing an overwhelming reality that denies them the most basic rights.

The unprecedented violence of the last few years, months and days is added to the old problems: poverty, marginalization, lack of education and opportunities; corruption, impunity, inequality. All of

these situations are fertile ground for crime to grow and strengthen.

The outlook is certainly bleak. However, part of the solution it is in our hands. As a society, we have not only the right but the responsibility to help build a fairer and more egalitarian country. We have, above all, the responsibility to stand up for our youth.

Today more than ever it is essential that we all seek alternatives to them, especially for the most vulnerable, those who have the least opportunity to live a decent life.

Today more than ever we must create opportunities for community development; opportunities for training and education to help reverse the terrible reality facing us all, but especially young people.

Today more than ever we need the participation of the whole society, to show our young people that there is a



promising future for them.

Today more than ever, it is essential to put aside the differences that separate us and find the coincidences that make us stronger.

Today more than ever it is necessary to promote the work of social organizations that are struggling to offer young people the

opportunities they need to develop their great potential.

Today more than ever, Amigos de San Cristóbal invites all of you who generously support us and believe in our work, to collaborate together in this great project called Mexico.

From this space, we express a resounding NO! to violence, wherever it comes from. We appeal to the conscience, reason, heart and spirit of solidarity that Mexico requires. For no reason should we allow dark forces rob us of our country. THIS HAS TO BE THE BIGGEST AND BEST OF OUR EFFORTS.

Our young people, the sons and daughters of all, DESERVE IT. For them this is WORTH ...

Ana Cristina Vázquez Carpizo (Directora de Amigos de San Cristóbal AC)



THANKS TO EMPRESAS AMIGAS

We are more

ince our last Amigos bulletin, we have added 3 new Empresas Amigas members: Tierra y Cielo Hotel y Restaurante, Casa Lily and Faro 90.We send our gratitude to these establishments and also to the other establishments who have been assisting since this initiative began.



