



Newsletter

Fundación Comunitaria
amigos
de San Cristóbal A.C.

*United
we make a
difference*



MARCH 2025



2025 began with great enthusiasm and the firm purpose of **expanding our impact**. We focus on strengthening fundraising and generating more meeting spaces for agents of change to come together in the search for viable solutions to common challenges.

In addition, **it is a very special year for us**, as **we celebrate two decades of work** promoting development from and for communities. During these 20 years, we have accompanied projects that strengthen local organization, participation and collective well-being.

In this first newsletter of the year, we want to share with you the recent achievements, the stories that inspire us, and the new initiatives that energize us to keep going.

In this first quarter of the year, the board of directors took on the task of working on the annual operating plan (POA), and designing, with great enthusiasm, the campaign to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the foundation;

20 years in which many people, local and foreign, volunteers and salaried, have participated in different stages, but all with great proactivity and commitment.

Soon you will be able to find more information on our networks about the events and activities with which we will commemorate our anniversary, because we have written this history together and **we want to continue building it with you**.

Thank you for being part of this community that believes in solidarity and the power of collective action! Undoubtedly, this year Amigos de San Cristóbal has many reasons to celebrate.

With gratitude and commitment,

Board of Directors and Operating Team
Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.

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Friendly organizations 2025



In this first newsletter of the year we are pleased to introduce you to the **11 organizations** selected in the call for project funding:

- 1 • Tierra Roja Cuxtitali, A.C.
- 2 • Hogar Comunitario, Yach'il Antzetic, A.C.
- 3 • Melel Xojobal, A.C.
- 4 • Sanando Heridas, A.C.
- 5 • Ideas, Información y Diseños Educativos para Acciones Saludables, A.C. (CHIELTIK).
- 6 • Cooperación y Organización Integral para el Desarrollo Rural, A.C. (Conider).
- 7 • Formación y Capacitación, A.C. (FOCA).
- 8 • Foro para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C. (Semillero 259 y Patrulla Roja & Centavitos Rojos).
- 9 • Agua y Vida: Mujeres, Derechos y Ambiente, A.C.
- 10 • Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria, A.C.
- 11 • Jóvenes Construyendo Territorios, A.C. (JOVENARTE).



❖ Tierra Roja Cuxtitali, A.C.

Project: "Tierra Roja Cuxtitali; 10 years of peace and community learning"

Description:

They maintain their four operational areas (comprehensive education, socio-emotional education, socio-environmental education and community participation) with a focus on popular education and for peace, allowing children, youth and families to strengthen their knowledge, their relationship with the territory and their community ties.

Its training proposal is expanded with exclusive activities for women and men of different ages, promoting a more equitable and aware community about gender, violence and marginalization.

In addition, strategic alliances are strengthened and more sectors are involved through events, volunteering and the "Healing Our Hearts" campaign, which commemorates 10 years of work with public presentations in Mexico and abroad.



❖ Hogar Comunitario, Yach'il Antzetic, A.C.

Project: "New Women: Integral Development Free of Violence for indigenous and mestizo women, girls, boys and adolescents. Chiapas, Mexico 2025"

Description:

Hogar Comunitario has accompanied women, children and adolescents for almost 30 years, adapting to the challenges of labor exploitation, violence and criminal risks they face in their search for better living conditions. This project proposes five lines of action:

- 1) strengthen internal organization.
- 2) provide emotional and prenatal care.
- 3) prevent early pregnancies and violence.
- 4) promote self-employment and autonomy through the TRAMA group.
- 5) articulate with other actors to expand the impact.

Through this comprehensive accompaniment, women strengthen their self-esteem, self-care and their access to safe and dignified childbirth, while boosting their personal and economic development.



❖ Melel Xojbal, A.C.

Project: "Protagonist participation for contextual education as a right for working children in San Cristóbal de Las Casas"

Description:

This project strengthens training spaces and learning circles for working children from 4 to 11 years old in markets and public squares, guaranteeing their right to education. Through daily sessions, contextual literacy, children's rights, motor skills, reading and writing and mathematical thinking are worked on, as well as advice on homework.

Life skills, emotion management and peaceful conflict resolution are promoted, reducing violence between peers. At the same time, awareness-raising actions are carried out with families and the community to prevent school dropout and promote safe spaces through cultural days and campaigns on identity and education.



❖ Sanando Heridas, A.C.

Project: "Strengthening oral health in the Tsotsil communities of Los Altos de Chiapas"

Description:

The Healing Wounds program provides medical care to low-income families at the San Cristóbal Clinic and in seven communities in the Highlands region of Chiapas. Her work focuses on two areas:

- 1)** Health care, with comprehensive medical consultation, basic dental care and follow-up in child growth, pregnancy, family planning and chronic diseases.
- 2)** Health education, through training cycles in elementary schools on healthy eating and oral health.

This proposal prioritizes dental care for children and women, as well as the promotion of healthy habits from childhood.



❖ Ideas, Información y Diseños Educativos para Acciones Saludables, A.C. (CHIELTIK)

Project: "Socio-emotional education with Mayan children, adolescents and young people to promote school permanence"

Description:

This project trains young people in radio, strengthening their skills in communication, production, voice-over and editing. Thus, they will be able to create content in Tseltal, Tsotsil and Spanish that promotes the Mayan worldview, human, sexual and reproductive rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Priority is given to safe and respectful coexistence, protecting people in vulnerable conditions. In addition, the project has the support of educational and community institutions to support its activities.



❖ Cooperación y Organización Integral para el Desarrollo Rural, A.C. (CONIDER)

Project: "Same Moon"

Description:

This project will work with first-grade high school students at the Technical School No. 77 of San Juan Cancuc, providing workshops on dignified menstruation.

Adolescents will receive tools to manage their menstruation with dignity, while young people will be sensitized to the needs of their peers. In addition, part of the teachers will be trained to promote improvements in the school.

For now, the participation of the communities is not foreseen, since there are still no conditions for an informed dialogue on the subject.



❖ Formación y Capacitación, A.C. (FOCA)

Project: "Visibility and strengthening of midwives and apprentices: continuity in training from a gender, interculturality and rights approach for community health care"

Description:

This project promotes generational dialogue between master midwives and apprentices, integrating traditional knowledge with comprehensive health tools to improve care in emergencies and strengthen their leadership. With an intercultural, gender and women's rights approach, it seeks to defend traditional midwifery at the community, regional and national levels. The program has grown, including midwives from Chamaula and Las Rosas, and has motivated more young people to continue this work. Three key workshops on midwifery rights, comprehensive health and leadership will be held in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Each meeting will bring together teachers and apprentices, with replication sessions in their communities and follow-up through local visits, ensuring collective learning and the empowerment of new leaders in traditional midwifery.



❖ Foro para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C. (Semillero 259 y Patrulla Roja & Centavitos Rojos)

Project: "Agroecological Community for Good Living"

Description:

It is a community of collectives that works on the outskirts of the city, giving workshops, training and artistic and sports activities for children and young people. They promote self-care, conscious eating, physical activation and community work.

The work of these groups is made visible by carrying out activities in the streets, weaving support and dissemination networks throughout the city. In addition, they promote the exchange of knowledge with Tseltal and Tsotsil communities, rescuing ancestral traditions and strengthening cultural identity.



❖ Agua y Vida: Mujeres, Derechos y Ambiente, A.C.

Proyecto: "Project Name: "Towards the Strengthening of Women in Participatory Water Management in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas-2nd Stage".

Description:

Although women's participation in the defense of water in San Cristóbal de Las Casas is increasingly active, they still face challenges such as the overload of domestic work and machismo in their communities.

This project seeks to strengthen their organization and leadership from an ecofeminist and climate justice perspective. To this end, a municipal and a regional meeting of women water defenders will be held, the production of a video with their testimonies and the follow-up of the international campaign Women We Are Water.



❖ Promedios De Comunicación Comunitaria, A.C.

Project: "El Fogón de las Palabras; Laboratory of Community Stories"

Description:

El Fogón de las Palabras is an interdisciplinary project that, through community art, narratives and popular communication, creates spaces where people can tell their stories with dignity, promoting their culture and identity.

Between 2022 and 2024 they collaborated with 22 organizations in Chiapas, Guatemala and Honduras, and in 2025 they will strengthen the use of artistic and technological tools, facilitating workshops for communities to record, edit their own narratives, their ways of creating a dignified life and develop radio programs, where they promote a culture of peace, dialogue, healthy food and defense of the territory.

There will also be 7 meetings in 5 communities and 2 universities to strengthen networks and disseminate the work. In addition, they will prioritize the participation of women.



❖ Jóvenes Articulando Territorios, A.C. (Jovenarte)

Project: "Agroecological Youth for Good Living in Huixtán, Chiapas"

Description:

The CEMSaD 300 garden will be strengthened with an irrigation system, shade mesh and a nursery to reproduce native seeds of vegetables and forest trees. In addition, a "Local Action Plan" will be developed for the prevention and management of natural risks derived from climate change, involving the educational community and parents in a diagnosis and construction of the plan.

The project will train young people and teachers to address the identified risks and, at the end, a reforestation will be carried out and the plan will be presented to the city council for inclusion in the Municipal Development Plan.

CEMSaD 137 will also be followed up and the organization's statutes will be updated to request the authorization of Authorized Donee, in order to strengthen its impact in Los Altos de Chiapas.





Community activities



Signing of agreements with organizations

On February 20, the **signing of agreements** took place in our offices, between the selected organizations and Amigos San Cristóbal, this to promote the work of eleven civil society organizations that are generating a positive impact on the Tsotsil and Tzeltal communities of the Highlands of Chiapas. But it was not only a protocol act, but a space to share what each project is about and exchange points of view and opportunities for collaboration between organizations interested in common issues.

Thus, we continue to weave networks of hope, because each supported project is a seed of hope and growth for our community.



Connecting volunteers and organizations

When the will meets great causes, the truth is that incredible things happen.

As a community foundation, in January we connected students from the La Salle Study Center in San Cristóbal with three social organizations: Melel Xojobal A.C., Chantiik Taj Tajinkutik A.C. and Ciudadanos por la Acción Territorial en la Cuenca Valle de Jovel. For a week, these young people dedicated their time,

energy and talent to volunteer activities: they baked bread, created educational materials, supported IT and helped transplant bromeliads for ecological restoration.

This experience not only allowed them to learn, but also **demonstrated the power of solidarity**. For us it was a pleasure to support this link and see how the new generations are also interested in social work.



When willpower meets great causes, the truth is that incredible things happen.

Meeting of community foundations

At the beginning of February, we participated in the Forum in Mexico City: **Community Foundations - Alliance for the Future of Migration**. We connected with community foundations that operate in different parts of the Republic, with whom we took the time to share experiences, reflect on the challenges of migration, and explore opportunities from family and community philanthropy.

This space, promoted by **Connecting Communities in America, Cooperativa de Fundaciones and Comunalia** (Alliance of Foundations of Mexico), motivates us to continue generating actions that improve the conditions of human mobility from the work carried out by community foundations in the country to build solutions from the local level.

Susana Morán attended as a member of the council of Amigos de San Cristóbal and Comunalia, and Beatriz Álvarez, as operational coordinator, both sharing on their return that the meeting was an opportunity for learning, connection and inspiration.



There were also work dynamics in tables, where we were able to analyze the actions that are being carried out in each region; this served to strengthen collaboration on migration issues, especially in these times when Trump threatens to carry out massive repatriations of countrymen to Mexico.

Thus, **together we are building these spaces for dialogue and generation of solutions**, tracing the path towards 2030, with the certainty that change must be built **from the community and for the community**.



David Orr's 90th birthday

David Orr, one of the founders of our association, turned **90 years old** on March 13. He was accompanied by friends and family who came from afar to celebrate.

He and his wife, Nancy, are among the foreigners who made their home in this beautiful colonial city. Originally from Indiana, USA, after David's retirement (in 1997), the couple made San Cristóbal their permanent residence and opened a boutique inn in 1999.

In 2004, an organization contacted them to fund some projects, and thus the idea of forming a non-profit association to support local NGOs was born. In **2005**, together with a group of American expats and Mexicans, **Amigos de San Cristóbal** was formed and obtained its charter as a non-profit civil association.

Since then, many organizations and communities have benefited from donations made by people like the Orrs.



*We celebrate your journey
and wish you health and
happiness for years to come!*

Melel Xojobal campaign on child labor

On February 24, Melel Xojobal A.C., an organization with which we collaborate, launched its campaign **"5 myths about the work of children and adolescents"**. Demystifying the work of children and adolescents in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

Myth #1: "If you work, you don't study."

Myth #2: "All child labor is illicit and illegal."

Myth #3: "All working children live on the streets or begging."

Myth #4: "Families force their children to work."

Myth #5: "Children only have two rights: to study and to play."

In San Cristóbal de las Casas we want children and adolescents with a good life.

**YES TO DECENT WORK, NO TO EXPLOITATION!
FIRST THINGS FIRST, HEALTH AND EDUCATION!**

You can also share, disseminate and download the statement of February 14, 2025:

<https://bit.ly/41fWM19>, see the contents of the campaign on Facebook, and contribute to spreading its messages:

(<https://www.facebook.com/melelxojobal>).



¡Paz para las infancias y adolescencias trabajadoras!

¡Sí al trabajo digno!

Public presentation of the Tierra Roja Cuxtitali project

Tierra Roja Cuxtitali, another of our partner organizations, on March 15 had a public presentation of its work, at the Carlos Jurado Cultural Center, this within the framework of the celebration of its 10th Anniversary and the campaign "**Healing our hearts**". They also gave a craft workshop for the children present.

In this talk, the educators explained what the project consists of, the different areas, the progress and challenges in the work and how all these activities contribute to one of its main objectives: to contribute to the strengthening of the social fabric in the Cuxtitali neighborhood. Now they have 42 participants, whose ages range from 6 to 15 years old, and with whom they work on issues of school support, gardening, socio-emotional accompaniment and community bonding.

They also commented that they will prepare a manual narrating the path in the process of sharing a social space of peace, to share what children, adolescents and families are experiencing and how they, with their own vision, want to transform their realities.

"These presentations," said Viviana Greco, coordinator of the project, "are helping us to socialize the collective knowledge constructed."





Foundation activities

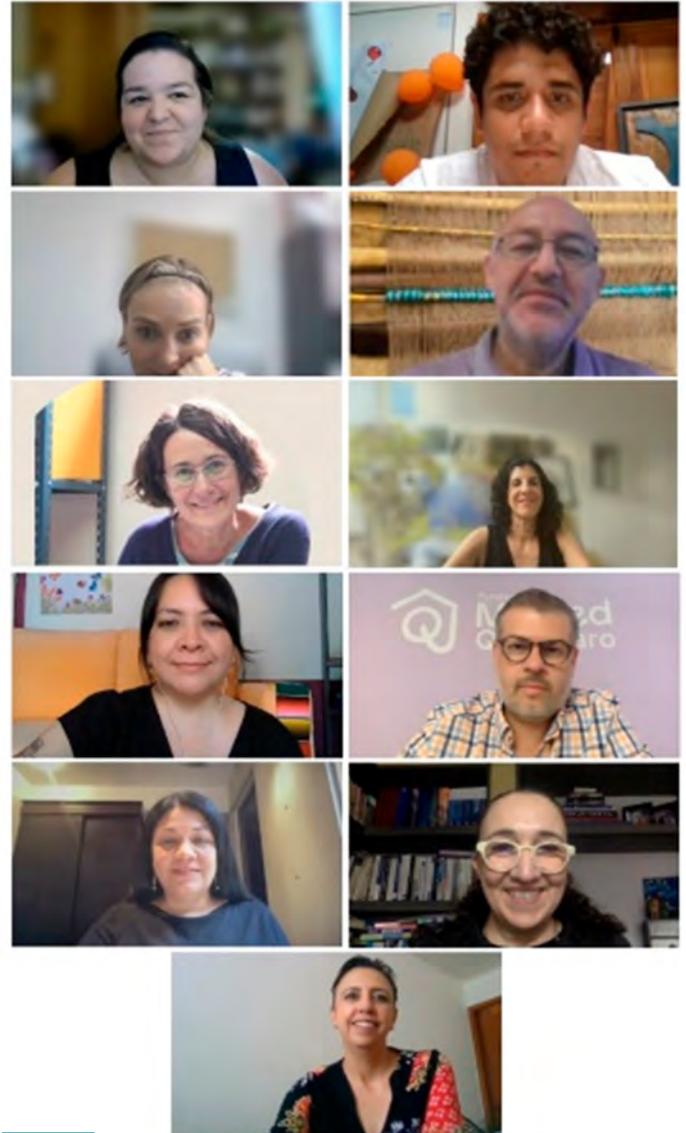


Working meeting of directors of community foundations

Sponsored by **Comunalia**, a virtual meeting was held on Monday, March 24, facilitated by Ana María León, within the framework of the Community of Practice of Directors.

In recent years, this space has established itself as an environment for peer-to-peer learning and mentoring, fostering trust and the exchange of ideas. The session was enriching, allowing participants to put on the table what topics they would like to delve into in the coming months.

It is a space of trust where relevant issues for the role of the participants can be addressed, leadership is strengthened through the sharing of ideas and suggestions for better performance, good practices are shared and capacities are strengthened, based on the experience of external people.



2024 Annual Report

For those interested in learning about the achievements and results of our foundation last year, the **2024 Annual Report** is ready, where you can consult – in Spanish and English – both the information on activities and the financial information.

Check here: linktr.ee/amigosdesc



Upcoming events

SPRING CONCERT

We invite you to a unique concert by the San Cristóbal Symphony Orchestra and Choir! (Project to which we are proudly linked).

Date: April 11.

Time: 7:00 pm.

Place: Hermanos Domínguez Theater

Donation: \$100 pesos

This concert is a reflection of the effort and dedication of children, young people, teachers, organizers and donors, as well as those who believe in music education as a tool for change.

Don't miss it!

**Let's make music vibrate
and continue to build community
through art.**

2025 membership renewal campaign

From now on you can **purchase or renew your membership with Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.**

It is a way of belonging, of contributing to our cause in a symbolic way, and of supporting projects.

In this link you can find the different modalities, as well as the details of the specifications to donate in each case, depending also on whether you need a deductible receipt or not:

<https://bit.ly/MembresiasADSC2025>

- 1 • **Individual** (\$300 pesos once a year) and family (\$500 pesos annually).
- 2 • **Small companies** (\$2,500 pesos per year).
- 3 • **Residents of Spain** or countries with euro currency (€15 euros per year, individual membership and €25 euros per year, family membership).
- 4 • **U.S. residents** (\$15 dollars per year, individual membership and \$25 dollars per year, family membership).

Become a powerful change maker

amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.

Donate, inspire, and transform!

You can be part of this solidarity movement to transform the lives of hundreds of families in Los Altos de Chiapas, A.C.!

Get your membership

Friend partner	Family friend
€15 USD	€25 USD

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

At **Amigos de San Cristóbal, A.C.**, we raise funds and accompany local organizations so that their projects become **realities that transform lives.**

Here are the projects supported in 2025:
<https://bit.ly/ASC2025-English>

JOIN US AS A AMIGO COMPANY

Join the group of entrepreneurs that is already transforming their environment



Generate impact and social responsibility with the support of Amigos de San Cristobal A.C. As a Amigo Company, you will be part of a community of companies, social investors, in Los Altos de Chiapas that contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of our community.

AMIGO COMPANIES 2024 - 2025

Amigo companies



Sponsors



Learn more about the program at: <https://amigosdesc.org/empresas-amigas/>



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