



Newsletter

20 *Años*
CONSTRUYENDO
COMUNIDAD



Amigos de
San Cristóbal
Fundación Comunitaria

SEPTEMBER 2025





At Amigos de San Cristóbal, we believe that real change is **woven into everyday life**, from communities that strive for a more just future.

In this edition of our newsletter, we want to share with you some of the **stories that inspire us and drive us** forward: women weavers building autonomy in San Juan Cancú; young musicians representing San Cristóbal on national stages; water defenders raising their voices for wetlands; allied organizations teaching us how to communicate from the territory and for the territory.

We also report on the workshops and training spaces that strengthen our team, the steps we are taking toward **greater sustainability**, our annual project funding call — connecting us with more community initiatives — and other topics that may interest you.

Each of these actions has been made possible thanks to a network of people committed to community philanthropy, that which is born from the territory and built with talent, time, treasure, and testimony.

If you also believe in the **power of the collective** and want to join in supporting these projects, we invite you to back our cause.

Your donation is more than money; it is **the hope for a fairer and more sustainable future for hundreds of families in Los Altos de Chiapas**.

With gratitude and commitment,

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

INDEX

• Foundation Activities	3
Project visits:	4
• Ch'íeltik, A.C.	4
• Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria, A.C.	5
San Cristóbal Symphonic Orchestra & Choir: young “coletos” making music nationally	6
Water & Life awareness campaign	7
Progress in the call for proposals for Project Financing 2026	8
• Trainings	9
CEMEFI workshop: “Creativity for Social Causes”	10
@AppleSeed México workshop, on legal matters	10
Workshops with REDECIM	11
Workshop on ESG indicators	11
Leadership Congress for Social Change	12
• Events	13
Forum with organizations: showcasing our achievements	14
14th Anniversary of COMUNALIA	16
15th Anniversary of Ch'íeltik A.C.	16
• Donate	17
• Contact	21



Foundation Activities



PROJECT VISITS

✿ Ch'ieltik A.C.

During the first week of July, our Foundation visited the collective of women artisans in Chiloljá, in the municipality of San Juan Cancúc. This group has spent three years weaving **autonomy, sisterhood, and a future**. Several of its members have grown up within youth training spaces promoted by **IDEAS Ch'ieltik** in the schools of the region. During the visit, they shared their art, learnings, and the challenges of working collectively. They acknowledge that organizing among women has been transformative, as they have had to confront difficulties such as finding dignified and sustainable channels to market their creations. Their goal: to rescue and recognize the loom as a living part of their cultural heritage and inspire other young women to continue learning textile techniques.



❖ Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria, A.C.

Also in July, Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria A.C. invited us to the “**Listening Encounter**”, a very special event where the stories created by participants in the workshop held in November were shared. It was a moment to listen, engage in dialogue, and enrich narratives built from the local, from the heart.

This activity was part of a **communication workshop** held in Moxviquil with organizations convened by **FASOL** (Fondo Acción Solidaria A.C.), and became a space for exchange and reflection on how to communicate from the territory and for the communities.



San Cristóbal Symphony Orchestra and Choir: Young “coletos” making music at a national level

On social media, we shared the highlights of this youth orchestra’s last year of activity which you can revisit here: bit.ly/InformeOrquestayCoroSanCristobal. On July 5, the orchestra offered a magnificent **concert at CICAN** in San Cristóbal, with the aim of showcasing the progress of its young members, presenting their new musical repertoire, and delighting the attending audience.

In April, 35 students from the orchestra auditioned for the **First National Gathering of Esperanza Azteca Orchestras**. Four were selected —two from the choir and two instrumentalists— to travel to Aguascalientes, **represent San Cristóbal**, and make music at the national level. The event was held from July 15 to 17, giving them the opportunity to rehearse with some of the best teachers —and young people from other orchestras throughout Mexico— to give a moving final concert at the Teatro Aguascalientes. From here, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the teachers and sponsors who made this wonderful adventure possible.



Water and Life: Awareness Campaign

Over the past three months, Agua y Vida: Mujeres, Derechos y Ambiente A.C. has been promoting its campaign: **“Women and Water in San Cristóbal de Las Casas”**. Historically, women have been the **silent guardians of the wetlands**. Their daily relationship with these ecosystems — through water collection, cultivation, and use of medicinal plants — has given them deep knowledge of their critical role. In the face of threats such as contamination, climate change, or urban sprawl, many women have become community leaders, environmental defenders, and bearers of ancestral knowledge, fighting to protect wetlands not only as sources of life but also as an essential part of their identity and survival. Their role is key to achieving a fair, comprehensive, and sustainable water management model.

Because water is life, and life is not negotiable, this campaign has addressed topics such as: “Guardians of the Wetlands”, “Women and the Challenges They Face in Defending Water”, “Women and the Fight Against Extractive Companies” among others, and the campaign continues across social media platforms. As part of the awareness-raising activities, on August 20, the **Municipal Gathering of Women Water Defenders** was held in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, with the participation of 21 women who, through their presence and contributions, continued weaving and strengthening networks of hope and resistance.



Progress

on our 2026 project funding call

On August 20, we launched our **annual call for proposals for 2026 projects**. In the first phase, organizations submitted their legal and tax documentation. After a thorough review, 29 organizations advanced to the second stage, in which they must submit their institutional questionnaire, including the project content, budget, and timeline.

The deadline for submission is **October 15**. We deeply appreciate the commitment of each participating organization and their ongoing work to improve the well-being of our communities.



❖ New website

On August 22, we were thrilled to launch our **new website**, redesigned, restructured, and fully updated.

It's a fresh, informative, and user-friendly space where you'll find everything we are and do: calls for proposals, newsletters, stories, achievements, funded projects, publications, videos, donation options, and much more, a reflection of the path we've walked together.

We invite you to visit, explore, and become part of this great family, **as we continue working to make a difference together**.

Discover our new digital home, available in both Spanish and English:



www.amigosdesc.org



Trainings



Trainings that strengthen our operations team

❖ CEMEFI Workshop: “Creativity for Social Causes”

July 31. The talk given at the “**Creativity for Social Causes**” forum, organized by CEMEFI (Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía), was truly enriching. Various speakers shared examples of marketing campaigns where collaboration between advertising agencies and nonprofits was key to effectively reaching target audiences and amplifying social causes resulting in a greater impact.



❖ @AppleSeed Mexico Workshop on Legal Topics

August 7. Workshop: “**Recommendations for Drafting a General Assembly Minute for Civil Society Organizations**”, led by attorney Luz María Tamés from AppleSeed Mexico.

Questions addressed included:

How to draft minutes before taking them to the notary?
Is notarization always mandatory?, What should be included in the agenda?, Are Zoom assemblies valid?, What issues are resolved by the assembly of associates?, What do our bylaws and the Civil Code say?

These and other questions were clarified in this insightful and practical session.



❖ Workshops with REDECIM

On August 19, we participated in the “**Project Design and Evaluation**” workshop, and on September 9, in the “**Gender, Human Rights, Sustainability, and Inclusion Approaches**” workshop, both facilitated by REDECIM (Mexican Network for International Cooperation), one of our strategic allies.

The workshop series will be completed with two more sessions: “Financial Sustainability and Strategic Partnerships” and “Access to International Cooperation Opportunities”.

These are hands-on training sessions aimed at strengthening project design, inclusion, funding strategies, and access to international grants for social initiatives. They include tools, methodologies, and exercises to help apply the knowledge immediately.

❖ Workshops on ESG Indicators

On September 11, together with other community foundations, we began a workshop series as part of the **Impacta+** Program: Sustainable Community Foundations: Start Your ESG Journey, guided by the Sustainability Financial Reporting Standards (**NIS**). This initiative aims to enhance how community foundations **measure, communicate, and maximize their impact**, positioning us as leaders in transparency and sustainability. By aligning with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) indicators, we can improve planning, resource management, and communication with donors, beneficiaries, and peer organizations.



REDECIM
RED DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL MEXICANA

CICLO DE TALLERES VIRTUALES

Cuatro talleres prácticos para fortalecer el diseño, inclusión, financiamiento y acceso a fondos internacionales en proyectos sociales. Incluyen herramientas, metodologías y ejercicios para aplicar lo aprendido de forma inmediata.

Ponentes

Mtro. Xavier Montiel Mtro. Raul Maza Mtra. Valeria Rios

Regístrate: info@redecim.org
Cupos limitados



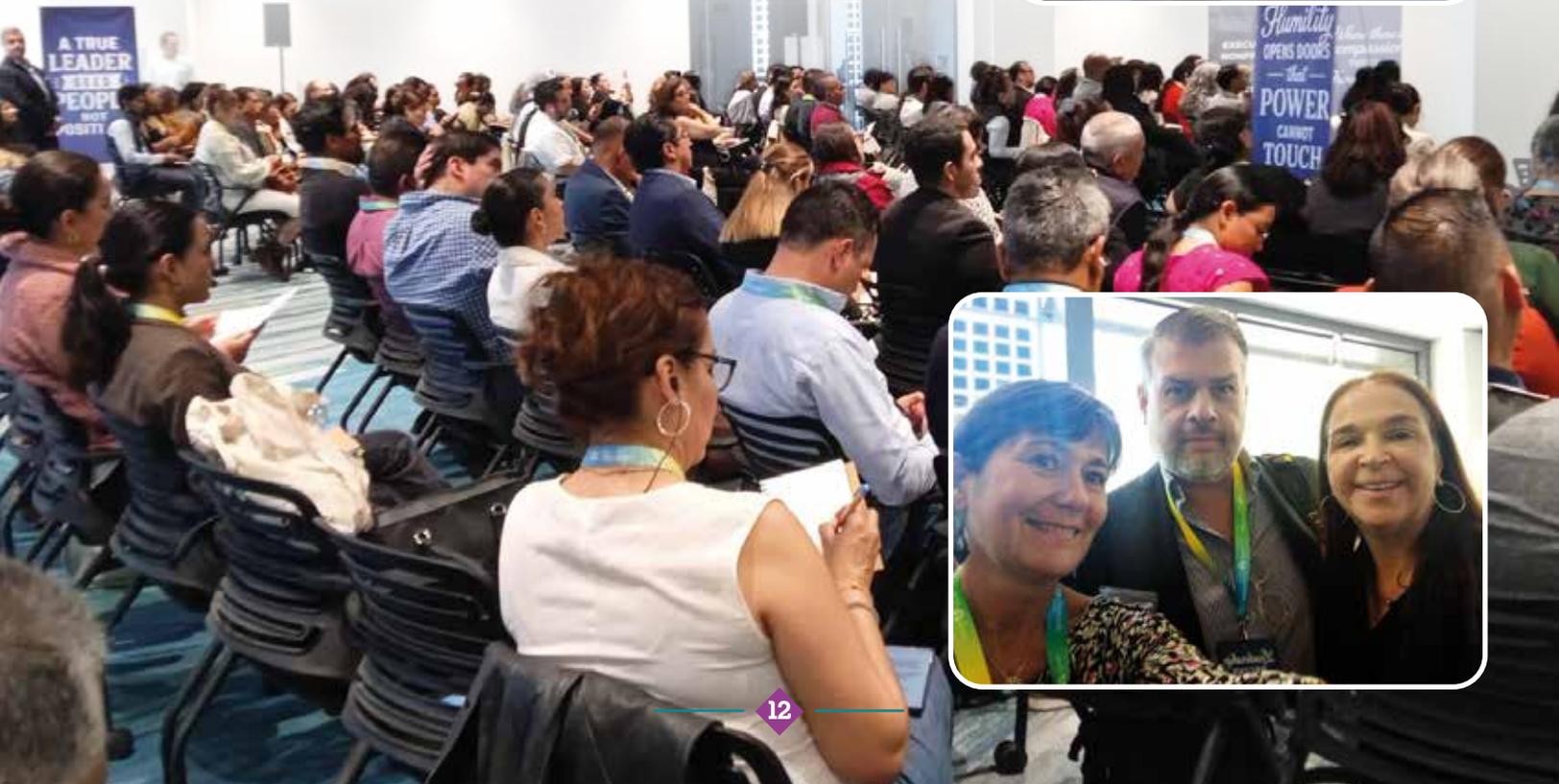
OBJETIVO DEL PROGRAMA

Fortalecer la forma en que las Fundaciones Comunican sus datos, acciones y resultados de impacto, practicando como referentes en transparencia, sostenibilidad alineada a las NIS y preparados para otras iniciativas de impacto con enfoque ESG.

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❖ Leadership Congress for Social Change

From September 4 to 6, we attended the “**Transformational Leadership for Social Change**” Conference in the city of Querétaro, a 3-day training aimed at directors and NGO leaders. The host: Professor **Anthony Silard**, Director of the Center for Sustainable Leadership, professor at Luiss Business School, and President of the Center for Social Leadership (CLS). It was a space for reflection and learning, with several lectures and workshops that strengthened our work. Many thanks to the organizers and to Fundación Merced Querétaro for the invitation.





Events



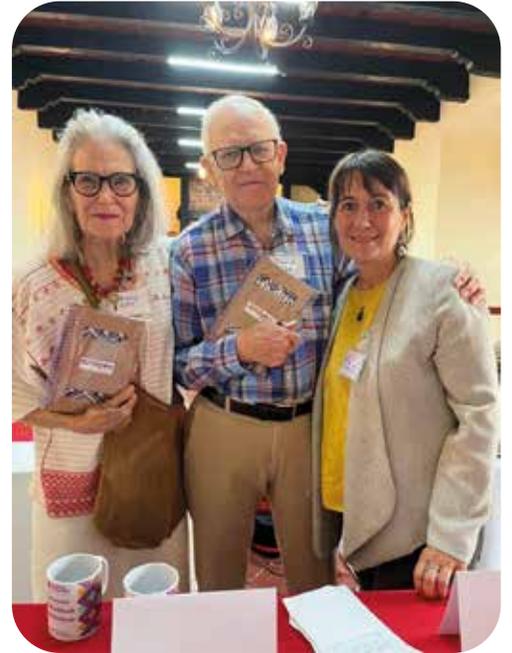
Forum with organizations: Making our impact visible

On August 28, as part of our **20th anniversary** celebration, we held the forum: “Amigos de San Cristóbal: 20 Years of Impact in the Region. Making Our Presence Visible through Collaborative Work with Civil Society Organizations in Los Altos de Chiapas.” It was a valuable opportunity to reflect on our journey and the collective impact achieved over these two decades.

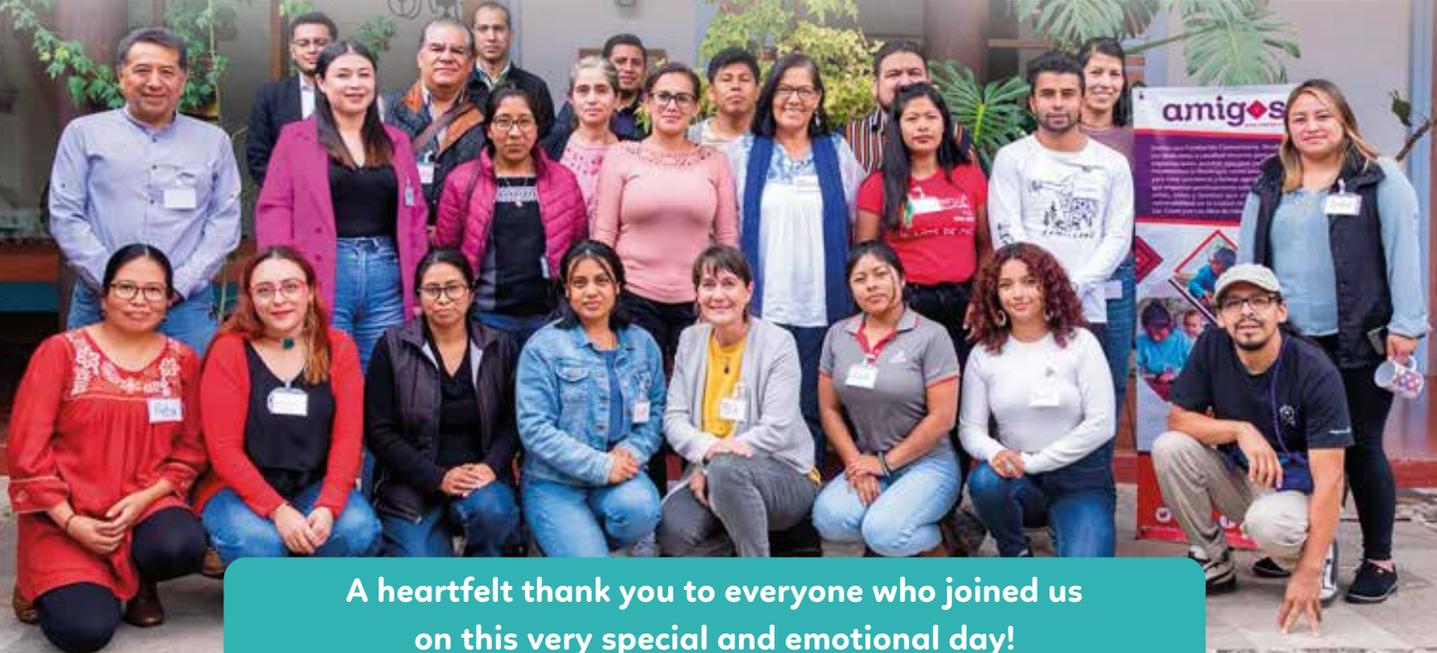
We were especially happy to have two of our founding members, **Nancy and David Orr**, present.

During the panel, participants shared deeply moving and insightful experiences: **Pablo Farías**, member of our Board of Directors, spoke about the current context of philanthropy in Mexico and Chiapas.

Alma Rosa Rojas (CEPAZDH) and **Sandra Lorea** (Hogar Comunitario Yach'il Antsetic) —both from organizations once funded by Amigos— shared real-life stories that show how support has truly impacted the lives of specific individuals. Thanks to this support, people now have access to opportunities, solidarity networks, and connections that can transform lives; not always economically, but through access to dignified ways of living.



Jesús Carmona, from ECOSUR, highlighted the importance of connections between academia and the social sector, and the value of transdisciplinary experiences in community-focused projects. In the second part of the forum, participants engaged in a group activity to identify the four key elements of Community Philanthropy in their projects: Talent, Time, Treasure, and Testimony. This reflection helped illustrate that economic resources are not the only essential factor, but that collective will, commitment, and collaboration among diverse actors are just as vital. In addition, a timeline illustrated with images showcased the most significant milestones and moments from these 20 years of community work.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us
on this very special and emotional day!

❖ 14th Anniversary of COMUNALIA

We are excited to look back and see how what began as a seed has grown into an alliance —Comunalia, **the Alliance of Community Foundations**— woven and blossoming from the territories through collective work, local commitment, and the trust built by our community foundations. Together, we are creating a rich and diverse ecosystem that Amigos de San Cristóbal is proud to be part of, where **impact is multiplied, and development emerges from the local level**. This journey has been possible thanks to those who believe in and advocate for a closer, more strategic, and transformative community philanthropy. We're lucky to be part of this collective, with so many shared causes and learnings. **Congratulations, Comunalia!**



❖ 15th Anniversary of Ch'ieltik A.C.

On September 19, we joined our partner organization **Ch'ieltik, A.C.** to celebrate its **15th Anniversary**. Various youth, members, and allies of the organization shared their experiences, some of growth, others of support, throughout these years. From here, we send them our warm **congratulations and our deep admiration** for the work they do with young people in communities and territories, mainly in the Selva and Los Altos regions of Chiapas, in municipalities like San Juan Cancuc, Chenalhó, and Las Margaritas.





Donate

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.

- 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).

For more information, contact us



967 678 3374



amigosdesc.org/membresias



**Become a powerful
change maker**

Fundación Comunitaria
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>



Other ways to donate:

If you live in the **U.S.** and would like to donate to Amigos de San Cristóbal's projects while receiving a tax deduction, you can do so through our fundraising allies:



ICF (International Community Foundation)

<https://icfdn.org/donate/?form=FUNLVZHDJSJ>



MEF (Maya Educational Foundation)

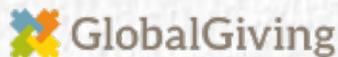
<https://mayaedufound.org/amigos-de-san-cristobal/>

They will ensure your donation is tax-deductible in the U.S.

You can also donate from Mexico or other countries through:



bit.ly/PayPalAmigosSC



bit.ly/Amigos45642

Your donation is more than money, it's the hope for a more just and sustainable future for hundreds of families.

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

Empresas amigas



Patrocinadores





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