



Safe Passage
Camino Seguro

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

A young girl with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a denim vest over a white long-sleeved shirt, is smiling and holding up a pink object. She has a name tag on her vest that says "Mel" next to a sun-like drawing.

**“TODAY
I LEARNED...”**



GUATEMALA OFFICE
 Calle del Hermano Pedro #4
 Antigua, Guatemala
 (502) 7832-8428

U.S. OFFICE
 81 Bridge Street, Suite 104
 Yarmouth, ME 04096
 (207) 846-1188

email: info@safepassage.org
www.safepassage.org

Safe Passage is a US-registered 501(c)(3) organization. Camino Seguro is a Guatemala-registered non-governmental organization. Within a safe and caring environment, hundreds of children participate in an integrated program that fosters optimism, good health, educational achievement, self-esteem, and confidence. Children and parents discover that, through their own efforts, they can move beyond poverty.



OUR MISSION | To empower the poorest, at-risk children of families working in the community of the Guatemala City Garbage Dump, by creating opportunities and fostering dignity and self-esteem through the power of education.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | RICHARD SCHMALTZ

DEAR FRIENDS OF SAFE PASSAGE,

You might expect that this letter from the Executive Director would reflect on the past year—2010. However, I ask your permission to break with expectation and instead share my observations of Safe Passage from my perspective as a seven-year volunteer, donor, and now in 2011, Executive Director.

In 2004, when we were first invited by late founder Hanley Denning to set up an early childhood program at Safe Passage, I wanted no part of working in Guatemala City’s Zone 3. I imagine I had much the same reaction that Hanley had in 1999, before she visited the garbage dump, before she began Safe Passage, before she committed her life to this work. I thought: The dump? That sounds terrible. Why would I want to go there?

Fortunately, my wife Susan dragged me kicking and screaming to visit the Program. I think I knew immediately after speaking with Hanley that Safe Passage was supposed to be our next educational project. The need was so obvious and Hanley’s philosophy was so in line with our aspirations for the poor of Guatemala. As long-term volunteers and donors since 2004, Susan and I have had such meaningful experiences being part of the growth of Safe Passage.

I want to assure you that as donors, volunteers, sponsors, and friends of Safe Passage, you could not be investing your time, talents, and financial support in a more worthwhile program. By sharing in the ongoing work of Hanley’s vision of a better life for the children and families living the barrios of the Guatemala City dump, you are changing lives on a daily basis.

RICHARD SCHMALTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

GET TO KNOW
RICHARD



Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Family: Wife Susan, three children

Safe Passage Supporter & Volunteer since 2004

“Education has been the major focus of my life. So, I not only feel education is a right, but I believe it’s a necessity for a better world. Along with education being a right, it also demands responsibility on the part of the individuals accessing that right. Quality education can make all the difference in a person’s life.”

Professional Background:

Teacher, principal, and administrator in private and public schools.

Co-Founder/Executive Director of *Oneness Canada* with wife Susan. *Oneness* is an NGO, initiated in 2003, to facilitate service to the poor of Guatemala and is guided by four principles of Simplicity, Equality, Service, and Ecumenism.

“TODAY I LEARNED...”

At Safe Passage—where education lights the path to opportunity, empowerment, and bright futures—learning happens at every turn. Just ask the children, parents, volunteers, staff, and donors who make up our community of lifelong learners. You’ll meet kids like Bryan, who practices his long division, to teachers like Douglas, who recognizes his job as a role model, to child sponsors like Al, who comes to Guatemala with a readiness to connect with others. They and others from our Safe Passage community will share with you, here in this Annual Report, the meaningful lessons that they have learned today.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010

OVER 100 FAMILIES

PARTICIPATED IN THE PILOT PHASE OF CRIANZA CON CARIÑO, or the Family Nurturing Program. Families attended a series of workshops with the goal of improving communication and parenting techniques, and thereby reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect in their homes. Through Crianza con Cariño, we see that change is in motion and the program is improving the family dynamics of participants. This year’s program has equipped parents with new skills, and we plan to expand the program in 2011.

“I started coming because I heard that this was a program for the entire family. It has helped me so much with my family, teaching me new parenting skills, reducing the stress of working and raising kids, and showing us all ways to interact in a more healthy manner. The kids love it, too, and they have learned a lot!”

ARACELI MONROY HERNANDEZ
FAMILY NURTURING PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



13 STUDENTS

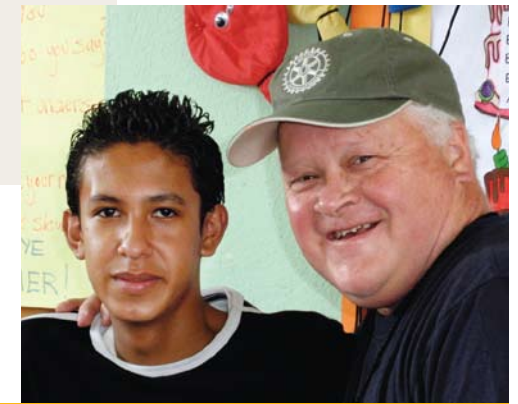
GRADUATED, including three teenagers from high school, as well as four fathers and six mothers from the Adult Literacy Program.

17 GIRLS

CELEBRATED THEIR QUINCEAÑERA (“Sweet 15”) with family and friends. These girls worked hard to earn this special celebration, which represents a coming of age in Guatemala and other Latin American countries. This has become an annual event, and we look forward to 2011’s July celebration.

STUDENTS’ PHOTOGRAPHY WAS FEATURED IN A GALLERY EXHIBIT in Antigua, outside of Guatemala City. This show celebrated their work and represented a great achievement for the community. On opening night, the artists and their families attended a gallery reception where Safe Passage’s guitar students provided the evening’s entertainment.

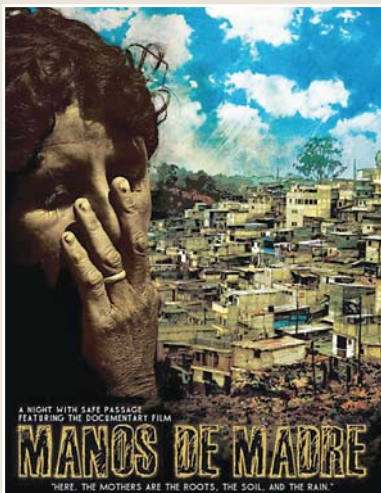
Approximately **1,500 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE** PARTICIPATED IN THE **ESPERANZA 5K RUN & WALK FUNDRAISER** in October 2010, in locations from Guatemala to the USA, to Holland and beyond. Events are scheduled for many of these locations again in 2011.



“TODAY I LEARNED...”

the more engaged the students are, the more they get out of the program. Play and interaction with the *Guardería* students [in the Early Childhood Center] makes for a happy and healthy learning environment. The programs encourage creativity through art, classroom activities, and interaction between the students and teacher. It inspires students to be the best they can be!”

AL FEATHER, CHILD SPONSOR & 3-TIME VOLUNTEER FROM FARMINGTON, MAINE



REQUEST A COPY OF **MANOS DE MADRE** (“MOTHER’S HANDS”) TO SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

This film introduces us to Safe Passage through Irina, an adult literacy student who is a single mother of five and grandmother of two. Obtain your DVD by contacting outreach@safepassage.org.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD | DEBORAH WALTERS



MUCH HAS BEEN LEARNED AT SAFE PASSAGE OVER THE PAST YEAR that builds on what has been learned in past years. We have learned that given the opportunity and access, children are so pleased to be able to go to school to pursue an education. We have learned that these children’s parents are eager to be students as well and to live the mantra, It’s never too late. We have learned that the care and attention given by a staff member, teacher, or volunteer can make all the difference to a child’s sense of self worth. We have learned that dreams for the future can become reality for students so that they find themselves studying in nursing school, pursuing a love of music, or developing their own jewelry business instead of scavenging in the Guatemala City garbage dump. And we have learned that hope, success, and beauty can outweigh desperation, pollution, and violence for our families.

Moving into 2011, with new leadership and vision under Executive Director Richard Schmaltz, we approach a time of transition and further learning. We will build on the past to find better and better ways to provide hope and opportunity through education. We will continue Safe Passage’s commitment to the children and families whose path to a brighter future lies in education and self empowerment.

Just as Safe Passage nurtures these children and families in Guatemala City, our program is nurtured by the committed donors who give with generosity and in spite of these trying times. Safe Passage’s supporters make it possible for us to turn dreams and aspirations into day after day of learning for hundreds of Guatemala’s most impoverished children and families.

With warm regards,
DEBORAH WALTERS, PRESIDENT; TROY, ME

“TODAY I LEARNED...”

I can help the students in more ways than just teaching computer skills. Many times students ask me questions about things they are studying or doing research on that have nothing to do with computer mechanics, but that I am happy to discuss with them.”

DOUGLAS CORDERO, COMPUTER TEACHER, FROM GUATEMALA



MOMS MAKING STRIDES

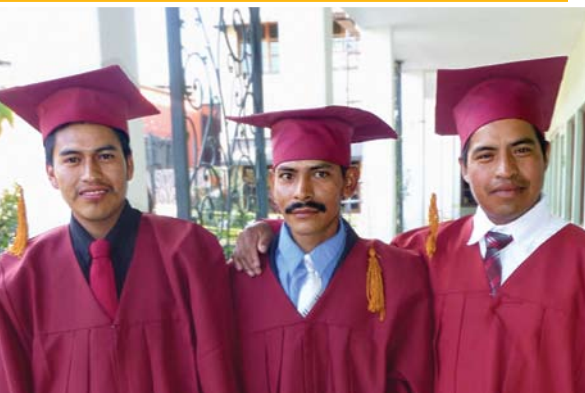
STARTING IN 2011, WOMEN IN THE ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM now have the opportunity to study with Safe Passage in pursuit of their ninth grade diploma. This is just one of the opportunities open to these students. Many of the women are skilled entrepreneurs, pursuing jobs and leadership roles through their participation in Safe Passage. For instance, what began as a volunteer-run training for mothers has now become an

independent and thriving jewelry business called CREAMOS. Most of the jewelry is made with paper beads created from recycled magazines, cereal boxes, and posters. CREAMOS is an application of the literacy and math skills learned in the classroom. We are proud to say that thanks to their earnings through the business, most CREAMOS members no longer have to be exposed to the dangers of working in the Guatemala City garbage dump. We look forward to the launch of another initiative this year: a sewing class in which instructors—all of whom are Safe Passage literacy graduates—will teach participants to make and mend clothing.

Host a “Hands Recycle Hope” Jewelry Party

You can support Safe Passage by hosting your own party to share CREAMOS’ handmade jewelry. You pick the date and the venue, and we’ll send all the materials you need to make it happen! Contact outreach@safepassage.org to request more information.

“**TODAY**
I LEARNED...



... the imperfect verb tense.”
CRUZ SOYOS

... divisibility of natural
numbers.” MANUEL CIFUENTES

... to collaborate.” LUIS IXCOY

MEN'S LITERACY PROGRAM GRADUATES

TREASURER | JOHN C. GUNDERSDORF

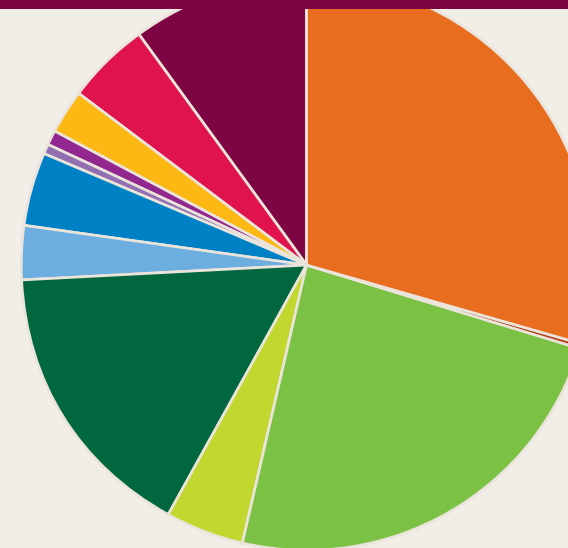
SINCE JOINING SAFE PASSAGE'S FINANCE COMMITTEE THREE YEARS AGO and more recently serving as its Treasurer, I, along with my fellow Committee members, have developed a deep appreciation for the challenges of managing this international organization. We must deal in two currencies while ensuring accountability at all levels. Guatemala is cash-based economy, meaning most of our transactions with vendors are made in cash. Language and cultural differences present still another set of challenges. Yet despite these barriers, Safe Passage continues to be a well-managed organization, with a strong balance sheet, excellent accounting system, and a productive team of staff and volunteers. Our special thanks to our Finance Director, Marc Wuthrich, who is based in Guatemala, and our Controller, Barbara Davis, based in the US, and their behind-the-scenes work. Thanks to the Finance Committee who, as volunteers, bring numerous special skills. And thanks to our senior staff in Guatemala, most of whom are Guatemalan, who work with our Finance Committee as they plan and manage their activities.

Safe Passage is fiscally sound and operating in an accountable and transparent manner. Please visit the Safe Passage web site at www.safepassage.org to see our latest audits and read a more detailed Treasurer's Report.

JOHN C. GUNDERSDORF, TREASURER; PORTLAND, MAINE

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Charlie Gendron, Maureen Ghublikian, John Gundersdorf, Jim Highland, Rich Howe, Rachel Meyn Ugarte, Susanna Place, Deborah Walters

2010 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



SOURCES OF OPERATIONAL INCOME

- \$632,992** GENERAL DONATIONS
- 510,369** CHILD SPONSORS
- 348,561** GRANTS
- 211,865** GIFTS IN KIND
- 102,000** ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION
- 93,481** TEAM CONTRIBUTIONS
- 91,351** SPECIAL EVENTS
- 61,069** PROGRAM SPONSORS
- 51,892** CLASSROOM SPONSORS
- 17,374** SALE OF GOODS
- 13,815** MOTHER SPONSORS
- 5,737** TOUR REVENUE

Fiscal Year Change

As of July 1, 2010, Safe Passage changed the dates of its fiscal year. The FY 2010–11 figures below represent a preliminary report from July 1, 2010, through March 31, 2011. The comprehensive financial audit, conducted by MacDonald Page & Co. of Portland, ME, will be available on Safe Passage's website this summer.

BALANCE SHEET as of 12/31/2007, 12/31/2008, 12/31/2009, AND 3/31/2011

	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010–11
Cash on hand	211,112	350,562	417,229	541,864
Hanley Denning Fund	1,872,033	2,423,230	2,822,838	3,112,219
Property and Equipment	1,016,595	1,002,520	983,145	1,338,936
Pledge Receivables	473,625	149,669	118,068	174,042
Other Receivables	111,846	43,082	31,510	9,939
Current Liabilities	(85,067)	(89,927)	(144,300)	[131,430]
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,600,144	\$3,879,136	\$4,228,490	\$5,045,570

IN 2010, THE HANLEY DENNING FUND grew in value to \$3,112,219. In November 2010, the Fund paid out \$102,000 for Safe Passage's operation. In 2011, this payout value is projected to grow to \$118,000.

GUATEMALA IN 2010

“We had the opportunity to bring a positive diversion to this community, which has suffered much from Tropical Storm Agatha. We hope that during the time that we came together and enjoyed ourselves, we were able to serve the community and encourage them to continue; for they can always count on the support of many Guatemalans, as we put a grain of sand against the flood of much adversity.”

ANIBAL TZUNUX
SPORTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

TROPICAL STORM AGATHA and the eruption of the Pacaya volcano brought destruction and hardship to thousands of Guatemalans in June 2010. The homes of some Safe Passage families were damaged by the natural disasters. In the aftermath, the garbage dump was closed temporarily, preventing many people from doing their work as scavengers in the trash.

The outpouring of support from the Safe Passage community in reaction to the news from Guatemala was incredible. Not only did donors contribute more than \$25,000 to pledge their support to Safe Passage in the midst of Guatemala’s crisis, but the students and staff welcomed storm victims to the project and offered food, shelter, and activities to those most affected.



CARLOS is a teenager who has discovered a passion for break dancing, an activity that allows him to express his “tough” side while also taking on a leadership role at Safe Passage. In 2010, he joined other Safe Passage youth leaders for an activity day in San Miguel Escobar, a community struggling in the wake of Tropical Storm Agatha.



“TODAY I LEARNED...

... many principles and values, like *Respect*. And I learned to value what I have.”
YOSELIN KARINA GASPAR TZALAM, AGE 15

JUDY IS FROM EAST BOOTHBAY, MAINE.
INGRID IS FROM GUATEMALA AND STUDIES THROUGH SAFE PASSAGE.

DURING JUDY’S FIRST VISIT TO SAFE PASSAGE she says she “was so moved by the experience that I immediately wanted to help. I wanted to have a personal relationship with one of their children.” She sponsored Ingrid.

A STORY OF CHANGE...

FIVE YEARS LATER...

INGRID HAS CHANGED: “I could never forget the first day I met my sponsor. She is a role model for my life: how to live, how to share, how to respect, how to value oneself. She has helped me by giving me advice, supporting me, especially in school. She always wants to see my grades!”

JUDY HAS CHANGED: “I am forever changed by knowing and loving Ingrid and her family. My way of looking at the world is now different. I am much more compassionate. I have much more respect. Ingrid, her grandmother Miriam, and Safe Passage did that for me.”

“TODAY I LEARNED...

the Mayan numeric system from my students!”
JILLIAN BALL, AGE 30, FROM VANCOUVER, CANADA

CHANGE. AND BE CHANGED.



SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

BECOME ONE OF 100 NEW SPONSORS BY JUNE 30, 2011

Join this network of change, and impact the life of a child—and your own. Visit www.safepassage.org/sponsor to learn more.

TO THE
794 CHILD SPONSORS,
16 MOTHER SPONSORS,
42 CLASSROOM SPONSORS &
151 SAFE PASSAGE PARTNERS.

TO THE TEACHERS, WHO PROVIDE SAFE, NURTURING, STABLE ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH OUR STUDENTS CAN LEARN.

To the **ADMINISTRATORS & STAFF**, who manage and implement the programs and services that bring children closer to achieving their dreams.

To the **3,771** **DONORS**, who demonstrate their support for this program by making gifts that keep us strong.

To the **SOCIAL WORKERS**, who bridge the space between our program and the community.

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!



To the **FRIENDS GROUPS** and **SUPPORTERS**, who face the world as international ambassadors for our program.

THANK YOU!

To **THE SPONSORS**, who change others and are changed themselves through the connections they make with the children, mothers, and classrooms at Safe Passage.

To **HANLEY DENNING**, who inspires us to continue striving for hope, education, and opportunity for Guatemala City's garbage dump community.

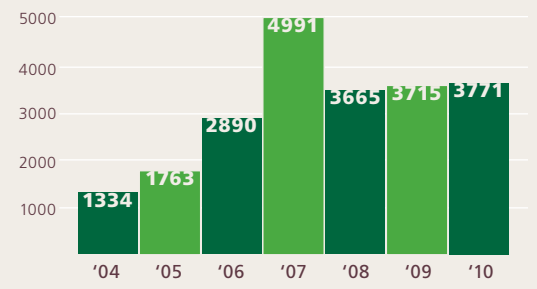
To the **LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS** and **244 SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS** from **25 TEAMS** who become friends and mentors to our students as they share their time and talents in Guatemala City.

To the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, who offer guidance, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to our mission.

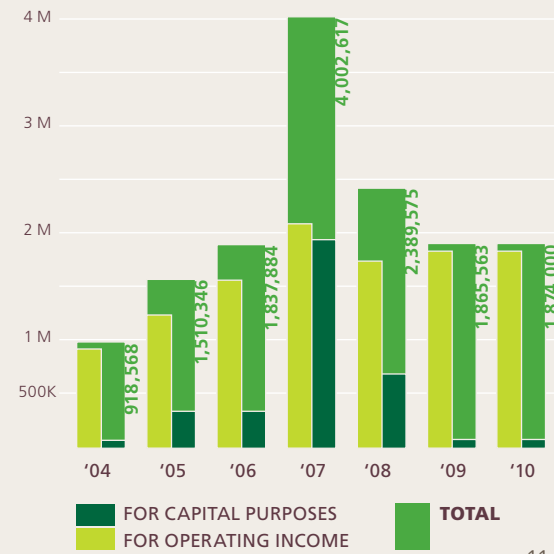
To the **235 VOLUNTEERS** and **1,510 VISITORS** stepping through Safe Passage's doors.

To the **SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS,** and **SERVICE GROUPS**, who infuse their efforts on our behalf with endless creativity, selflessness, and enthusiasm.

NUMBER OF DONORS 2004-2010



INCOME 2004-2010



VOLUNTEER WITH US IN GUATEMALA

VOLUNTEERS WORK ALONGSIDE OUR GUATEMALAN STAFF to provide the educational and emotional support necessary for the children in our project to break free from their surrounding poverty. Whatever your background or talents, you can find a way to bring joy to the children at the program. Positions are available for a variety of interests and trip lengths. Visit www.safepassage.org/volunteer.

SUPPORT TEAMS ARE GROUPS OF UP TO 12 PEOPLE who volunteer at Safe Passage for a week of service, learning, and making connections. You can form your own group or join one of our special Support Teams—for Child Sponsors, Mother/Daughter Pairs, or Families of Guatemalan Children. Visit www.safepassage.org/teams.



**“TODAY
I LEARNED...**

... how to multiply by four-digit numbers and how to do long division for five-digit numbers.”

WITH A LITTLE PROMPTING FROM A VOLUNTEER, WHO ENCOURAGED HIM TO THINK BIG-PICTURE, BRYAN ADDED:

“I learned how to respect everyone.”

BRYAN RIOS, AGE 10, 4TH GRADE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susanna Place, Vice Chair – Milton, Massachusetts

John Gundersdorf, Treasurer – Portland, Maine

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Rachel Meyn Ugarte – Washington, DC

Juan Mini – Guatemala

SAFE PASSAGE THANKS THE FOLLOWING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS REPORT:

Karen Bolmer, Emily Coffin, Z-Z Cowen, Dave Holman, Barbara Davis, John Gundersdorf, Emily Bray Levine, Elizabeth Love, Madeline Nordholm, Richard Schmaltz, Gabriel Tobias, Deborah Walters, Marc Wuthrich, and others.

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Safe Passage
Camino Seguro

WAYS TO GIVE | Your gift to Safe Passage makes a meaningful difference.

DONATIONS SUPPORT OPERATING EXPENSES, including school fees, books, and supplies; food for every child; literacy classes for parents; physical education for every child; medical care for families; and books for our library. Please make gifts via credit card using our secure online system at www.safepassage.org, or mail checks to the US office at the address below.

CHILD SPONSORS PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT to put each child through school. There are also mothers and classrooms in need of sponsors. Contact sponsorship@safepassage.org to learn more.

PLANNED GIVING

A gift to Safe Passage is a wonderful legacy. Please consider remembering Safe Passage in your will. Contact director@safepassage.org to learn more.

**CONTACT
US**

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