

Safe Passage
Camino Seguro

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



HOPE. EDUCATION. OPPORTUNITY.

“...relentless and disciplined giving to others. Isn't that exactly what makes any one of us feel beautiful and alive?”

– MONIQUE JAMINE, LONG-TERM SAFE PASSAGE VOLUNTEER



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Calle del Hermano Pedro #4

Antigua, Guatemala

(502) 7832-8428

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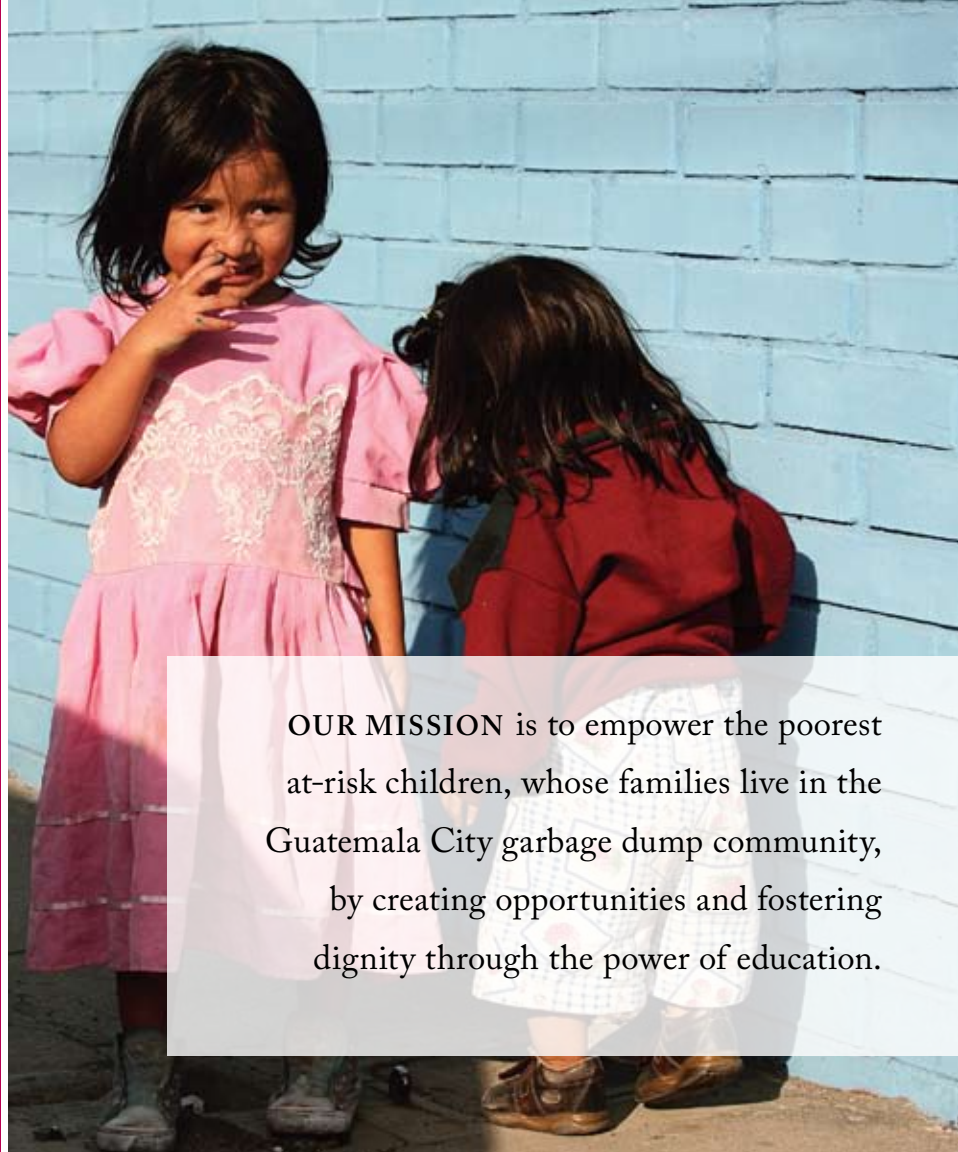
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OUR MISSION is to empower the poorest at-risk children, whose families live in the Guatemala City garbage dump community, by creating opportunities and fostering dignity through the power of education.

REFLECTIONS ON 2008



FROM BARBARA NIJHUIS
Executive Director

DEAR FRIENDS OF SAFE PASSAGE,

Never in my life have I felt time passing by so quickly as in 2008; much has happened and there was so much to do! Thanks to our dedicated Guatemalan and International staff and volunteers and thanks to you, our friends and generous donors, we were able—in the midst of one of Guatemala’s most depressing and poorest neighbourhoods—to offer a safe place, hope, and opportunities for almost 500 children to go to school and to believe in themselves...

I invite you to be inspired by reading this Annual Report and to continue being such an important part of Safe Passage. We hope to welcome you one day soon in Guatemala!

Con cariño,
Barbara



THANKS TO YOU,
we were able to offer
a safe place, hope,
and opportunities for
almost 500 children
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PROFILES OF SUCCESS

ALVARO ANTONIO DEL CID CHAMALE

When Alvaro was 14, he left school to work in the garbage dump, but after meeting Hanley Denning in 2004, he enrolled in Safe Passage and returned to his studies. Today, he is twenty years old and studying for an advanced university degree in computer science and systems engineering. A tall, serious, and active young man, Alvaro is quick to smile and dreams of one day living near the ocean.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

FOUR STUDENTS GRADUATE from high school, and eight mothers earn their sixth-grade diplomas from the Adult Literacy Program. We are so proud of the twelve graduates and wish them success for the bright future that lies ahead.



THE ENGLISH PROGRAM EXPANDS so that each child at the Educational Reinforcement Center spends 30 minutes learning English each weekday.



More than 160 **CHILDREN TAKE SWIM LESSONS**, thanks to the support of Guatemala City United Way, and six of these children are invited to train with the Federación Guatemalteca de Natación's prestigious water polo team.

The Safe Passage community welcomes **247 NEW CHILD SPONSORS**, who bring our children new sources of confidence and loving support from afar.

Safe Passage's team includes **124 SHORT- AND LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS**, who hail from 14 countries, including 22 US states.



THE SILLAS DE ESPERANZA (“Chairs of Hope”) painted by Safe Passage children find homes around the world.

Thanks to the Texas-based group Shared Beat, **ALL CHILDREN AT SAFE PASSAGE HAVE MEDICAL RECORDS**. These files show that our Nutrition Program is working: every child has achieved a healthy height-to-weight ratio.



TEACHER PROFILE Eli Lopez Gomez

AT SAFE PASSAGE, Eli teaches 5to and 2do Primaria, equivalent to third and sixth grades. Eli aims to win the trust of each child, recognizing that he can be a teacher and also a friend. He lost his own father when he was a boy, which helped him understand the significance of male role models for children at Safe Passage. He reaches out to the kids through music, seeing that singing or playing guitar cuts

through anger and builds self-esteem. A proud moment for Eli happened when one student's father passed away, and that child's classmates suggested singing a song to help heal the pain of his loss. Eli is committed to ending the stigmatization of indigenous, impoverished children in Guatemala and is proud to be teaching at Safe Passage.

STAFF

THESE
GUATEMALAN
SENIOR STAFF
members move
Safe Passage toward
Hanley Denning's
vision with an added
level of expertise
and strength.



THREE NEW SENIOR MANAGERS

SAFE PASSAGE IS THRILLED TO INTRODUCE three new members of our senior staff in Guatemala! Sully Santos de Uclés, Virginia Quiñonez de Ordoñez (“Vicky”), and Alfredo Sagastume are all Guatemalans with impressive credentials who have brought their expertise and energy to their new positions. Sully, the Director of Programs, has experience in the fields of psychology, language therapy and education, with previous roles as the Advisor of Social Programs of Guatemala’s First Lady and as the country’s Subsecretary of State for Childhood Issues. Vicky, Director of Social Development, studied psychology with a focus on child development and also worked with major NGOs implementing USAID food security programs in Guatemala. Alfredo, Director of Operations, has studied both business and engineering and is knowledgeable in the construction business.

Board member Margaret Downing noted that the new directors’ accomplishments have brought “an added level of expertise and strength.” When Hanley Denning founded Safe Passage in 1999, she envisioned a program in which the garbage dump community would be assisted by a staff of native Guatemalans. In 2009, as Safe Passage celebrates its first ten years, it is wonderful to know that her vision is approaching reality.

GUIDANCE

SAFE PASSAGE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sharon Workman, Chair—Cedar, MI
Deborah Walters, Vice Chair—Troy, ME
Chip Griffin, Secretary—Boothbay Hbr., ME
Susanna Place, Treasurer—Milton, MA
Jacob Carter—Boston, MA
Drew Casertano—Millbrook, NY
Jordan Denning—Yarmouth, ME
Margaret Downing—Yarmouth, ME

Sandra de Gonzalez—Guatemala
John Gundersdorf—Portland, ME
Richard Howe—Milton, MA
Liz Incze—Cumberland, ME
Leslie Iwerks—Santa Monica, CA
Arnie Katz—Durham, NC
Rachel Meyn—Sonoma, CA
Juan Mini—Guatemala



TEACHER PROFILE **Mirian Esquivel**

EVEN THOUGH MIRIAN graduated from Safe Passage's Women's Literacy Program in 2006, hers is a familiar face in the program today. She continues to participate—as a full-time salaried teacher. In Mirian's free time on the weekends, she pursues a degree in computer technology to build upon the education she obtained at Safe Passage. Mirian is not a parent herself, but she has inspired those in her family to pursue an education: Mirian's mother studies in the Women's Literacy Program.

ONGOING NEED



PROFILES OF SUCCESS

CAROLINA HERNANDEZ

Carolina is a single mother of three who participates in the Women's Literacy Program, in addition to working in the garbage dump. In 2008, she graduated from the Program with a sixth-grade diploma. She is the recipient of a nursing scholarship from the Texas-based medical group Shared Beat, and volunteers in the medical clinic at Safe Passage. Recently, she recorded the height and weight of her daughter to update the clinic's medical records.



IN GUATEMALA, 2008 WAS A YEAR of increasing violence, crime, and poverty. Gang activity and rising costs of food, among other national issues, make safety a top concern for locals and visitors alike.

In late June, heavy rainfall caused a landslide in the dump, killing several adults and children. At Christmastime, a fire in the neighborhood near our Guardería destroyed nearly 30 homes, including 13 belonging to Safe Passage families. As we celebrate the successes of 2008, we also remember the challenges, hardships, and dangers that these families face daily. We are proud that in these times of crisis, the Safe Passage community of families, staff, and volunteers work together to ensure everyone's safety. Safe Passage has joined relief efforts, coordinating with local emergency response groups and distributing food and building materials to affected families.

PHILANTHROPY

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! THANK YOU!

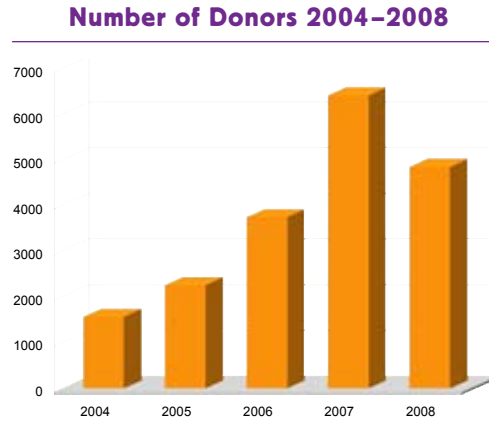
To the teachers, social workers, administrators and staff, whose daily care for our children is the key to their success;

to the Friends Groups and volunteers around the world, who undertake impressive projects with grace and determination on behalf of Safe Passage;

to the nearly 5,000 donors, whose generosity keeps the Safe Passage program a reality;

to the 60 “Amigos por siempre,” whose gifts of \$5,000 or more are central to Safe Passage’s continuing operation;

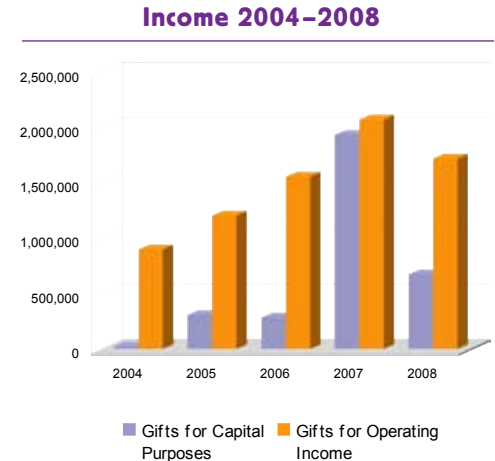
to the 752 Child Sponsors, 39 Classroom Partners and 180 Safe Passage Partners, who have developed committed and personal relationships with Safe Passage’s children and programs;



to Dr. Lisa Belisle and all the contributors to *Our Daily Tread*, whose quotes, essays and artwork inspire us each day of the year;

to the long-term volunteers, who give of themselves month after month for the benefit of more than 300 families;

to the Board of Directors, whose members are unconditionally giving of sound advice, personal time, and more;



to the 195 Support Team members, who visited Safe Passage and, in just a week, touched lives forever;

to the countless service clubs, churches, schools and other organizations for offering monetary and in-kind support in creative and selfless ways.



PROFILES OF SUCCESS

OLIVER UBALDO COGUOX GARCIA

Ubaldo is a five-year-old who spends his weekdays in Brenda's classroom at Safe Passage's Guarderia. Both of his two siblings and his mother come to Safe Passage as well. He loves going to the Music and Movement Program and is also learning English. He knows the names of fruits and vegetables in Spanish and English and can complete the puzzles in his classroom without any help!

FINANCIAL REPORT

FROM SUSANNA PLACE Treasurer

IN 2008, SAFE PASSAGE CONTINUED TO SEE STRONG DONOR SUPPORT, despite a weakening economy. The key goals for 2008 included: strengthening information and operating systems, improving staff professionalization, and continued program consolidation—essential to sustaining Safe Passage.

Strong donor relations, increased support team and volunteer visits, and active outreach yielded steady growth in revenues. With excellent counsel from our investment advisors at UBS, our endowment funds were invested in cash throughout the market downturn. In mid-December at a low point in the market, Safe Passage's endowment of over \$2,000,000 was invested in a balanced and diversified portfolio.

To reduce expenditures, we improved staff productivity and rigorously monitored expenses. Effective collaborations with other Guatemalan organizations in 2008 helped to reduce project scope and expenditures.

Despite the challenging economic conditions, the organization's financial position was strengthened in 2008. To prepare for continued economic recession, the 2009 budget projects no increases in overall spending levels. I urge you to review a detailed report, audited financial statements and our 990 tax returns on the Safe Passage website (www.safepassage.org).

2008 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income and Expenses (Cash)

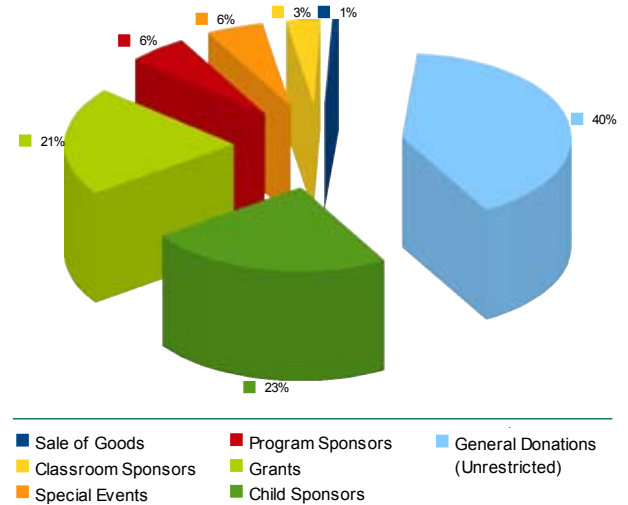
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Contributions	\$ 1,728,783	Programs and Operations	\$ 1,824,303
Other Income (net)	\$ 65,626	Transferred to the Denning Fund	\$ 351,308
Hanley Denning Fund Gifts	\$ 351,308		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,145,717	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,175,611

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2007, and December 31, 2008

	FY 2007	FY 2008
Cash on hand	\$ 211,112	\$ 350,562
Hanley Denning Fund	\$ 1,872,033	\$ 2,423,230
Property and Equipment	\$ 1,016,595	\$ 1,005,439
Pledge Receivables	\$ 473,625	\$ 149,669
Other Receivables	\$ 111,846	\$ 43,082
Current Liabilities	\$ (85,067)	\$ (89,927)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,600,144	\$ 3,882,055

These figures represent a preliminary report of Safe Passage's 2008 Fiscal Year. The complete financial report, conducted by the firm of MacDonald Page & Co., is available on Safe Passage's website as of June, 2009.

Sources of Operational Income, 2008



Important Financial Measurements, 2008

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD
as a percent of total operating expenses: **16%**

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
as a percent of total raised in 2008: **13%**



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

FROM SHARON WORKMAN Chair of the Board of Directors

DEAR FRIENDS,

Our work together in 2008 provided hope and opportunity to Guatemala's most impoverished children and families. We've built an extraordinary team of staff and volunteers, enhanced our facilities, created new programs, and strengthened our financial base. But our achievements are most powerfully reflected in the smiling faces and improved health of the over 500 children we serve, and in the growing involvement of parents and grandparents in adult literacy and other educational programs.

Ten years ago, Hanley Denning dared to imagine a better life for children and families recycling trash in the garbage dump's toxic environment. In 2009, we'll celebrate the 10th anniversary of this remarkable organization, recognizing that the generosity and commitment of caring people like you allowed this dream to flourish.

There are many challenges ahead as we expand efforts to bring opportunities through education to children whose families are trapped in grinding cycles of poverty. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you for the part you played in making Safe Passage what it is today and for standing beside us as we begin another decade of safe passages.

With warm regards,
Sharon Workman, President

“Live with joy. Live deliberately. Share what you have, and who you are, with others.”

*– LISA BELISLE,
EDITOR,
OUR DAILY TREAD*

LOOKING INTO 2009



MARTA GOMEZ, the Latin American singer-songwriter with an international fan base, will perform a series of benefit concerts to celebrate Safe Passage's 10-year anniversary. Marta will write a song to fit the anniversary theme, "Imagine... another decade of Safe Passages." Visit www.safepassage.org to learn more about event dates, locations, and how you can celebrate with us.



THE ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM will expand, adding separate classes for a group of fathers who are learning to read and write. The classes will be taught by Guatemalan volunteers.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PLAY AND GAME, the new sports program focusing on leadership development, will use break dance, lacrosse, martial arts, soccer, and other sports to strengthen students as peer leaders and teach skills for healthy living, self-esteem, and teamwork.

Physical education classes will be held in the newly-constructed gymnasium, thanks to the support of the Dutch Embassy and the Juan Bautista Gutiérrez Foundation.

THE PEACE PROGRAM, now through its first successful year, will broaden its reach. The Social Development Department will train teachers at both the Educational Reinforcement Center (the Yellow Building) and the Early Childhood Development Center (the Guarderia) to implement monthly values, including Peace, Friendship, and Responsibility, into all types of programming.

SAFE PASSAGE WILL DISPLAY ITS NEW LOOK, thanks to The VIA Group. To access and download our new materials, go to www.safepassage.org. We invite you to print and share these in your community.



PROFILES OF SUCCESS

CREAMOS COOPERATIVE

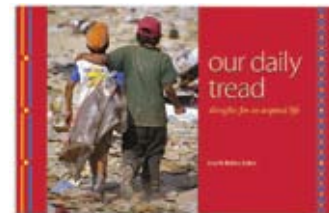
Twenty-six mothers in the Adult Literacy Program established the CREAMOS (meaning “We create” and “Let’s believe” and standing for “Recycled Creations Made with Hope and Love by Organized Mothers in Solidarity”) cooperative to market beaded jewelry they create from recycled magazines. CREAMOS has a President, Vice President and members designated to run group meetings and manage business transactions.

SUPPORT SAFE PASSAGE WITH THESE SPECIAL ITEMS

THESE ITEMS MAKE WONDERFUL GIFTS for family or friends, or for your own personal use, and proceeds benefit Safe Passage’s programs.

Our Daily Tread

This book, created by Dr. Lisa M. Belisle and friends, honors the late Hanley Denning, founder of Safe Passage. Personal essays, photographs, and children’s artwork frame daily quotes on hope, courage, opportunity and gratitude, celebrating Safe Passage’s mission and Hanley’s vision. Soft cover, 445 pages. \$24.95. Order at www.dailytread.com.



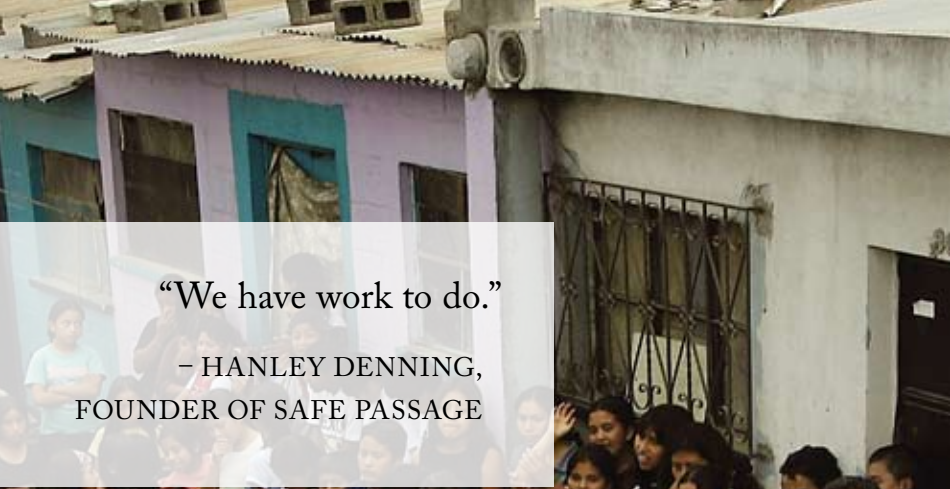
The Notecard Project

Two mother-daughter pairs use artwork from the children at Safe Passage to create beautiful notecards. Each set of blank cards contains eight different images and envelopes. \$15 per set. To order, call (207) 846-1188 or email karenbolmer@safepassage.org.

Recycled Jewelry

This beaded jewelry is created by hand from recycled magazine pages by mothers in the Adult Literacy Program. Each has designed her own earrings, necklaces, and bracelets. Prices range from \$10 to \$20. Call (207) 846-1188 or email outreach@safepassage.org to find out more.





“We have work to do.”

– HANLEY DENNING,
FOUNDER OF SAFE PASSAGE



SAFE PASSAGE THANKS

Thanks to the following staff and volunteers for their contributions to this report: Karen Bolmer, Stevie Colburn, Z-Z Cowen, Marielos Cuyun, Barbara Davis, Rachel Farahbakhsh, Stephanie Glad, Karen Gonzalez, John Gundersdorf, Lisa Jensen, Jennifer Klumas and her design team at The VIA Group, Amilcar de Leon, Liz Love, Jeniffer Marin, Rachel Meyn, Barbara Nijhuis, Susanna Place, Betsy Upham, Hanneke Velthuisen, Sharon Workman, and others. The photographs were taken by Daniel Davis, Kenna Klosterman, and others. Quotes come from *Our Daily Tread*, edited by Dr. Lisa Belisle. Arielle Walrath provided graphic design and Steve Darnley of Tugboat Creative coordinated printing on recycled paper by Atkins Printing of Waterville, Maine.



“Safe Passage ... has been and always will be a constant reminder for me to appreciate every moment and be grateful for even the simplest of things.”

– AMINA LACOUR,
SAFE PASSAGE SUPPORTER



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