



Safe Passage  
Camino Seguro



ANNUAL REPORT | 2013



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.

email: [info@safepassage.org](mailto:info@safepassage.org)

[www.safepassage.org](http://www.safepassage.org)



HOPE.

EDUCATION.

OPPORTUNITY.

**COMMUNITY PROFILE<sup>1</sup>**

**1 in 3 adults surveyed never attended school. Of those that did attend school, 50% studied until 4th grade. No Safe Passage parent has ever attended university.**

**80% of Safe Passage families are led by single women (mothers, aunts or grandmothers).**

**Average income is \$0.50 per person, per day. This is more than two times lower than the World Bank's definition of extreme poverty – living on \$1.25 per day.**

**On average, families have 6 members in a home, sharing 1 or 2 single beds.**

<sup>1</sup> We surveyed 91% of Safe Passage families during our community census in January 2013.

# ENGAGE

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ENGAGE?**

At Safe Passage, we challenge every one of our students to be an engaged learner. This means actively participating in classroom and community, thinking critically about big ideas, and taking the lead in their own education. As we support them, their examples inspire us to consider what it means to engage – fully, equitably, and meaningfully – in our own lives.

**THE SAFE PASSAGE IMPACT**

**5x**

Families with Safe Passage graduates earn nearly 5 times more than families without graduates

**60**

Since 2006, 60 Safe Passage parents have earned degrees in our Adult Literacy Program

**6**

Six Safe Passage graduates are currently enrolled in university

**70%**

Women participating in CREAMOS, an initiative of our Social Entrepreneurship Program, earn 70% more than when they were working in the dump

**40**

Forty Safe Passage high school graduates since 2007



In 1999, Safe Passage Founder, Hanley Denning, met the children and families living around the Guatemala City garbage dump, and her life was forever changed. She vowed to empower students and families through education, often saying, "We have work to do." As we improve and expand our programs, Hanley's passion, commitment, and dream live on.



 Safe Passage teachers utilize the accredited Planting Seeds methodology, which invites students to participate in interactive lessons, learning how to work on their own as well as with their peers.

## ENGAGING IN LEARNING

January 2013 was a momentous month as we launched our first ever, 1st grade! After graduating from our **Fran Doonan Walter Early Childhood Education Center** (lovingly called the *Escuelita*) in the fall, some of our youngest students returned to Safe Passage this year as 1st grade students. While Safe Passage has historically provided educational reinforcement for half the day, with students attending local public schools for the other half, this year marked a significant shift for our 40 first graders.

These little ones now attend our full-day 1st grade, which is registered with the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. We are adding 2nd grade in 2014 and plan to add an additional grade every year. Under the Planting Seeds methodology, students learn through independent and cooperative play. Over 130 children, ages two through seven, participate in our full-day program. Students receive an education, nutritious meals, and healthcare, preparing them for a bright future.

“

*The attention that our students receive here is holistic. Remaining with Safe Passage as 1st and 2nd grade students gives continuity to the foundation which started when they began our program as two and three year olds. For us, it means finishing the job that we started. You can see their growth in the way they carry themselves, in their conduct, even in the way they speak.*

”

**Marta González** | Primary School Principal




## ENGAGING IN CRITICAL THINKING

Ubelia, a 6th grade student strolls through the doorway of Safe Passage's **Educational Reinforcement Center (CRE)**. She walks down the stairs, and slows as she passes the library. "*¡Qué fácil!*" or "Too easy!" she exclaims after considering the tough logic problem of the day posted by the Tutoring program. By working with students to improve their math and literacy skills, our tutors give students extra support and individualized attention. In 2013, our tutors gave one-on-one support to 125 students.

While many Guatemalan public schools emphasize repetition, memorization, and having the right answer, Safe Passage teachers and volunteers work together to create a new type of learner. By engaging our students in critical thinking, we hope to develop creative problem-solvers, lifelong learners, and successful community leaders. At the CRE, we encourage our 420 students to explore new ideas and diversify their skills

through our Creative Expression, Computer Literacy, Sports, Library, English, and Tutoring programs. On Saturdays, they line up for extracurricular clubs, including Breakdancing, Soccer, Urban Art, Ludiclub (clowning), and Biblioclub (reading and reasoning activities like chess). All activities are part of a comprehensive program that includes daily academic reinforcement, nutritious meals, and wellness support.


 Our Creative Expression program gives students a safe place to express themselves and discover new talents through art, music, theater, and dance.

## ENGAGING IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Our Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) expanded once again this past spring when we launched our new Sewing Initiative. A group of Safe Passage mothers inaugurated their new workspace in March and began a training program, learning to use 13 industrial-grade sewing machines provided by a generous donor. This program's vision is to serve as a business model and source of employment for the 25 women who are currently enrolled, with the potential to support up to 50 employees. The Sewing Initiative joins CREAMOS, a 27 woman jewelry business, and Family of Women, an entry-level economic opportunity program, as part of SEP. Serving Safe Passage's larger mission, SEP empowers parents to break the cycle of poverty through practical education, income-generating opportunities, and flexible and safe work conditions.

Together, the incredible women of SEP support 253 children!

 Through participation in our Social Entrepreneurship Program, mothers do more than increase their income – they develop new skills, gain confidence, and improve their overall well-being.

## ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

In May 2013, we organized elections for Safe Passage's first Parents Committee. The result was a group of 8 elected committee members, mothers and fathers of our students, from the Safe Passage community. Vinicio Chávez, Manager of Family & Community Services, explained that this group helps "bridge the gap" between Safe Passage and the community. The parents will serve for two years – representing family interests at Safe Passage and representing Safe Passage in the community.

All parents are encouraged to be part of the educational process through our monthly meetings, where they meet with staff about their children's progress and participate in workshops. Parents can also invest in their own personal development through Safe Passage's Adult Literacy, Social Entrepreneurship, and Family Nurturing Programs.



### OUR KEY PARTNERS

*Thank you to our partner organizations!*

**Planting Seeds** – teacher training & early childhood education curriculum

**Rotary International** – support teams & grants

**Shared Beat** – health & wellness programs



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(shown below L – R)

Drew Casertano, US  
 Susan Egmont, US  
 Margaret Downing - Secretary, US  
 Deborah Walters, US  
 Wayne Workman - Treasurer, US  
 Susan Attermeier, US  
 Xavier Andrade, Guatemala  
 John Gundersdorf, US  
 Richard Howe - President, US  
 Sandra De Gonzalez, Guatemala  
 Jacob Carter, US  
 Jordan Denning, US\*  
 Tania De Zedan, Guatemala\*  
 Juan Mini, Guatemala\*

\* not pictured

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Xavier Andrade  
 John Gundersdorf  
 Richard Howe  
 Maureen Ghublikian  
 Deborah Walters  
 Wayne Workman

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to the dedication of Richard Schmaltz and our excellent staff during the last fiscal year (2012-13), revenues and expenses were balanced at just over \$2,000,000. Safe Passage's Board, staff, and volunteers have worked hard to be good stewards of the funds provided by our many supporters.

The Finance Committee, all volunteers, provides oversight and guidance to the organization by meeting six times a year. The senior financial staff, Marc Wuthrich in Guatemala and Barbara Davis in Maine, lend strong accounting and budget management.

In 2012, we made a \$125,000 distribution from the Hanley Denning Fund to Safe Passage. This endowment fund was established six years ago and has grown by over 50% while augmenting our operating revenue through a consistent annual distribution.

With the exception of the endowment distribution, we depend on your generosity to meet our annual budget. We especially want to thank the thousands of donors, sponsors, and volunteers who make Safe Passage such a vibrant and effective organization. Our valued partners, including Planting Seeds, Rotary International and Shared Beat, contribute essential program resources. We are also deeply moved to see increasing contributions from our Guatemala-based supporters.

Full copies of our financial audits and our IRS 990 are available for your review on our website ([www.safepassage.org](http://www.safepassage.org)). We believe in full transparency, and thus, invite you to contact us with comments or questions.

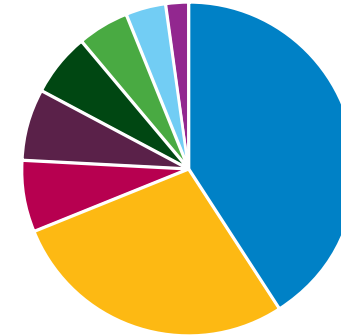
WAYNE WORKMAN, Treasurer



## 2012-2013 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

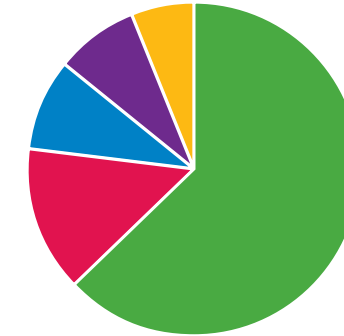
Data Reflects Figures From July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

### Sources of Operating Revenue



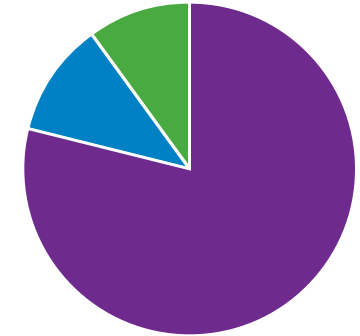
**41%** Annual Campaign    **28%** Sponsorship  
**7%** In-Kind                **7%** Endowment  
**6%** Grants                    **5%** Teams  
**4%** Events                    **2%** Other

### Program Breakdown



**63%** Education                **14%** Family Services  
**9%** Health                      **8%** Nutrition  
**6%** Adult Literacy & Social Entrepreneurship

### Use of Funds†



**81%** Program                 **11%** Fundraising  
**8%** Administration

### FY11 - FY13 Revenues & Expenses

	FY11	FY12	FY13
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,995,818	\$2,044,451	\$2,044,726
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,201,177	\$2,053,174	\$2,032,541

Data sourced from Audited Financial Report

† Data sourced from IRS 990

To review our complete Financial Statement and IRS 990, audited annually by Macdonald Page & Co., LLC of Portland, ME visit [www.safepassage.org/financials](http://www.safepassage.org/financials)

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR...

### SUPPORT TEAMS

Meet our amazing students and staff and spend a week growing and learning! In 2013, we hit record numbers with 33 teams sharing their skills and passions. Want to join us in 2014? **Email [teams@safepassage.org](mailto:teams@safepassage.org)**



### SPONSORS

Over 700 families have committed to sponsoring a child or mother. Sponsors sustain our program and provide hope. Will you give the gift of education? **Email [sponsorship@safepassage.org](mailto:sponsorship@safepassage.org)**



### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers bring energy, fun, and support to our classrooms. In 2013, 40 Guatemalan and 40 international volunteers worked alongside our staff to empower students.

If you have at least five weeks to give, consider joining us in Guatemala. **Email [volunteers@safepassage.org](mailto:volunteers@safepassage.org)**



### AMBASSADORS

Our 56 ambassadors are former volunteers and support team members spreading the word about Safe Passage worldwide.

Want to join? **<http://www.safepassage.org/ambassadors>**



### FRIENDS GROUPS

Friends Groups connect Safe Passage supporters in their local communities to raise awareness and funds. Consider joining one or starting your own. **Email [outreach@safepassage.org](mailto:outreach@safepassage.org)**



## HOW WILL YOU ENGAGE?

LEARN MORE AT  
<http://www.safepassage.org/take-action>

## ENGAGING IN EMPOWERING STUDENTS & FAMILIES

For the past three years, I have had the pleasure of serving as Safe Passage's Executive Director, helping to grow Hanley's dream for the children and families living in the Guatemala City garbage dump community. My wife, Susan, and I have a long history of supporting Safe Passage – we began working with Hanley as volunteers in 2004. Although 2014 marks the end of my time as Executive Director, we will continue participating as volunteers in the wonderful work that so many of you have been instrumental in sustaining.

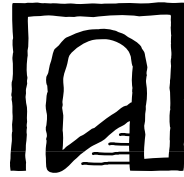
Witnessing the daily transformations of Safe Passage children and their parents, I have been inspired countless times. The dedication and commitment of our students and families, as well as our wonderful donors, staff, volunteers, and supporters never ceases to amaze me. I am confident that our new Executive Director, chosen by our Board of Directors, will continue to strengthen and expand Hanley's dream.

Thank you to the many Safe Passage supporters – old and new, for joining with us to empower the children and families through education. We pledge to stay engaged in 2014 and beyond, and we hope you will make the same commitment. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

RICHARD SCHMALTZ, Executive Director







# Safe Passage

## Camino Seguro

**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.

### WATCH OUR VIDEO ANNUAL REPORT

[www.safepassage.org/annual-report-video](http://www.safepassage.org/annual-report-video)




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