



Safe Passage
Camino Seguro

Annual Report 2015



Safe Passage is a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) organization. Camino Seguro is a Guatemala-registered non-governmental organization.

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HOPE.

EDUCATION.

OPPORTUNITY.

112 sponsors visited their student(s) in Guatemala

63% of English students tested scored higher in August than in February

90 minutes of reading time added per day

19 girls participated in our annual *quinceañera* event

29 Adult Literacy program graduates

100 people in our Family Nurturing program

Data collected from our 2015 fiscal year.

WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS WITH STORIES

AND OUR STORIES ARE ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES, AND PROGRESS.

Students, educators, donors, volunteers, and you—we are many individuals across the world that create one community. We learn together. We advance our mission together. We foster ideas and share experiences together. Together, we create the Safe Passage story.

WHERE WILL YOUR SAFE PASSAGE STORY BEGIN?



VISIT US



SPONSOR



VOLUNTEER



SUPPORT TEAM



PARTNER

The Safe Passage story began in 1999 when our founder, Hanley Denning, witnessed children and families working in the harsh conditions of the Guatemala City garbage dump. Determined to take action, Hanley sold her worldly possessions and opened the doors of Safe Passage.

What started in a small church across from the dump is a hub of education and activity today. Though she died in a car accident in 2007, Hanley's legacy lives on today in our hearts and through our progress.





We added over 2,000 new books to our remodeled library, and student reading scores are going up!

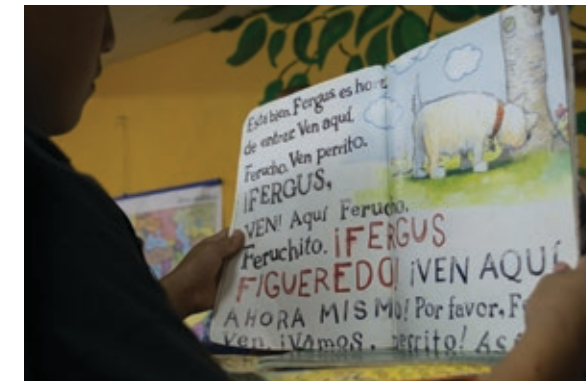
OLD LIBRARY, NEW BEGINNING

In the fall of 2014, long-term volunteer Sam saw potential in the current library. At the time, the original space was used for storage; the remaining space was re-purposed for multiple programs. Thanks to a great deal of support from some donors interested in supporting the library, Sam set to work transforming the space.

Months of cleaning, organizing, stocking, and planning have made the new library a sight to see. One highlight of the renovation is a new, and very successful, student lending program. At first, library patrons seemed intimidated by their new borrowing rights, but Sam's encouragement paid off. "Every day at 4:30 I have a rush of kids coming down to switch their books before going home," said Sam, "and at any given moment there are some 200 students with library books lent out." What's more, we added over 2,000 new books to our library this year to keep students engaged with a variety of genres.

To continue celebrating literacy, we've added 90 minutes of reading time each day. This translates into better reading scores for our students, which is exactly what recent tests are showing.

"With all of the collective knowledge of mankind accessible almost without cost, if a student has a high level of reading comprehension, they can learn almost anything they want to." —Sam, librarian



SMALL STEPS HAVE BIG IMPACT FOR OUR STUDENTS



RENEWING WOMEN: CREAMOS

Creamos, our social entrepreneurship program for mothers, continues to grow and is now an official association.

40 mothers participate in *Creamos* initiatives that utilize 99% recycled materials to handcraft unique items such as paper bead jewelry, and totes from fused and sewn plastic bags. Our mothers earn 65% more income through *Creamos* than they would through working in the City dump, a sure sign of success for our programs and our mothers.

In partnership with Safe Passage, *Creamos* mothers attend Adult Literacy classes accredited by the Guatemalan committee on adult literacy (CONALFA). Through the combination of Adult Literacy and *Creamos*, mothers have access to valuable training, practical education, and respect.

"When people see our creations, they are marveled by what we can do with what they believe is waste." —*Creamos mother*

Contact *Creamos* and marvel at their creations: creamosfuturos.com



INSPIRING OTHERS: MEET DANIEL

"I could say that I owe everything to Safe Passage. I would love to do something so big that it will inspire people to help others." —*Daniel, former student, current volunteer*

Before Daniel started attending Safe Passage, he was sure he wanted to be in a gang. "I always grew up with people like that," Daniel said, "but when I started to attend Safe Passage the teachers and volunteers showed me that with education and a little bit of hope you can reach incredible things."

Daniel's opportunity to attend Safe Passage, like so many of our students, gave him a new perspective on life. He used to think he was different from others, that he didn't belong.

Now, Daniel wants to enter a university and study movies, which he loves most. He wants to help the people of his community, even if he is not yet sure how to do it. Daniel wants to do something so big it will inspire people to help others.

Nine years ago a Safe Passage teacher told Daniel that 'life is a kaleidoscope, everyone has a different perspective.' When Daniel heard that phrase, it was the first time that he realized he is an integral part of his community—and the world.





"The way the kids interact with each other, teach each other and help each other is even more incredible than seeing their development as dancers." —Shannon, Preschool English and Family Nurturing instructor

MEET SHANNON If you've traveled to Guatemala to visit Safe Passage in the past 8 years, chances are you met Shannon. And, if you're especially lucky, you had the opportunity to witness Shannon's language through movement breakdance class (break) in action.

For Shannon, break is about more than just dance. It's about students coming together as a family to take their individual and group skills, commitment, and leadership to the next level.

This year, Shannon noticed a positive shift in commitment, especially with participants in the Family Nurturing program. "It was beyond difficult to get families involved initially," Shannon said. "Now that we have started part two, we have close to 100 people participating on Saturdays, including volunteers and staff."

As her programs grow, so do Shannon's students. "My favorite thing about Family Nurturing is seeing the friendships that develop between the kids, the parents and the whole family. They develop a support system, which is so important to have."

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

MEET GABY Gaby's love for children, education, and community development made it an easy decision to become a Safe Passage national volunteer. "The students that I worked with at Safe Passage taught me valuable lessons," Gaby said. "Lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life." Gaby shared these lessons with us: smile, bring love, give thanks, value humility, and appreciate family.

We asked Gaby about her favorite volunteering moment and she said, "Childhood is incredible. Safe Passage students laugh frequently, are insatiably curious, and remind me how special it is to be young, inquisitive, and courageous. Volunteering changed the way I live."

"Volunteering is one of the simplest ways I can contribute to my country, by making a difference in the life of a child." —Gaby, Guatemalan volunteer

Volunteering can change the way you live, too. Learn how by visiting safepassage.org/volunteer



SAY 'SÍ' TO SPONSORSHIP



Our sponsorship program started with fewer than 40 sponsors in 2000. Today, more than 470 children and mothers at Safe Passage have sponsors. This year, 64 new sponsors joined our growing community. Hanley's vision—and our goal—is to have a sponsor for each Safe Passage student.

You, too, can help us break the cycle of poverty by providing critical resources for comprehensive education, health and nutrition, school supplies, and extracurricular activities.

100% **student sponsorship** is possible! To learn which students need sponsors, contact our team at sponsorship@safepassage.org

“ These are my people. These are my children. This is my responsibility. ”

Valentino, Guatemala/Chicago

SPONSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

64

donors became new Safe Passage sponsors

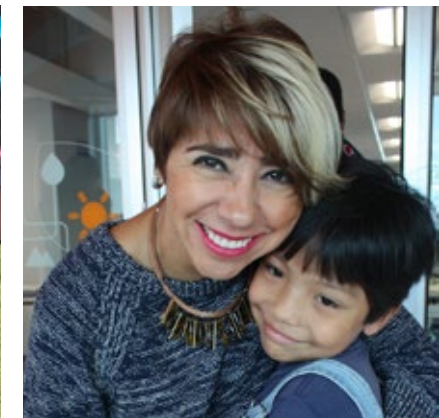
112

sponsors visited their student(s) in Guatemala

407

donors have been sponsors for 10+ years

“Having the opportunity to sponsor two children has inspired me so much and keeps me coming back to Guatemala to visit not only them, but the amazing friends and staff at Safe Passage that have built such an incredible community for their students.”
—Julia, Massachusetts



Our sponsors are from **16 different countries**. Sponsor a student and join our diverse community.

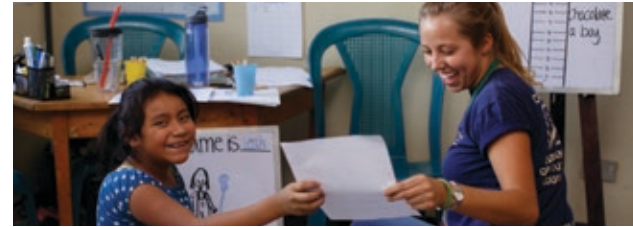


HEALTHY HABITS

Our **Health program** welcomed new staff this year and partnered with Shared Beat to teach classes to students, staff, and families about wellness topics including hand washing, dental hygiene, nutrition, family planning, and drug abuse.

ENGLISH STUDENTS SOAR

63% of **English** students ages 12-18 achieved higher test scores in August compared to scores from February. 10 students received a rating of 19 out of 20—the level of English required for bilingual employment in Guatemala.



ADULT LITERACY IS FOR FATHERS, TOO

8 fathers attend evening **Adult Literacy** classes facilitated by Guatemalan teachers and accredited by CONALFA (the Guatemalan committee on adult literacy). Adult Literacy offers classes in reading, writing, and computers at learning levels tailored for each student.

KAYAK TREK BACK ON TRACK

After emergency spinal surgery in January, grandmother Deb Walters' **Kayak for Safe Passage Kids Expedition** re-launched this fall to finish the journey from Maine to Guatemala. Monitor Deb's progress: safepassage.org/kayak



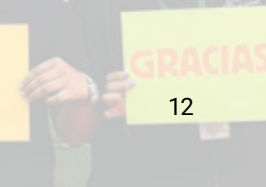
MUCHAS GRACIAS TO OUR

**LEADERSHIP EDUCATORS VISITORS SOCIAL WORKERS STAFF
SPONSORS DONORS PARTNERS AMBASSADORS VOLUNTEERS
SUPPORT TEAMS FRIENDS GROUPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

who manage and implement our programs, expand our networks, provide nurturing environments for our children to learn, create strong connections in our community, donate critical resources, mentor and befriend our students, share our story, guide our goals, and further our mission.

And, to **YOU**, for joining us as we continue Hanley's efforts to touch the lives of thousands in Guatemala and across the world. **Thank you.**

"Few of us can do great things, but all of us can do small things with great love." —Mother Teresa



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of June 30, 2015

Sandra de Gonzalez
President, Guatemala

Susan Egmont
Vice President, U.S.

Ray Tripp
Secretary, U.S.

Wayne Workman
Treasurer, U.S.

Xavier Andrade, Guatemala

Drew Casertano, U.S.

Jordan Denning, U.S.

Margaret Downing, U.S.

Richard Howe, U.S.

Juan Mini, Guatemala

Guillermo Montano, Guatemala

John Paterson, U.S.

Maureen Pennington de Riojas,
Guatemala

Deborah Walters, U.S.

Tania de Zedan, Guatemala

TREASURER'S REPORT

Along with my fellow Board members, it is my fiduciary responsibility, as Treasurer, to ensure the long-term financial health of Safe Passage. Last fiscal year was challenging for our organization.

On one hand, our generous donors contributed operating revenues totaling just over \$2M. On the other hand, our expenditure outpaced our revenue due in large part to strategic decisions to bolster our educational programs and grow our development program.

As stewards of your investment, we remain committed to providing quality, life-changing opportunities to the families of the City dump. Our ambition and vision is a bold one—tempered only by our ability to secure the necessary funds to realize Hanley’s dream. Our students deserve nothing less than that. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and Staff, thank you for your investment in Safe Passage and our students.

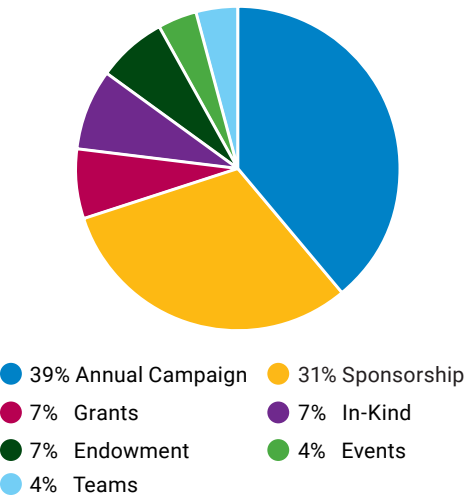
Respectfully Submitted,
—Wayne Workman, Treasurer

To review our complete Financial Statement and IRS 990, audited annually by Macdonald Page & Co., LLC of Portland, ME, visit safepassage.org/financials

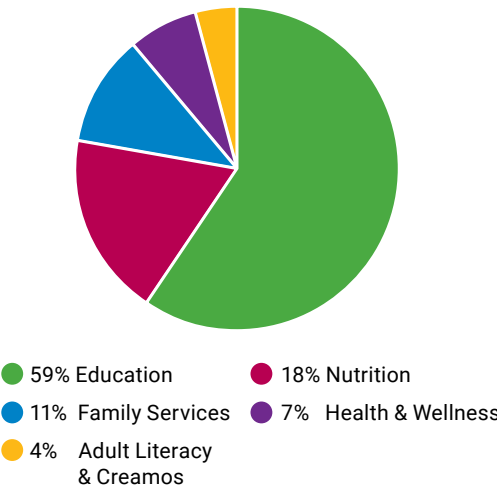
2014-2015 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Data reflects figures from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

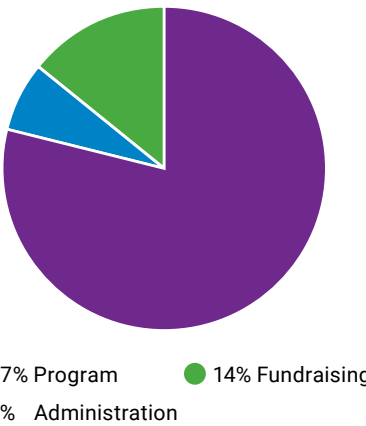
Sources of Operating Revenue



Program Breakdown



Use of Funds* †



*For operating purposes
† Data sourced from IRS 990

Our partners



Give with confidence



Photos featured in this report are courtesy of Safe Passage stock and Beth Price Photography



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.

www.safepassage.org