



Safe Passage  
Camino Seguro

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

17 YEARS OF PROGRESS



## 17 YEARS OF GREAT PROGRESS IN A PLACE OF GREAT POVERTY

More than 60,000 people live in extreme poverty around the Guatemala City garbage dump, one of the largest open landfills in all of Central America.

1 out of every 3 residents has never been to school. Overcrowded Guatemalan public schools offer only 4 hours of education each day. The average parent has only a 4th grade education. An average family of 6 lives on \$4 a day. **Safe Passage** helps these families.

**Our mission:** we empower the poorest, at-risk children of families in the Guatemala City garbage dump community by creating opportunities and fostering dignity through the power of education.







See photos of family events  
on our Facebook page.

## THE POWER OF PROGRESS

How do we define progress? At Safe Passage, progress can be as simple as showing up for school and participating in class.

I see progress in the eyes of the participants in our program. I see it in the faces of graduates who I met years ago as small children. I see it in the expansion of our program into a full-day school. And I see it in our community, as entire families are transformed by the power of education.

**You help us make great progress in a place of great poverty, and for that we are forever grateful.**

In this report, we'll share with you our progress this year, both big and small. I hope you celebrate our stories. I hope you feel empowered, uplifted, and inspired. And I hope you see how you are changing lives in Guatemala City.

**Thank you** for bringing hope, education, and opportunity to our community. **You make progress possible.**

With gratitude,  
Todd Amani, Executive Director



### HANLEY'S LEGACY

We're guided by the vision of our founder, Hanley Denning (1970-2007), who started Safe Passage with 40 students in 1999. Read Hanley's story and view our timeline on our website: [www.safepassage.org/history](http://www.safepassage.org/history)



## PROGRESS IS program growth

49

adult literacy  
program participants

13

alumni interning at  
Safe Passage

16

families participating  
in Family Nurturing

180

students took career  
orientation tests

40

graduates attended  
our first-ever job fair

### Program highlights this year:

#### Full-day education

As part of the expansion of our accredited school, we added two 4th grade classes, bringing our total number of full-day students to 248.

#### Preschool

Our youngest learners are improving literacy with activities that develop their visual and auditory skills.

#### English Program

New interactive activities keep students engaged and focused while learning with peers and teachers.

#### Library

Our lending library expanded to include grade 3. We now have more than 120 books borrowed at any one time!

#### Próximo Paso

We expanded our graduate program to provide students in grade 7 with career and vocational training.

#### Parent Programs

The Guatemalan Ministry of Education accredited our adult education program and schooling services.

#### Creemos Social Entrepreneurship

Creemos mothers are celebrating new jewelry lines, local partnerships, and professional development initiatives.

Expeditionary Learning (EL) is the teaching methodology we're using for grades 3 and up in our full-day school. EL focuses on hands-on, experiential learning through *expeditions* in the local community and beyond. EL's values fit well within our own school values and include respect, confidence, kindness, and responsibility.



ANDERSON, YOUNG COLLABORATOR



Young Collaborators (*Jovenes Colaboradores*) is an internship program at Safe Passage for former students and graduates.

"Hanley is my hero. She inspired me to move forward, and she still inspires me every day. Because of her, now I can have a better future." ANDERSON, YOUNG COLLABORATOR

Read student stories on our blog:  
[www.safepassage.org/stories](http://www.safepassage.org/stories)





## PROGRESS IS achieving great dreams

Samuel is the oldest of five siblings. He started attending Safe Passage in 2001, at the small church where Hanley started our program in 1999. Life at Safe Passage was vibrant, supportive, and safe.

At home, Samuel's world was turning upside down. Just one year after he started school, Samuel had to leave.

Samuel's parents had separated and his mother, who was the one encouraging his education, was no

longer living with Samuel and his siblings. After two years, his mother reached out and pleaded with Samuel to return to school.

As Samuel continued his studies, life at home continued to be difficult. Samuel's mother had been sick since he was very young, and she was progressively getting worse. As the oldest child, Samuel was in charge of the family but did not have the resources to buy the medicine his mother so desperately needed.

"I don't know how my life would be if Safe Passage didn't exist, but I do know what my life is with Safe Passage in it."

With no one else to turn to, Samuel asked Safe Passage for help. "I'm really grateful for what Safe Passage did for my mother. They gave me everything I needed, not just medicine, but also support and help from my social worker."

As his mother's condition worsened, Samuel spent the majority of his time at the hospital. No one else in the family could.

"My social worker would call to see how my mother was doing and helped with whatever was needed. It didn't matter what time it was, she was always there for me."

Sadly, Samuel's mother passed away.

Inspired by his mother's encouragement, Samuel is working hard to achieve her greatest dream: for Samuel to graduate from university.

Today, Samuel is a Young Collaborator intern (part of *Próximo Paso*) and is also working in the formal economy as an accounting assistant.

"For me, Safe Passage is everything. Literally everything. They have given me tools to develop myself as a professional and have been there for me and my family. I know there are kids who have stories like mine or even worse. I want to give back some of what Safe Passage has given me."

### Graduates at a Glance

As we expand into a full-day school, our goal is to increase the number of high school graduates and to better prepare graduates for employment.

**111**

Graduates  
since 2007

**63**

*Próximo Paso*  
participants

**13**

Young  
Collaborators

**26**

with jobs in the  
formal economy



## PROGRESS IS connecting with community

Our team of social workers (Family and Community Services) works hard to connect with and support our community members by listening to their stories and learning their needs.

"Social work is a way to get closer to people and to serve them, and I believe we have to serve the people who are most in need." BRENDA, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

At Safe Passage, we closely monitor student wellness because we know how much physical and mental health affects educational progress.

To start, students eat nourishing meals and receive medical care through our partner, Shared Beat, at

our on-site infirmary. When advanced care is required, our social workers accompany students and families to local health centers for treatment.

Social workers also visit the public schools which our students in grades 5 to 9 attend. Following student academic, emotional, and social progress at home, school, and in the community helps us gain a better understanding of the best ways to support each student. Focused attention keeps our students happy, healthy, and on track to graduate.

"Seeing satisfaction on the faces of the people we serve, and watching them overcome obstacles is just one of our greatest achievements."



Our team of 10 social workers and 4 psychologists give individualized support for all 550 students. At Safe Passage, we meet the needs of the whole child.

Students face challenges that can make staying in school feel impossible:

- Unstable family situations
- Pressure to contribute to the family income
- Under-qualified teachers at external public schools
- Unplanned pregnancy or unexpected health issues

We work tirelessly to help our students and families receive the support they need.



### SOCIAL WORKERS



See how we meet student needs:  
[www.safepassage.org/what-we-do](http://www.safepassage.org/what-we-do)





## NEW CENTER, NEW GROWTH

Thanks to the efforts of thousands of volunteers from Telus International, we built our new facilities in one day on a donated parcel of land! Then, volunteers from the Canadian Embassy planted greenery, PepsiCo volunteers added a fresh coat of paint, and staff painted a vibrant owl mural to prepare the space for our students.

This new space enables us to accommodate additional students, make better use of current buildings, and give our community a place to come together. Our progress is made possible by generous donations, partner organizations, and supporters like you!

**THREE**  
BUILDINGS

**1,500+**  
VOLUNTEERS

**ONE**  
DAY OF GIVING

Today, we all celebrate a great milestone, and there are no words to describe the impact that all of you are having in the life of this community.  
SANDRA AGUILAR DE GONZALEZ, BOARD PRESIDENT

”



Visit us in Guatemala City:  
[www.safepassage.org/visit](http://www.safepassage.org/visit)



## WHERE DO YOU SEE PROGRESS?

We asked our staff and volunteers to share their thoughts on progress at Safe Passage, and we couldn't agree more with what they had to say.



Parents studying because they want to show their kids that no matter the age you can overcome obstacles.

LORENA, ADULT LITERACY COORDINATOR

The most important thing is education. The only way we can change their futures is through education.

PABLO, PSYCHOLOGY



When I think of Safe Passage I see education and nurturing for those who need it the most.

ELIZABETH, VISITORS COORDINATOR

Students discovering abilities they didn't know they had.

YASMIN, GRADE 4 EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING TEACHER



The first thing that comes to mind is kids and youngsters running around the buildings, laughing.

ISABEL, MAINTENANCE



I see hope, I see joy. I see a lot of kids becoming great citizens.

SARA, TUTOR



See our progress in action:  
[www.safepassage.org/stories](http://www.safepassage.org/stories)



## TREASURER'S REPORT



This year we saw increased momentum as Safe Passage continues its ongoing transition into a full-day accredited school. Of our 550 students, 248 are now full-day. We expect that number to double in 5 years. This will require steady leadership from the Board of Directors and staff and increased philanthropy from our generous donors. I hope you are proud, as I am, to be involved with an organization that takes seriously its ability to manage increased program costs during this important transition. Our auditors also agree—issuing once again a clean, “unqualified” independent audit. Your generous support is a vote for the future of our students and families, thank you very much. WAYNE WORKMAN, TREASURER

### Board of Directors

As of June 30, 2016

President Sandra de Gonzales GT

Vice President Susan Egmont U.S.

Treasurer Wayne Workman U.S.

Secretary Ray Tripp U.S.

Ernesto Jose Viteri Arriola GT

Xavier Andrade GT

Drew Casertano U.S.

Jordan Denning U.S.

Margaret Downing U.S.

Juan Mini GT

Guillermo Montano GT

John Paterson U.S.

Maureen Pennington de Riojas GT

Ellen Meyer Shorb U.S.

Tania de Zedan GT

GT = Guatemala, U.S. = United States

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS\*

\*Data reflects figures from July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



#### Use of Funds†

- 78% Program
- 14% Fundraising
- 8% Administration

†For operating purposes.  
Data sourced from IRS 990.



#### Program Breakdown

- 64% Education
- 15% Nutrition
- 8% Family Services
- 7% Creamos & Adult Literacy
- 6% Health and Wellness

### PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



View our Financial Statement and IRS 990, audited annually by Macdonald Page & Co, LLC of Portland, Maine by visiting: [www.safepassage.org/financials](http://www.safepassage.org/financials)



### GUATEMALA Camino Seguro

6a. Avenida 11-95 Zona 7  
Colonia Landivar, Ciudad de Guatemala  
(502) 2440-4388  
[infoquate@safepassage.org](mailto:infoquate@safepassage.org)

### U.S. Safe Passage

81 Bridge Street, Suite 104  
Yarmouth, ME 04096  
(207) 846-1188  
[info@safepassage.org](mailto:info@safepassage.org)

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

Photos thanks to: Sarah Hammarlund, Matt Woolverton, Carlos Manuel Arreaga Rodas, Brian Gregory, and Lindsey Carpenter.



## PROGRESS made possible this year by:

### 228 SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

who spent one week of service learning while getting to know our students in person



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

who guide us with experience and insight that is rooted in our mission and vision.



### 687 CHILD, CLASSROOM, TEACHER AND MOTHER SPONSORS

who give encouragement and critical financial support to keep our programs running

### FRIENDS GROUPS AND AMBASSADORS

who spread the word in their communities around the world

### 3,046 DONORS WORLDWIDE

who give what they can to keep hope, education, and opportunity within reach for our children and families

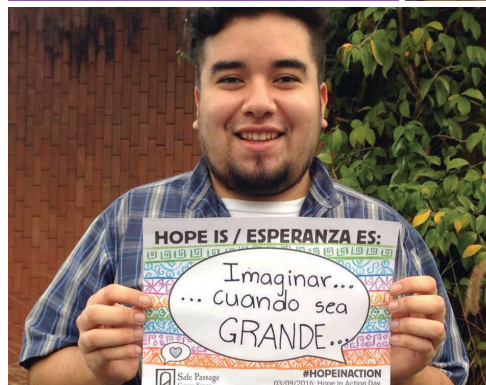
### SCHOOLS AND CLUBS

who fundraise and host events to raise awareness



### 390 VISITORS

who made a special trip to see what we do firsthand



### GUATEMALAN TEACHERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND STAFF

who dedicate their time to help all of our children and families reach great goals



### 325 VOLUNTEERS

who give time, energy and creativity to inspire our students each and every day

### SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU

who inspire us to increase our impact and expand our efforts in the Guatemala City garbage dump community

# GRACIAS

Join our efforts and make an impact today:  
[www.safepassage.org/take-action](http://www.safepassage.org/take-action)





Safe Passage  
Camino Seguro

HOPE  
EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITY



[WWW.SAFEPASSAGE.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEPASSAGE.ORG)