OUR TIMELINE:
TWO DECADES OF INSIGHT AND PERSERVERANCE IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

1999
Hanley Denning visits the Guatemala City garbage dump, compelling her to create Safe Passage to meet the educational and nutritional needs of at-risk children working in the dump.

2000-2001
Safe Passage becomes an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, inspiring donors, supporters, and volunteers from around the world.

2004
We open our Educational Reinforcement Center building (now the site of our Primary School) to provide after-school enrichment including a comprehensive tutoring and mentoring program.

2007
Hanley Denning dies in a tragic car accident. The Fran Doonan Walter Early Childhood Education Center opens.

2009
Health Clinic is expanded with our partner, Shared Beat. The University of Washington Peace Garden is inaugurated.

2012
The Board of Directors approves transition from a half-day reinforcement to a full-day school of our own. The Colegio Experimental Hanley Denning is certified by the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. A database office is added to track all organizational inputs and outcomes.

2013
Next Step Program (Próximo Paso) is created to assist high school graduates transition to internships, jobs, and opportunities for continued education.

2014
In preparation for future grade expansion, a new property ("Blue Building") is purchased close to our primary school. Creamos, our women’s social entrepreneurship program, becomes a registered business.

2015
The Expeditionary Learning culture and curriculum is formally selected as the guiding pedagogy for our primary and middle schools.

2016
The Multipurpose Center is built with volunteer and in-kind contributions as a facility for all part-time program activities, including after-school tutoring, the Next Step Program, Creamos, skills building workshops, and Saturday clubs.

2018
The Primary School is fully enrolled by adding 6th grade. A Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) pilot is successfully implemented in all primary grades. The school library expands to include bilingual books and on-line resources. A lot adjacent to the Primary School is acquired for a future playground and outdoor learning space.

2019
The Middle School is inaugurated with our first class of 7th graders. Site preparation and construction begin on The McAdams Family Learning Garden and Playground and its Annex. The Board approves a three-year strategic plan that includes construction of a new middle school building on the “Blue Building” property, in fulfillment of our mission and vision.

2020-2021
We add 8th and 9th grade classes to our Middle School, which is the culmination of our vision to provide students with a full-day education until high school. The pandemic also required the implementation of our innovative remote and hybrid-school options.

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