

HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP Horizons

The Next Chapter in a Rich History



Patricia Rebolledo passes the torch to Horizons' new Executive Director, Rodrigo Konigs.

I want to start this letter by saying thank you. I sincerely mean it. Horizons of Friendship experienced many radical changes in this last year as we transitioned to a new Executive Director, and your love and support have been essential to the success of this transition.

After Patricia Rebolledo's retirement, Horizons had some challenges finding a new Executive Director. I'm not surprised. It took me only a few minutes after meeting Patricia to realize that her knowledge and passion for social justice are unique. I'm very grateful and humbled by the opportunity to lead this organization in the next chapter of its already rich history.

In the future, we will look back at this past year and appreciate it as a testament to the endurance of this organization. Despite the bumpy road transitioning from one Executive Director to another, Horizons continued to prioritize its mission of fighting poverty in Mesoamerica. From helping to bring drinking water to communities in Costa Rica to supporting the prevention of domestic violence in Guatemala, our organization carried on with its work across the region.

When I talk about our "organization," I'm not only talking

about the staff. Something that I learned from Patricia is that Horizons isn't just an organization; we are a community made of people who love and care deeply for Horizons, its mission and the people we support. That is incredibly special and powerful.

Since I joined this organization, countless numbers of people – donors, thrift store clients, members of local nonprofits and former employees – have reached out to wish me luck and tell me how much Horizons means to them. One of our goals for the next year will be to continue embracing this positivity and grow our community by creating more awareness of our organization's wonderful work.

I'm very optimistic about the future. We have 50 years of rich history behind us, a solid foundation of people that care about our work and wonderful local partners implementing anti-poverty projects in Mesoamerica. Thank you for being part of the past, present and future of Horizons of Friendship.

Rodrigo Konigs
Executive Director
Horizons of Friendship

23,775

men, women, youth and children **directly** benefited from Horizons' work

220,389

men, women and children **indirectly** benefited from Horizons' work

Horizons' projects help to: repair aging infrastructure, improve access to drinking water, sanitation, and community spaces; provide, culturally sensitive medical services, training on sexual health, rights, life and career skills, community nutrition, violence reduction, de-escalation, and greater access to higher education; build climate resilience and emergency response capacities, food security and sustainable farming practices; support young people; preserve Indigenous culture; and create economic opportunities.

Canada 166 migrant workers received support through Horizons' Migrant Worker Program in Northumberland County. This included: farm check-ins, transportation (and translation) to appointments with government (i.e., CPP, tax, banking, EI registration), health, and legal services; COVID-19 kits, filled with essential safeguards, as well as hand-made air purifiers (thanks to the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW)) to reduce levels of COVID-19 particles indoors; and a Migrant Worker Appreciation BBQ sponsored by the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture to reduce social isolation and support community building.

We acknowledge that Horizons' offices are located on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil and Georgina Island First Nations. We respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations have been stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that today remain vigilant over their health and integrity for generations to come. We recognize that we have a duty to do more to learn about the rich history of this land, support work towards honouring the treaties, and support Indigenous peoples here and globally. Towards this goal, Horizons supports individuals from 16 Indigenous groups in Mesoamerica.

HIGHLIGHTS Our Year in Numbers

Panama

198 Ngäbe-Buglé Indigenous peoples studied and incorporated ancestral techniques for using honeybees to support the conservation of native beans, which are both culturally and nutritionally important.



Guatemala

57 workshops were held to train medical and social services staff who support young survivors of sexual violence and sex trafficking (ages 9 to 17) as part of our Safe Haven Project in Quetzaltenango.



El Salvador

3,083 community members learned how to implement programs in tourism, sustainable agriculture, and the management of protected areas within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The project also provided musical and performing skills to **11** youth.



Costa Rica

5 promising young people from low-income families were given scholarships and support to pursue a post-secondary education which otherwise would have been out of reach. These scholarships supported learning in engineering, business, English, and other subject areas.



Mexico

225 rural Indigenous families learned how to blend modern and traditional veterinary techniques to improve livestock production, hygiene, feeding protocols and disease prevention; **22** families built firewood-saving stoves to improve nutrition, reduce smoke production and improve indoor air quality.



INVESTING in Youth

CASE STUDY 1: Food Security and Community Sustainability



Apprentices complete training in tourism, beekeeping, and carpentry with their teachers as part of project in **El Salvador**.

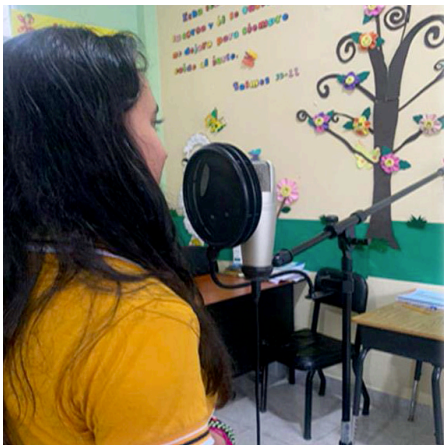
on educational opportunities due to circumstances outside of their control. These workshops take survivors step-by-step from identifying the career path they want through to supporting skills development. Our partner PIES is developing relationships with community employers and post-secondary educators to support the survivor's transition back into the community.

Access to quality education and training are vital for the future of all communities. While education is a human right, access to higher education is often unavailable for low-income communities in Mesoamerica. This gap was more pronounced during the pandemic, holding back community development and prolonging poverty.

Horizons tries to include youth educational opportunities in all of our projects in the South to address this issue. For example, youth in El Salvador have apprenticed to take on roles within sustainable tourism programs, becoming carpenters, beekeepers, tour guides, musicians and farmers.

In Guatemala, we have a program that exclusively focuses on educating youth. Young survivors of sexual violence living in a government-run shelter are being taught life planning skills which is vital, as survivors have missed out

CASE STUDY 2: Promoting an end to violence against children and youth



Radio spots recorded by survivors help to raise awareness about violence against women and children.

Reports of violence increased from already troubling levels during the pandemic in several areas in Guatemala and El Salvador. Our partners in these countries realize that changing attitudes about violence is one of the keys to eliminating it.

A big part of our three-year Safe Haven Project in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala is focused on raising awareness about children's and women's rights, the laws that protect survivors and prosecute violence perpetrators, how to report abuses to the authorities, and ways to support survivors. This is being done via a public education campaign that includes regular radio spots with key messages recorded by survivors living at the shelter.

The campaign will reach people in six municipalities around this shelter. In addition, parents and guardians of survivors are given regular opportunities to learn more about these themes so they can provide better support.

“It is very important that parents know about these issues because many times we are ignorant and do not know what to do; it is our obligation to protect the rights of children.”
Parent of survivor

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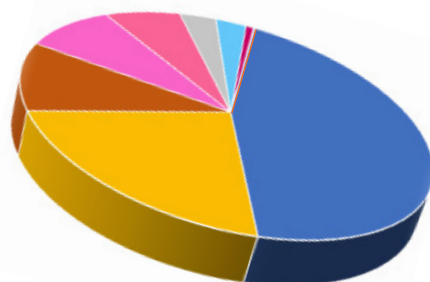
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Thanks also to our amazing and dedicated thrift store volunteers!

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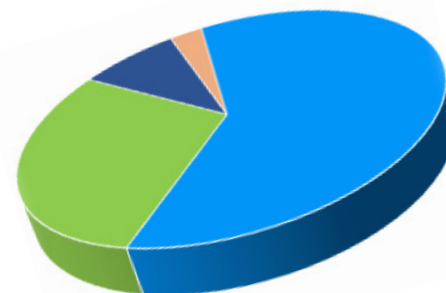
Horizons of Friendship Revenues and Expenditures Year Ended March 31, 2023



REVENUES

REVENUES	\$	%
Foundations	451,136	46.03%
Endowment Capital Funds	200,000	20.41%
General Donations	103,179	10.53%
Monthly Donations	91,091	9.29%
Thrift Shop	69,204	7.06%
Investment & Miscellaneous Income	31,499	3.21%
Major Gifts	26,303	2.68%
Rose and Zal Fund	6,619	0.68%
Bequests	1,000	0.10%
TOTAL	980,031	

EXPENDITURES	\$	%
Program Expenditures	604,046	59.01%
Administration	310,641	30.35%
Operating	81,302	7.94%
Thrift Shop	27,631	2.70%
TOTAL	1,023,621	



EXPENDITURES

Note: The source for the figures are from the unaudited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2023. Copies of the full audited financial statements are available at www.horizons.ca.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Horizons of Friendship gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following donors during the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

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We would also like to acknowledge individual donations not listed above. For a full list of donors and event sponsors, go to: www.horizons.ca.